

Alaska Article p.8,9

**Alaska Hearing In
Denver On JUNE 4th**

workshops MAY 17,18 details inside

New Mexico Legislature 1977

AN ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Feedback from our lobbyists

We did have some victories this year. A one year moratorium on low level radioactive waste, more control over radiation pollution for the Environmental Improvement Board, and the Rio Chama Scenic and Pastoral River Act are some of our bills that passed. However many crucial bills, such as HB 199 were defeated. The batting average of the N.M. environmental lobbyists is getting worse each session. Some lobbyists believe that until the composition of the N. M. Legislature is changed we are not going to be terribly effective.

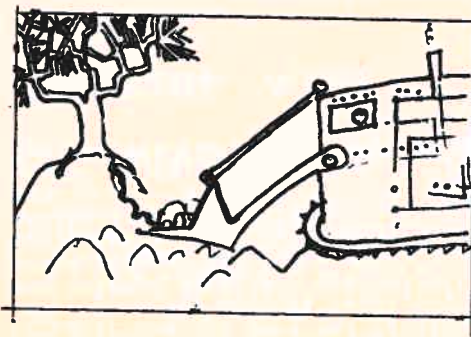
The conflicts of interest were more apparent this session. For example, the Chairman of the Taxation and Revenue Committee, appointed by the House leadership, works for a uranium company; legislators with subdivision interests opposed sub-

division legislation, employees of industry opposing taxes, restrictions on industry, employees of polluters opposed pollution control.

Frequently, elected representatives are members of the business community and are closely tied with local chamber of commerces. They frequently believe that pollution control, taxes on corporations, etc. threaten growth. Happy industry means healthy communities and more jobs. We have got to make sure that people running for public office understand that economic growth sometimes has hidden costs and that people in N.M. care about the quality of the environment. We especially need people who are willing to get involved in politics at the local level.

Will Mining Be Responsible?

The problem of mining boom growth has been the central concern of many state agencies, legislators and environmentalists. Who will pay for the development of boom towns, destruction & reclamation of land, exhaustion and contamination of water, stabilization of radioactive mills, mines, etc.? In order to address these problems, a series of bills were introduced. All of these bills represented a serious threat to corporate profit and "business as usual", and industry responded in force. There were at least 52 registered lobbyists for the mining industry.



S.B. 137 Taxes on Extractive Industries MINING GETS OFF EASY

SB 137 Mining taxes went up, but not to the 25% level many people sought. Senator Aubrey Dunn settled for a compromise package when it became apparent that he faced continual opposition from Eddie Lopez (Chairman of House Taxation and Revenue Committee). About \$40 million in new taxes will be realized by New Mexico under the Severance tax bill. The bill sets the rates of an average of 11.2 percent of the value of production for coal and an average of 4.5 percent for uranium.

These taxes are better than before. However we feel that the taxes need to be above 15% to repay the New Mexico taxpayers for the cost of the San Juan mining boom. The levels of taxes achieved was a compromise much lower than our troops worked for.

S.B. 164 Uranium Spoils Study FUNDED

Senate Bill 164 granted the Environmental Improvement Agency (EIA) \$100,000 to study uranium mining and milling in New Mexico. This grant, combined with Federal 208 planning monies, will give EIA over \$200,000 for study of the pollution in affected areas.

S.B. 403 Strip Mine Reclamation LANDS SACRIFICED

Presently the controls on copper or uranium mining do not address the problems of land reclamation. The controls on uranium only address radiation pollution. There are no controls on copper mining. Senate Bill 403 would have placed copper mining and uranium mining and milling under the control of the Coal Surface Mining Commission, who would require "reasonable" reclamation. The bill never was even considered in the Senate Conservation Committee.

H.B. 543 Leach Mining REGS. STILL WEAK

HB 543 was initiated to address the dispute over the proposed Oxy - Min copper leach mining in Cerrillos. Presently the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission has authority to disapprove plans for discharges into underground aquifers. Their authority over discharges from uranium mining is being challenged in court. HB 543 would have given them authority to create regulations specifically for leach mining activities and issue permits for leach mining. It would have given locally elected officials (County Commissioners) authority to approve leach mining activities in their county. The bill was never considered by the Natural Resource Committee in the House.

S.B. 447 Radiation Protection E.I.B. MORE CONTROL

Senate Bill 447 amended the Radiation Act. It gave the Environmental Improvement Board (EIB) authority to require licenses, bonds and perpetual care funds from organizations handling radioactive material. The EIB can withdraw a license if the operator fails to abide by the licensing rules. This legislation was sponsored by Senator John Rodgers of Los Alamos, and salvaged from Eddie Lopez's Committee by Rep. Vernon Kerr of Los Alamos.

Mine Dewatering S.B. 256 WATER SACRIFICED

The State Engineer regulates use of water from the underground aquifers. Residences, farms, businesses, who are beneficial users of water, must comply with the regulations aimed to protect the water basin from depletion. A gaping loophole in the water law allows uranium mines to pump waste water with no control. The pumping of waste water in Grants-Gallup is of such a magnitude that it endangers the area's underground water supply. Much of the water which is pumped out of a mine is good usable water. This bill would have brought that pumping under regulation. This bill was introduced by Tito Chaves. It made it through the Senate Conservation Committee but was killed in the Senate Finance Committee.



Subdivisions...

The Water and Sanitation District Act was passed in 1943 and amended in 1975. The amendment was intended to assist small, unincorporated communities. Instead the act has been used by subdividers to increase their profits and foist water and sanitation expenses on lot purchasers. HB 519 was written to amend the Act so it could not be misused by profit seeking subdividers. A similar bill failed last year, however this year it passed.

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TURN to pages 11-15 get involved in the Chapter 1

SB 467 the Chama is scenic

SB 467, a bill designating the Rio Chama as scenic and pastoral, passed both houses easily. The bill gives the N.M. State Parks and Recreation Commission authority to acquire land and cooperate with federal land holding agencies. With the above powers it will try to see that a corridor 400 feet either side of the Chama River remains scenic and pastoral. The area of the Chama designated is starting at the El Vado Dam and going south on the river about 30 miles to the Forest Service boundary near Adobe Ruins.

Part of the bill's success lies with the ground work done by our troops during the past years. Much thanks to many people. (The battle is not over yet. Much of the Rio Chama area still needs other protection.)

Protection for Wild Things



SB 64 non-game animals

In New Mexico only game and endangered animals receive management or protection. S.B. 64 would have extended the New Mexico Game and Fish Department's authority to include management of non-game species (except coyotes and prairie dogs). It was lobbied against by the cattle growers and it never made it out of the Senate Conservation Committee.

HB 228 water for wildlife

HB 228 further expanded N.M. water law to make wildlife use of a natural stream a beneficial use. Presently one can acquire a water right only by diverting water for beneficial use or by purchase. This bill died in committee due to petty politics.

SWRCC

Sierra Club Southwest Regional Conservation Committee will be sponsoring a workshop on the Intermountain Power Project the weekend of May 21st and 22nd. Everyone and anyone is welcome. The meeting will start in Moab, Utah at 9:00 on Saturday and there will be a trip to the site on Sunday.

Contact Kate Parker 983-5701.

THE TYPOGRAPHICAL AND SPELLING ERRORS CONTAINED IN THIS PAPER ARE FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT AND EDIFICATION OF THOSE WHO LOOK FOR THEM.

Clean Air and Water

Inadequacy in the extent of power given to the Environmental Improvement Agency and the Environmental Improvement Board give them limited effectiveness.

A series of bills were introduced to give them more power, or to seek other means to implement pollution controls.

HB 199 clean air... A.P.S. WINS AGAIN

HB 199 was one of our most crucial bills and much effort was expended on it. HB 199 was a proposed amendment to the state's Air Quality Act which would have permitted the Environmental Improvement Board to adopt regulation for sources which were more stringent than required to meet ambient standards, as long as the regulations were technically and economically feasible. Ambient standards are the magic level which separate "pollute" air in the legal sense from merely contaminated air. Until 1975 the board had presumed that it had the power under its authority "to prevent or abate air pollution" to adopt a reasonable regulation. Arizona Public Service Company appealed a regulation requiring 90% control of SO₂ to the courts. The court decided that the E.I.B. did not have the authority to pass emission regulation that would result in air cleaner than standards.

The bill was heard by the House Natural Resources Committee. Only the New Mexico Mining Association lobbyist testified against the bill, although a lobbyist with Arizona Public Service testified at length about how expensive sulfur dioxide control would be at Four Corners. The bill was voted out of committee with a 8 - 3 DO PASS vote with Legislators Autrey, Samberson, and Grant voting against it.

On the floor representative Bond and Warren, the bill sponsors, supported the bill. Representative from the southern part of the state and the northwest opposed the bill. Some of the opposition came from members in the Las Cruces area, (William, O'Donnell) who feared the bill would preclude establishment of new facilities. In fact, of course, the bill would facilitate siting of new sources by permitting better control of existing sources. The bill lost by a vote of 24-25 with many legislators from traditional clean air districts voting against the bill. In fact, two of Santa Fe's four legislators, Eddie Lopez and Ben Lujan voted

against the bill. Albuquerque legislators Adel Cinelli Hundley, Bob Grant, John Lee Thompson, Jim Caudell and Stuart Hill also voted against the bill. Despite the lack of "out front" opposition in committee it proved that extensive behind the scenes industry lobbying was responsible for the confusion among legislators evidenced on the floor.

It was pointed out that the existing pollution from Four Cornes might preclude the building of the WESCO coal gasification complex. In arguing against the bill, Representative Bob Grant expressed the view that the resulting public outcry would essentially gut the Clean Air Act and permit siting of the facility no matter what happened to the air quality.

HB 171 sulfur tax APS WINS AGAIN

This bill, sponsored by David Salman, would have levied a charge of 50 cents per pound on sulfur emissions to the atmosphere from large coal burning power plants. Facilities (such as N.M. Public Service Company's San Juan Plant) doing 90% control or better would pay no assessment. The purpose of the bill was to provide incentive to install controls. The bill was opposed in committee by lobbyists from Arizona Public Service Company and the New Mexico Mining Association. Environmental groups supported it. The Committee vote was 6-3 with Samberson, Mora and Grant voting against. Autrey and Savedra were absent.

The floor vote was 20-39 against the bill. Among Santa Fe legislators only Eddie Lopez voted against it. Albuquerque legislators voting against it were: Thomas Horan, John Lee Thompson, Bob Grant, Jim Caudell, John McMullen and Stuart Hill.

SB 219 hazardous wastes

MORE POWER - EIB

Prior to this bill the E.I.B. had no direct authority over hazardous wastes, except after the fact legal action brought under the public nuisance laws. This bill gives E.I.B. the direct authority to regulate. After extensive amendments, bill redrafts and negotiations with opponents, a modified version of the bill was passed.

HB 333 subpoena power KENNECOTT WINS AGAIN

HB 333 passed the House 50-19 to be killed in the Senate Conservation Committee. The Environmental Improvement Board could have impounded records of persons or firms who had testified that enforcement of pollution regulations would mean a forced layoff or shutdown. This bill was created because Kennecott told E.I.B. that they couldn't afford pollution controls for their Hurley copper smelter, but refused to show their financial records. They have been using the threat of shutting down their operations to black mail the state for years.

Radwaste



A moratorium on low level radioactive waste disposal siting was passed. This bill was aimed specifically at a Chem-Nuclear proposal to locate a site in Colfax county. It will have no effect on the federal project at Carlsbad. The original two year moratorium was compromised to a one year moratorium due to heavy resistance in the legislature. This bill hopefully signals more awareness by N.M. legislators of the seriousness of low level radioactive waste disposal and the depth of public concern. Much of our success was due to public pressure.

Ban On Aerosol Spray



This bill banned fluoro-carbon propellents except for when prescribed by a physician. It was introduced because of concern for health damage to Albuquerque teenagers who sniffed aerosol sprays, and because of damage to ozone atmospheric layers. It passed both houses with very little out front opposition. In the eleventh hour Du Pont flew in lobbyists, but it was too late.

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Conservation and Alternative Energy

There were three bills introduced this last session that would have given tax payers financial incentive to install energy conservation in their homes. All three bills sat in the House Taxation and Revenue or Senate Finance Committees and never made it out.

H.B. 334 Alternative Energy Tax Credit

Presently a New Mexican building a solar home can get 25% refund on the cost of solar related building materials. The refund comes as a tax credit and it can not exceed \$1,000. HB 334 sought to expand the scope of this tax credit. HB 334 called for a tax credit of 50% of the cost of installing a nonfossil fuel or geothermal energy generating system in ones home. The total tax credit was not to exceed \$3,000. The bill made it out of the House Natural Resources Committee, but was not acted on by House Taxation and Revenue Committees to which it was subsequently referred.

HB 156 solar water heaters

HB 156 called for a tax credit of 25% of the cost of installing a solar water heater. The total tax credit can not exceed \$1,000. The bill sat in committee and was never acted on.

SB 25 insulation tax credit

SB 25 called for a tax credit of 50% of the cost of insulating and weather stripping and double glazing a house. The total tax credit shall not exceed \$1,000. This bill sat in committee and was never acted on.

The tax credit will relate to consumer energy consumption, which was passed, gave all resident \$30/per personal exemption to help with expenses of food, heat and light.

HB 294 solar use rights

Solar use rights similar to water use rights were established by HB 294. As soon as a person uses sunlight as a energy source via a collecting device capable of collecting 25,000 BTU/winter solstice day, he has established a prior right to use of the sunlight. The sunlight becomes a property right, subject to the doctrine of prior appropriation, and can be sold. HB 294 passed the House on the 57th day of the Legislature with a 57-4 vote. It passed the Senate on the 59th day with a 40-0 vote.

HB 325 solar use rights - regulations

HB 325 the Solar Shading Bill did not pass. HB 325 would have further strengthened HB 294 by establishing a system of record keeping for solar rights. This bill declares that an owner of a solar collector shall register this collector and describe his property. Notice is given to owners of property sharing a common boundary. The neighbors must register and describe their property. If a neighbor's tree should grow to a point where it interferes with the collector, the exact legal methods of recourse are described. HB 325 passed the House on the 54th day with a 48-18 vote. It went to the Senate Conservation Committee on the 55th day where it was killed by a "DO NOT PASS" vote.

HB 335 & 332 solar heating mandatory

House Bills 332 and 335 would have required mandatory design and construction of new buildings to include solar heat. HB 332 altered the building code to require all buildings built under N.M. building codes be 80% solar. HB 335 would have required that all public buildings built under the N.M. building codes be 80% solar. HB 332 was never acted on in committee (House Natural Resources). HB 335 made it out of the House with a positive vote (64-1). It was killed in the Senate Conservation Committee with a DO NOT PASS vote.

SB 344 solar institute

Albuquerque may be chosen as the site for the National Solar Energy Research Institute. Senate Bill 344 hopes to facilitate that choice by providing state matching funds for land purchase purposes and authorizing the City of Albuquerque to convey certain lands to the federal Government, should that choice be made. This bill was passed as section 7 of the Christmas Tree Act.

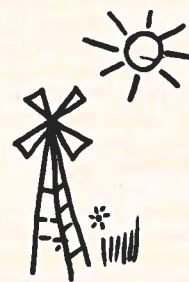
SB 160 solar r&d funded

SB 160 gave New Mexico State University at least \$500,000 for solar research and development.

H.B. 118 - 400 bottle bills

INDUSTRY WINS

The bottle bill failed twice in the House, by successive votes of 28-40 and 30-36. Substantial effort was poured into these bills by our people. The first measure HB 118, would have required a 5 cent minimum deposit on beverage containers. Pop tops would have been outlawed. The second bill, HB 400 addressed the concerns of small grocers by allowing for redemption centers. It also allowed for standardized bottles to have a two cent deposit. The bottling industry and grocers lobbied heavily against the bills. Many legislators felt so guilty about voting against the bill that a flourish of anti litter bills followed. One such bill allocated \$5,000,000 dollars for litter clean up. (It did not pass). Apparently our legislators completely missed the point of energy conservation. One anti-litter bill, an appropriation for highway clean up did pass.



Thanks ...

The 1977 New Mexico Legislative Session was a disappointing one for those of us who hoped to reverse the "throwaway" ethic foisted on the taxpaying public by such groups as the beverage industry and can manufacturers. I want to thank all of you who were concerned enough to call or write your legislators, contribute financially, participate in clean-ups or even talk about the subject with friends and neighbors. Special thanks go to Rafael Harpaz, Susan Larsen, Al Deeb and his fine students at Menaul High, Dan Honiak, Wendy Aeschliman and many others of the Albuquerque Group, the Santa Fe Group, and LuAnn Farrell and her wonderful AAUW members throughout the state who contributed so much. I can't begin to list all of the wonderful people who responded in hopes of making this state a nicer place to live. Many cities were supportive-- they are being overwhelmed by solid waste disposal problems which would be somewhat alleviated by this type of legislation, as well as seeing a reduction in waste of energy and valuable resources.

House Majority Leader David Salman put forth a valiant effort in the losing battle. Frank Bond and Abel McBride were co-sponsors of the two unsuccessful efforts.

There are more enlightened industry leaders who are supporting such legislation strongly, including Bill Coors of Adolph Coors Company; W.M. Norton, President of Royal Crown/ Dr. Pepper; and Falstaff Brewery. Coors Brewery is supporting two full-time men for six months to travel around the U.S. helping various states with "bottle bill" efforts. California and Minnesota have recently passed critical committee tests, and several other states are considering similar legislation.

Senator Mark Hatfield (Oregon) and Representative Jim Jeffords (Vermont) have introduced bills at the national level. However, they are waiting in hopes of having a few more states pass their own versions before trying to get the bill through Congress. The House bill faces serious difficulty from Fred Runey, a critical committee chairman, who is from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania with 60,000 steelworkers in his district.

Congressman Jeffords' legislative aide, Fred Summers, reported that in Vermont, beverage litter was reduced 76%, and overall litter 35-40%. Beverage sales were up 6% last year, 10% this year, and the percentage of beer cans used remained constant.

BY: JOANNE SPRENGER

The Sierran would like to thank all those people who lobbied for the cause this session. Watching important bills being traded around like poker chips, is not fun. We thank you for your long and frustrating hours and your stamina.

We would like to thank all of you who wrote letters, attended hearings, sorted petitions, and did other back up work. Some donated large amounts of volunteer work and made SB 55 and SB-447 possible. The more people who help during a legislative session, the more will get done.

May 14 & 15
The League of Women Voters will have an Energy Conservation Fair at the Los Alamos Community Center Call 982-9766.



Carter's energy plan NEEDS YOUR HELP

President Jimmy Carter addressed the nation and the Congress on Monday and Wednesday expressing his grave concern about the energy problem and outlining proposed solutions. In his address on Monday, he stressed the long-range nature of the problem and the non-renewability of the fossil fuel resources, aspects that past leaders have not given much weight. He emphasized the need to conserve energy, to protect the environment, to price energy at its replacement, cost, and to move toward "non-conventional" sources. His address on Wednesday outlined some of the measures needed from the Congress to attain the goals.

Brant Calkin, the Club's President, said, "It took some courage to lay it on the line. We can expect that it will come under heavy attack by vested interests. We ought to inform the public that, no matter how noble and comprehensive the proposal is, it doesn't stand a snowball's chance in hell unless the public, for once, gets up on its hind legs and indicates to the Congress and the President that they want it. I'm afraid that the public is going to think 'There's the plan and that's it' and that it is going to get some sort of magic approval. We need to counteract that whenever we can."

While the Club will have to study carefully the language of measures which the administration will send to the Congress to implement the program, the Club's stance is generally very much in

favor of the plan AND READERS ARE URGED TO WRITE TO THEIR REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS, URGING THEM TO ENACT LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTING ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES. LETTERS TO PRESIDENT CARTER APPLAUDING HIS SPEECH WOULD ALSO BE IN ORDER. CLUB MEMBERS SHOULD WRITE "LETTERS TO THE EDITOR" OF THEIR LOCAL PAPERS PRAISING THE PRESIDENT AND SITTING THE NEED FOR CONSERVATION LEGISLATION.

PARTS OF ARTICLE REPRINTED FROM NATIONAL NEWS REPORT ARTICLE BY G. COAN.

THE SIERRA CLUB STRENGTH IS IN ITS MEMBERS. THE MORE PEOPLE JOIN; THE MORE PEOPLE GET INVOLVED THE MORE EFFECTIVE, WE WILL BE.

WE HAVE ACTIVE GROUPS IN SANTA FE, ALBUQUERQUE, EL PASO, PORTALES, LAS CRUCES, * WE ESPECIALLY NEED TO BUILD UP OUR MEMBERSHIP IN AREAS WHERE THERE ARE NO ACTIVE GROUPS

Overview Of Federal High Level Radioactive Waste Programs

First in a series of articles on Carlsbad

of the nation's first irretrievable waste disposal site in the salt beds of Lyons, Kansas. Kansas geologists and officials found many oversights and inadequacies in the proposals. The plan was eventually scrapped due to proximity of solution mining activities and the discovery of an old unrecorded exploratory drill hole.

It is hardly surprising that there is a considerable lack of confidence in the governments waste management and storage programs. The Kansas congressional delegation, the State Geologist and citizens groups expressed serious concerns over the proposed waste pilot plant in Lyons. The state of Michigan, which has had disappointing experiences with its four power plants, has many bills before its legislature allowing for executive or legislative veto power over a proposed ERDA pilot plant in Alpina. Residents of Alpina voted 9-0 against the idea of waste storage in their area in a recent referendum.

A recent Government Accounting Office (GAO) report on low-level nuclear waste disposal stated that: "At present, site management and monitoring appears to be a fairly primitive art, shared by Federal and state governmental agencies and by private contractors."

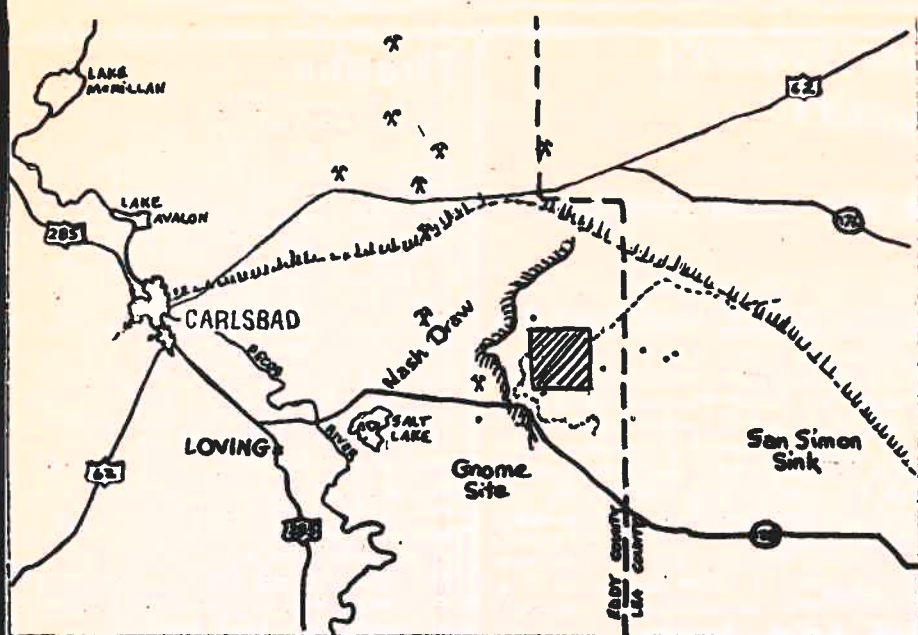
It is now over 30 years since our nuclear program began and a suitable site has not been found. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT REPOSITORY IS ONLY RECENTLY BECOME CRITICAL TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NUCLEAR POWER INDUSTRY. CRASH PROGRAMS TO SOLVE SUCH SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN SUCH A SHORT TIME PERIOD CASTS DOUBT ON THE

POSSIBILITY FOR AN OBJECTIVE, COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS). Quantities of lethal wastes will double in the next five years presenting the potential for further problems at temporary, surface storage sites.

Below is a list of 6 critical issues which must be adequately addressed in this EIS.

- 1) Stability of the salt-bed geology for over 1,000 generations. What are the ramifications of undetected well holes and brine pockets?
- 2) Risk assessment - how well can we predict seismic disturbances, water movement and human intrusions and their consequences beyond 100 year periods?
- 3) Protection of the site from future drilling activities.
- 4) Location and interrelationships between ground and surface waters above and below storage area.
- 5) Risk of transporting wastes through New Mexico.
- 6) Emergency response system adequacy.
- 7) Perpetual care and monitoring for migration of radionuclides.
- 8) Capacity for handling international wastes.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this project will be available in October of 1977. Order a copy from ERDA and show your friends in your area. I suggest you pick one topic area you are interested in. Write your comments to ERDA. They must hear from you. New Mexico has been too quiet on this issue which is the most serious threat to our environment.



The Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) appears to have centered their search for a permanent, underground radioactive waste disposal site in an area 27 miles southeast of Carlsbad, on the Lea-Eddy county line. Bedded salt deposits like those in the Delaware Basin of Carlsbad, are judged by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to be the most advantageous geologic formation for the long-term isolation of the wastes. Their plans call for vertical shafts to depths of 2150 to 2600 feet into the salt beds. ERDA defense-generated transuranic (TRU) and intermediate level (ILW) wastes will be deposited in the shafts.

Just what are TRU and ILW wastes? Even the nuclear industry and federal government regulatory agencies are awaiting definitions of these terms. Figures on the relative quantities and the radionuclide content of these wastes have yet to be released to state government and the general public. But it is clear that strontium-90, cesium 137 and plutonium 239, with half-lives ranging from 30 to 24,000 years, will be present in those wastes. Pu-239 must be isolated from the biosphere for nearly 250,000 years! The long-term hazards posed by these radionuclides demands stability of the geology and social institutions, as well, to maintain "eternal vigilance" over this hazard which presents unprecedented threats to our world environment.

An experiment will also be conducted at the site, with so-called high-level wastes (HLW also undefined) which are present in spent fuel rods. ERDA has repeatedly emphasized that only military wastes will be stored at the Carlsbad site, but President Carter's decision to delay reprocessing of fuel rods and subsequent recycling of plutonium and uranium, could lead the complete re-design of the facility to handle spent fuel elements.

The quantities of radioactive waste which have been generated and which are currently being produced from military and civilian programs are enormous. Military wastes form the largest quantity of wastes at the present time. However, commercial wastes from reactors will exceed these volumes in a short period of time, even with reprocessing and recycling.

The stockpile of defense generated high level wastes totals over 205 million gallons. An additional 7.5 million gallons are generated annually from weapons programs. The temporary storage of these wastes has been problem ridden due to underfunded and short-sighted management programs.

A disheartening example is the Hanford Reservation in Richland, Washington, where undetected leaks from storage tanks over the last 20 years have resulted in nearly 430,000 gallons of high level liquid waste escaping from shallow trenches. However, contamination of ground water in this arid region has not been confirmed yet.

High level waste is stored temporarily in giant tanks. The tanks disintegrate in time. As far as we know, the "state of the art" in the United States, for transfer of radioactive materials from leaking tanks, is limited to laboratory experimentation. The state of the art for solidification of wastes is limited to laboratory experimentation. When if ever, is the technology going to be available to transfer the material to Carlsbad in a solidified or concentrated form?

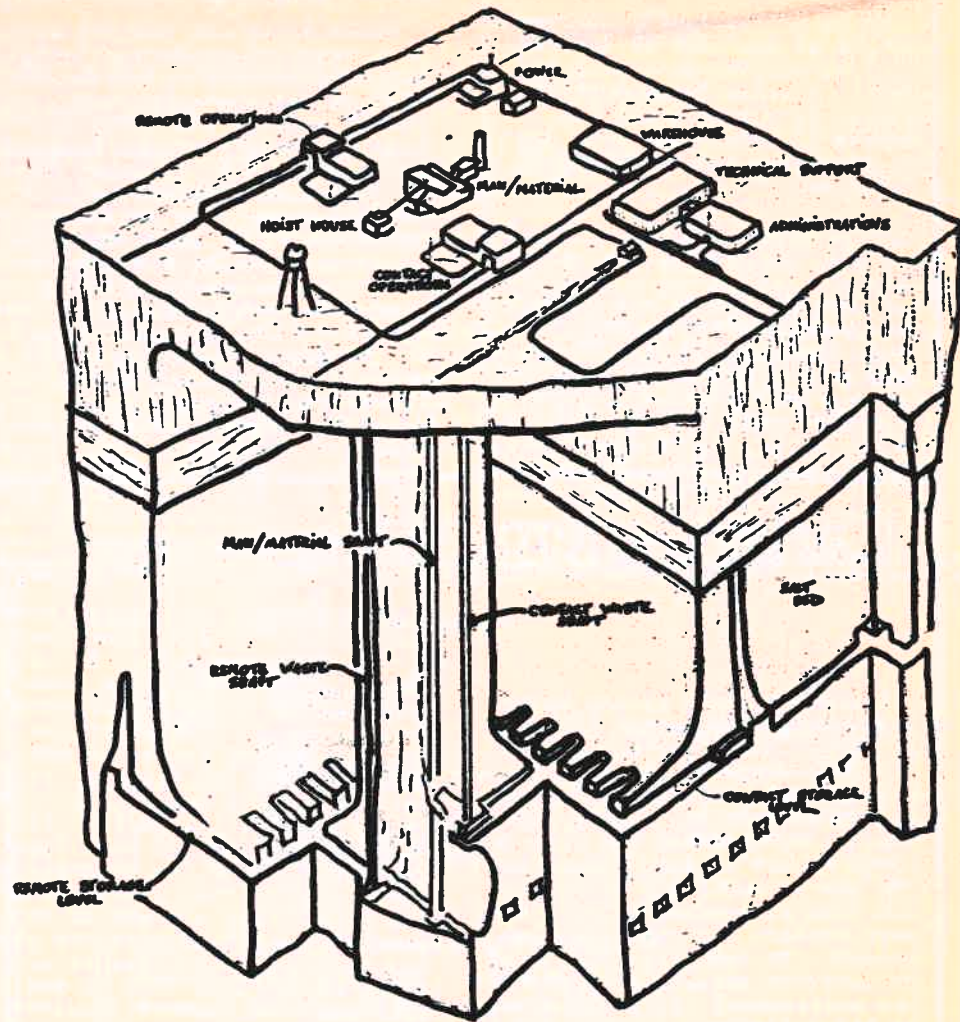
Five of the six commercial low level waste disposal sites have been experiencing problems with theft or "leakage". These sites bury low level wastes in trenches and expect the inactivity of the geologic area to contain radionuclides. Migration beyond expectations of radionuclides has been detected at Maxey Flats Kentucky (1974), West Valley, New York (1975) and Oak Ridge, Tennessee (1975). The burial trenches at West Valley have filled with water. The burial sites were intended to contain radionuclides for hundreds or thousands of years, yet migration has occurred within the first twelve years.

The above technologies of disposal are different from those proposed for Carlsbad. However inadequate radioactive waste management has been demonstrated. The lack of understanding of how migration results from shallow burial has also been clearly demonstrated.

The Ford Foundation Nuclear Energy Policy Study Group has recently reported, in *Nuclear Power: Issues and Choices* (available from Ballinger Publishers, Inc., Cambridge, Mass.),

There has been little incentive, on the part of the government or commercial interests to deal with waste on more than a short-term basis. In the military program, short-term goals have all too often displaced long-term federal responsibilities, with the results described in the preceding sections. In commercial power the natural tendency of short-term interests to dominate has been aggravated by a bifurcation of responsibility between private concerns and the government and by slow regulatory development. A mere glance over AEC budgets during the last two decades, shows the neglect of needed waste management research.

In 1970-71 the Atomic Energy Commission proposed the creation



W.I.P.P. 'BI-LEVEL CONCEPT': adapted from Sandia Laboratories

the hot bubble theory - will the salt move?

I present herein the basic buoyancy process by which previously-stable geological formations would become unstable whenever nuclear wastes were put into the ground. To my knowledge those charged with studying these phenomena are not adequately addressing instabilities in their studies.

The radioactive material deposited at Carlsbad will heat the surrounding earth. The heated region will be less dense than the surrounding earth and the hot region will exert upward pressure.

The lower density region tends to float upward; it becomes buoyant, like a bubble of heated air in atmospheric convection. The speed of rise is determined by the amount of buoyant lift and the heated earth's resistance to motion.

Thus introduction of radioactive wastes into the earth always produces geological instability. That condition is in violation of the fundamental requirement for geological disposal: the nuclear waste disposal site must be geologically stable for long periods of time (1,000,000 years or more).

Not only is the geological disposal site always unstable, it will move. The formations around the wastes will be moving upward, tending to drag the wastes along with them. I find that one ton of nuclear waste will travel upward about 10 feet during the first radioactive half-life after disposal. The precise impacts that a rising large-scale buoyant mass would have on these geo-circumstances are not being addressed by the Sandia geophysicists or by EPA, ERDA, or anyone else we know of. We would like to know how careless ERDA is willing to be with the lives of New Mexico, Texas and Mexican citizens!

What experiments have been conducted to determine how much buoyant lift can be measured after one half life? How much upward motion of nuclear wastes would result directly or indirectly from buoyant instabilities in bedded salt? How much plutonium migration would occur in the damp bedded salt? Would the heating and buoyancy effects stimulate water migration? One ton of nuclear wastes could produce 10 feet of upward motion; would 1000 tons produce 10,000 feet of upward motion? We quite often find that geological formations are characterized by inhomogeneity, anisotropy, incipient instability, extensive faulting and other geological activities.

I understand that there are disturbing results when NaCl is irradiated by nuclear wastes. There appear to be additional electromagnetic, thermoelectric, thermomagnetic, criticality, thermomigration, magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) and wet salt effects too. The humidity of the salt must have a profound effect on the buoyancy, stability, corrosiveness and fluidity of the heated salt. The chemistry of a contaminated radioactive super-saturated salt solution is dramatic.

The questions are always the same: What combined effects will high ionization, high temperature, high humidity, and high energy radiations have on the perpetual isolation of nuclear wastes that are buoyant due to heating?

We must determine theoretically and experimentally all natural processes that will interfere with radioactive waste disposal and isolation programs.

BY: CHARLES HYDER

GET INVOLVED

If you are concerned about Carlsbad, get involved. The chapter would love to have a study group watching the progress of the proposal. Contact John Schneider, our conservation chairman. There are other groups who are concerned about radioactive waste.

Moratorium is a Raton based group formed by local residents who wish to stop the siting of a low level radioactive waste disposal site near Colfax, New Mexico.

Moratorium
P. O. Box 819
Raton, New Mexico 87740

The Central Clearing House is organizing a clean energy petition drive. The Clearing House used the accumulated petitions in this last legislative session. They were quite effective in the success of S.B. 55 (one year moratorium on low level radioactive wastes). The Clearing House particularly needs petition circulators in rural areas and in S.E., S.W., and N.W. parts of the state. The C.C.H. also has files and a library on nuclear issues that are available to the public.

Central Clearing House
338 East De Vargas
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
(982-4349)

C.A.N.T. is a citizens group organized to oppose nuclear power. It has an office and regular meetings.

C.A.N.T.
(Citizens Against Nuclear Threats)
102 Girard S.E.
Room 1261
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

There are two public interest research groups that follow radioactive waste problems for us. The Southwest Research and Information Center and the New Mexico Public Interest Research Group. The Southwest Research and Information Center has extensive library and files on nuclear issues.

Southwest Research and Information Center
135 Harvard, S.E.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87106

N.M. Public Interest Research Group
P.O. Box 4564
Albuquerque, N.M. 87106

The Sierran will be running several articles on the Carlsbad and Colfax sites in the next issues.

The Sierra Club is the largest citizen environmental organization in New Mexico. The more members we have, the more impact we have. The more active our groups are, the more impact we have and we also have more fun. We need you to get involved and we need more members.

Tell Somebody about the Sierra Club

The Sierra Club's power is in its membership. A healthy environment requires positive political action, and that takes strength. We need the even greater power that comes with more members.

Ask someone to join the Sierra Club Today.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior (18-14)
<input type="checkbox"/> with spouse	30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Student
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	40.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> with spouse
<input type="checkbox"/> Life (per person)	750.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (over 60)
		<input type="checkbox"/> with spouse
		Dues include Sierra Club BULLETIN (\$3.00) and chapter publications (\$1.00).

Please enter a membership at the rate checked for:

Name _____
Address _____ Zip _____



THE RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

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STAFF: Katie Parker, Ingrid Vollnhofer, Betsy Fuller, Jeff Pederson, Phyllis Simon, Robin Mueller, Joanne Werger, Ann Young, John Schneider, Tom Zeller

CIRCULATION: Phil Howard, Barbara Kennish

Address changes for Sierra Club members should be sent to: Sierra Club, 530 Bush Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94108 ATTENTION: Membership Services.

Volume XIV, Number 2

FROM THE COURTS

URANIUM MILL LICENSING

Uranium mill licensing in New Mexico is handled by the State's Environmental Improvement Agency (E.I.A.). This is an arrangement permitted under the Atomic Energy Act in cases where a state has entered into an agreement with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (N.R.C.). New Mexico made such an agreement in May, 1974. There are 25 "agreement states," and 25 non-agreement states; mills in the latter are under the licensing jurisdiction of N.R.C. As a federal agency, N.R.C. is required to process an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (N.E.P.A.). However, where an "agreement state" such as New Mexico is involved, N.R.C. has taken the position that a mill license is not a "federal action" and no N.E.P.A. statement is required. New Mexico state laws do not require environmental impact statements. Thus, where United Nuclear applied to New Mexico E.I.A. for a mill operating license no N.E.P.A. procedures were followed. A license was issued on May 3, 1977 without a public hearing.

A suit has been filed in the Federal District Court in Albuquerque to challenge this action and to establish as a matter of law that N.E.P.A. statement procedures must be observed in "agreement" states such as New Mexico. Plaintiffs in the action are the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., The Central Clearing House, Inc., in Santa Fe, Sally Rodgers and Sandy Simon. The defendants are the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, three of its officials, the New Mexico E.I.A. and its director, Thomas E. Baca.

PRICE ANDERSON ACT UNCONSTITUTIONAL

On March 31, US Federal District Judge James B. McMillan, sitting in North Carolina, ruled that the Price Anderson Act is unconstitutional. The Act limits the amount of liability that will be paid out in a nuclear incident. In doing so it subjects people living in the vicinity of a plant to undue hardship. They may not be able to collect sufficient money. This is in violation of the Due Process and Equal Protection provisions of the Fifth Amendment.

This decision will be appealed to the Supreme Court.

The Candyman
125 EAST WATER • SANTA FE

Sincerely Yours
UNIQUE FASHIONS
Santa Fe Village • 227 Don Gaspar

O the sun is waking up
all the flowers on the hill
and small green birds are singing
round the cattle by the mill.

I love the happy song and dance
of the hopeless vagabond
and there's many a bag of kittens
in the old millpond

O there's many a bag of kittens
in the old millpond.

By: David Nolf *****

If you strive to be rich and famous, remember to submit your offering to the Rio Grande Sierran - Deadline for July issue is June 10! Share your creativity with us all!

Carter Reviews Reclamation Projects

C.A.P. & HOOKER DAMS ARE ISSUES AGAIN

CHAIRLADY'S CORNER

BY: JOANNE SPRENGER

President Carter's decision to take another look at a number of water projects was a shock to some members of Congress who aren't accustomed to having their favorite pork barrels undergo close scrutiny. It took great courage for the President to take this step, especially with the current drought conditions facing many Western areas. However, people tend to forget that these specific water projects do not create water - they only move it around, sometimes losing excessive amounts in the process as from reservoir evaporation.

Many of these costly, unnecessary projects will inundate rich farmland, eliminate essential habitat of fish and wildlife, and destroy areas of scientific, educational, cultural and historic significance.

Projects which were approved years ago when the interest rate was 3 1/4% may no longer be economically prudent at today's 6.37% interest rate. In other words, they won't return one dollar in benefits for every dollar of cost. Garrison Diversion in North Dakota is a good example of a colossal mistake. Originally estimated to cost \$212 million, the current estimate is \$612 million. It was justified on the basis of irrigation-it would irrigate 250,000 acres at the sacrifice of 200,000 already productive acres of farm or grazing land, forcing many people off their farms. The Canadian government objects to the project which would send salty, pesticide contaminated water into the Souris and Red Rivers. It would eliminate 350,000 waterfowl and damage 13 National Wildlife Refuges in North and South Dakota.

Auburn Dam in California would be built near an earthquake fault. If ruptured, it would inundate Sacramento in 20 feet of water. Hooker Dam (southwest New Mexico) would back up water into the Gila Wilderness. These are just some of the make-work projects that gouge the taxpayer in order to give the Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation justification to continue as such large, powerful organizations. They have done much good in the past but need to be reduced in size or find some other focus.



Photo courtesy of the Bureau of Reclamation

If you're concerned enough about the billions of dollars being wasted on these boondoggles as well as the tremendous damage to the environment, please write your elected representatives in Washington and let them know you support President Carter's review of these projects. Letters can influence votes. — — —

WE URGE YOU TO WRITE THE PRESIDENT AND ASK HIM TO CUT FUNDS FOR THIS PROJECT. ALSO WRITE YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVE.

REMEMBER THE C.A.P.? The American tax payers are asked to fund a colossal water importation project that will subsidize farming interests in the Tucson and Phoenix areas. It will also 1.) waste huge amounts of electricity pumping water 1000 feet uphill, 2.) justify power plants, 3.) destroy or seriously degrade most of the last remnants of the riparian habitat of the Sonoran Desert, 4.) inundate homelands of San Carlos Apache, 5.) evaporation, 6.) use water allocations based on non-existent water, 7.) ignore and jeopardize Indian Winters' Doctrine Rights on the Colorado and its tributaries.

The reason America has been blessed with this project is because of the political power and maneuvering of Arizona politicians. Carter's review of the project calls for deletion of the proposed dams, but it leaves the water diversion. Apparently he did not want to have to fight Udall in Congress. — — —

would like to inform you about an old project, but one that is still seeking to become a reality. That project is the Central Arizona Project. It concerns both you and I because one of its dams is located in southwestern New Mexico. The dam is Hooker Dam, located on the upper Gila River where it flows out of the Gila Wilderness. Many of you may not have had the pleasure of going into the Gila Wilderness and walking up this river. This stretch of the Gila is accentuated by high-sided canyons and rocks smoothed by water. Once down in these canyons, you are cut off from all the hustle and noise of the modern world.

This is one of the few rivers in New Mexico where you can fish for both trout and bass at the same time.

This area also provides excellent nesting habitat for the zone-tailed hawk and the black hawk, which will be destroyed if Hooker Dam is built. How can we sit back and allow these people to build a dam that is not even needed?...Can we sit back and watch as this dam inundates six miles of the Gila Wilderness? Six miles of pristine river-bottom vegetation in the first ever established Wilderness Area in the United States.

REPRINTED FROM ALBUQUERQUE GROUP NEWS

Sierra Club Legislative Priorities 1977

Meeting in Washington, D.C., on January 9, the Club's Board of Directors established legislative priorities for the period of the 95th Congress which will focus the Club's lobbying efforts on a limited number of key issues. More than 70 legislative matters were suggested by volunteers and staff for significant attention by the Club. The Board selected eight as major campaigns, as well as eleven area-specific objectives deserving some national attention. They also discussed and roughly ranked other issues for attention, study, and administrative lobbying.

At the top of the list of major campaigns is the protection in Alaska of more than 100 million acres of national interest lands as parks, wildlife refuges, and wild and scenic rivers. Renewal of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, amendments to the Clean Air Act, legislation to conserve energy (probably focusing on utility rate reform), passage of the Endangered American Wilderness Act (an omnibus package of Forest Service *de facto* wilderness areas), renewed efforts to obtain a federal stripmining bill, and improvements in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (which governs offshore oil and gas leasing) follow as major campaigns. The Board also took a significant new step when it decided that the Club should also make a major effort to ensure that proposed urban public works legislation will be environmentally beneficial.

The Redwoods, Mineral King, Locks & Dam 26 (on the Upper Mississippi River), the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, opposition to environmentally harmful water projects (e.g. Russell, Dickey-Lincoln, Tocks Island, Tennessee-Tombigbee), interbasin water transfer policy, Tongass National Forest wilderness, Chattahoochee National Recreation Area, Tall Grass Prairie National Park, Great Smoky Mountains National Park wilderness, and protection of the Atchafalaya Basin are to receive priority national attention among regional, area-specific issues.

Other issues are slated to require some national attention, but will not necessitate full scale national campaigns. Examples of such legislation are governmental reorganization, the authorization act for the Energy Research & Development Administration, nuclear export controls, oil tanker standards, and a national parks concessions act. Recognizing that some issues will grow in significance as the Congress progresses, the Board listed a number of "build-up" campaigns, including mining law reform, an island protection package, and the Nuclear Fuel Assurance Act.

A number of recently passed laws were cited for priority attention in monitoring administrative implementation. Among these are the Toxic Substances Control Act, the BLM Organic Act, the Forestry Act, oil and coal leasing, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and two energy conservation measures./P. Swatek and Gene Coan, from National News Report.

REPRINTED FROM NATIONAL NEWS REPORT

With a new president —

STRIP MINE BILL MOVES THROUGH

Federal stripmine legislation introduced early this year is rapidly moving forward. The purpose of the legislation is to apply federal leverage on the states to protect land from irretrievable damage by coal strip mining. Environmental groups, including the Club, have been working for years to see a tough strip mine law enacted, and although prospects for passage this year are better than ever, lobbying against such legislation by the mining industry is intensifying. Environmentalists are urged to support the passage of a bill by writing letters to key congressmen now.

Strip Mine Legislation has a chance

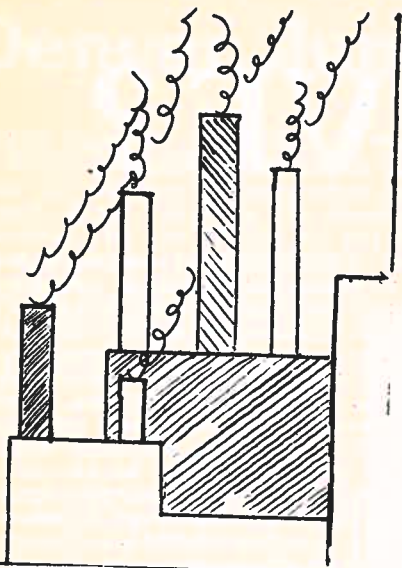
In the House, the legislative vehicle is H.R. 2, introduced by Rep. Morris Udall (D-AZ), Interior Committee Chairman. It and equivalent bills have been cosponsored by 47 representatives. The Udall bill passed the full House Interior Committee last week by a vote of 33-9, and is scheduled for a floor vote in the House on April 28. Many key environmental amendments to the bill will be debated on the floor at that time. In the Senate, the bill is S.7, introduced by Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-MT) and others. It is now before the full House Interior Committee.

As introduced, the House bill is slightly weaker than the

legislation twice vetoed by former President Ford. However, President Carter has promised to sign a tough bill this year, and the administration has sent a number of strengthening amendments to Congress. The Udall bill contains a good foundation for a tough strip mine law, including a 35¢/ton reclamation fee, strict permit processes, and strong federal enforcement. There are, however, several important components of a tough strip mine law that are not adequately covered in the bill. A strong effort by environmentalists to add improving amendments to the bill during the House's debate will be made.

REPRINTED FROM: NATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Remember Kaiparowits?



NOW THEY ARE PLANNING:

INTERMOUNTAIN

The Intermountain Power Project is a Kaiparowits-sized threat to Utah's National Parks. Proposed for a site ten miles east of Capitol Reef National Park are a 3000-megawatt power plant with supporting dam, reservoir, roads, buildings, and other facilities. In addition, the project's participants propose hundreds of miles of new transmission lines in Utah, Nevada, and California; 63.4 miles of new railroad track in Southern Utah; new Utah coal mines to supply ten million tons per year during the plant's projected 35-year life; and a new community east of Capitol Reef.

Project participants (and percent participation) are: Intermountain Consumers Power Association (Utah & Nevada) (15%); Anaheim (15%); Burbank (2.5%); Los Angeles (50%); Pasadena (5%); Riverside (10%).

The project has been planned for several years. Presently completed are four volumes of a five-volume "Preliminary Engineering and Feasibility Study" by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Vol. 5, "Environmental Assessment", is to be completed in mid-April. In process are a Draft Environmental Impact Review for the California Environmental Quality Act (to be completed by LADWP this spring) and a draft Environmental Impact Statement to be completed by the Bureau of Land Management in January 1978 and included in the U.S. Geological Survey's regional coal EIS.

Initial plant construction is scheduled for 1980, with the first of four units on-line in 1985. Water for the project (50,000 acre feet per year) would come from the Fremont River, which flows through Capitol Reef, and from 20 deep wells drilled into an underground aquifer just east of the Park boundary. Coal would come from underground mines in the southern portions of the Wasatch

visit intermountain

Sierra Club Southwest Regional Conservation Committee will be sponsoring a workshop on the Intermountain Power Project the weekend of May 21st and 22nd. Everyone is welcome. The meeting will start in Moab, Utah at 9:00 on Saturday and there will be a trip to the site on Sunday. Contact Kate Parker 983-5701

and Emery fields, by conveyor to a railroad, and 50 miles by rail to the power plant. Project participants expect 99.75% particulate removal and 90% sulfur dioxide removal, using "best practicable control technology" and supplementary control systems. Joseph Frackrell, IPP President, said in December that the plant could meet Class I air quality standards in Capitol Reef National Park "except for about 50 hours a year with sulfur dioxide. And we would never exceed Class II standards anywhere, at any time." It is presumed that the data supporting this claim will be in Vol. 5 of the feasibility study.

At the peak of construction, the project would bring an increase in population of 11,000 persons to Wayne County (present population is around 1600). 3,200 new housing units would be required - 90% of them trailers. After construction, 1,100 permanent housing units would be needed. 1,100 acres would be needed for a new town, assuming 85% of the new population would move there, and the other 15% to existing towns. Additional population increases would occur in Emery and Sevier Counties as a result of coal mining and transportation.

One of the original sites studies for the Intermountain Power Project was 20 miles southwest of the town of Escalante. It was not selected as the primary site because of environmental concerns, according to Mr. Frackrell. He and his staff have been very cooperative in our discussions with him and in our requests for information. We have expressed our appreciation for this cooperation, while at the same time making it clear that we think the National Park country of Southern Utah is no place for a power project.

Ruth Frear

REPRINTED FROM: UTAH NEWS



Wilderness Air:

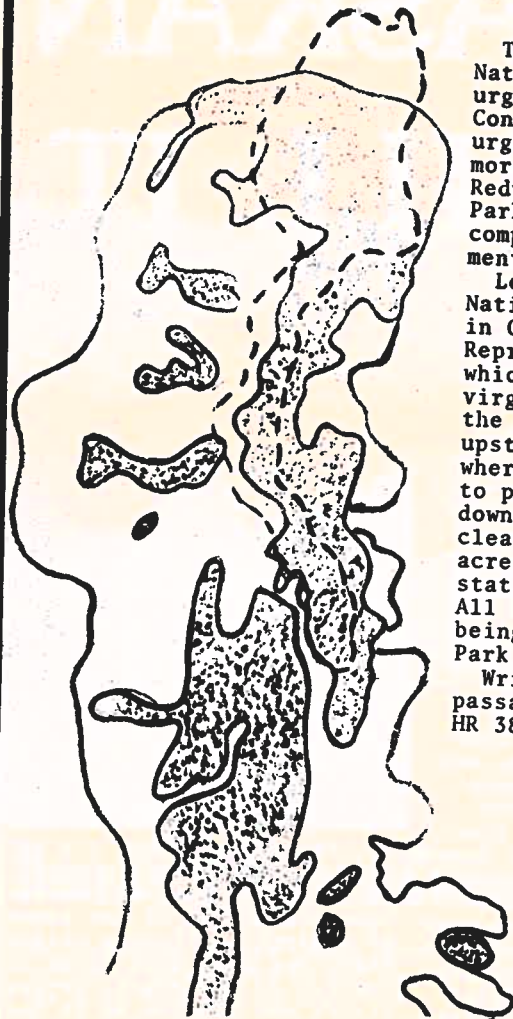
WILL IT STAY CLEAN -- THE FEDS LEAVE IT UP TO STATES

A new decision by Agriculture Secretary Robert Bergland has left air quality in twelve million acres of National Forest Service wilderness to be determined - or neglected - by the erratic vagaries of state policy. (Only a small minority among the states are working on a sound air protection policy.)

Bergland's decision represents an embarrassing cop-out on environmental issues by the Carter administration. These wildernesses are legally under Washington, D.C. federal protection, not the mandates of fifty different local legislatures.

The Rio Grande Sierran needs your photos, poetry, cartoons, drawings, etc. to add some beauty to this art form.

Redwood Park Proposal Threatened






Time has run out on Redwoods National Park and letters are urgently needed to members of Congress and to the White House urging support for an immediate moratorium on all logging of Redwoods in the Redwoods National Park area until Congress has completed action on an enlargement proposal.

Legislation to expand Redwoods National Park has been introduced in Congress (HR 3813) by Representative Philip Burton which would add the remaining virgin redwoods in the area to the Park and would establish an upstream Park protection zone where the land would be managed to protect the water and trees downstream. However, eleven clear-cuts involving over 300 acres have been approved by the state of California for harvesting. All these clearcuts are in areas being proposed addition to the Park.

Write now asking for quick passage of the Burtin bill - HR 3813.

BY: BETSY FULLER

-  VIRGIN FOREST
-  CUT-OVER LAND
-  PARK BOUNDARY

Date _____

Save-the-Redwoods League
San Francisco, California

Please enroll me as a member as indicated below:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Founder \$2,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Founder \$5,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor, optional amount per year \$ _____ | |

I wish to contribute to the Redwood Land Purchase Fund \$ _____

In memory of: _____ I wish to contribute \$ _____

Are you interested in **GRAPHICS**? Do you have a few spare evenings every two months? Would you like to be on the Sierran layout staff?
Are you a **POET**, artist or photographer? The Sierran needs artistic material, particularly related to southwestern land or environmental issues?
Do you like to **WRITE**? Would you be interested in article fabrication or editing?
Do you like to lick labels? Interested in helping send out the newsletter?

Contact 982-4349 work
editor 988-2549 home

Bergland also said air quality decisions for the wilderness would be handled on a case-by-case basis. This policy means that industrial expenditure and community planning would have to reach a fully advanced stage on each proposal before the Forest Service will make up its mind on that particular case.

The Sierra Club has asked the administration to push for Class I protection for the nation's parks and wildernesses, under the Clean Air Act. Class I designation would curb future industrial development near the wildernesses to prevent significant deterioration of the air within these areas. The designation would force industries planning plants that would pollute the wilderness air to modify their equipment or re-located.

Tell the administration how you feel about the need to re-designate the wildernesses Class I now. Write Bergland and your local representative (with copies of the same letter if necessary) and send another copy to us. EXCERPTS BY: CARL POPE

ANOTHER ENDANGERED SPECIES

When was the last time you saw a good case of smallpox? Ha Ha! That's right -- a long time ago -- Right! Are we losing an irreplaceable element of natural diversity? What used to be you might say "a way of life" is going by the wayside, like the Dodo bird. Medical technology is destroying this virus for you and me and, in your complacency the world is losing something too. GOD, where will this destruction end.

BY: A CONCERNED CITIZEN

If you share this concern write your congressman - immediately. THE SITUATION IS URGENT. Also contact:

SSFYC Committee
(Save Smallpox For
Your Children committee)
General Delivery
Won ton, Soup 87596

ALASKAN WILDERNESS WILL IT SURVIVE?

Alaska means wilderness..to some people. To other people, Alaska means oil, gas, minerals, timber-MONEY!!!!!!

To those people, the fact that Alaska is our very last wilderness-vast, true and free, means nothing. To them, the dull fact that Alaska is home to our last viable populations of peregrine falcons, bald eagles, wolves, grizzly bears and loons means nothing. The fact that multitudes of migratory birds-geese, cranes, swans and throngs of ducks each spring wing their way to Alaskan nesting grounds means nothing. Caribou, moose, polar and kodiak bear, orca, hump-back whale, gyrfalcon, puffin, walrus, sea lion, beluga, trumpeter swan- the lives, the incredible diversity of form and spirit that these creatures represent all means nothing.

Cast your eye across the lower 48. Amazing, isn't it, what we have undeliberately accomplished in just 200 years. There used to be wilderness here, every inch of the land teemed with wildlife of appropriate form, rivers meandered, clean and lovely, forests stretched endlessly off into mountains which marched across horizons unnamed and unknown. There were wolves here, and grizzly bears and bald eagles were common. Just 200 years and what a mess we have made. We all know it- no use going into that.

Alaska is our chance at redemption. We can do in Alaska what we can never ever do here- we can let be what is already here. We can let the wilderness stay wild, unaltered a place to go for peace, solitude, inspiration.

Earth has a big investment in Alaska. Her ecosystems are fragile, complex and often unique. Her life forms took millions of years to evolve. Compared to this wealth, what is ten, fifty, a hundred years of oil, of gas? What will be the "worth" of Alaska when she is raped of all minerals, her mountains bulldozed over, her rivers full of silt, her forests razed, her wild-life gone?

Decisions concerning the future of Alaskan wilderness will be made by Congress by December 18, 1978. One year and eight months from now, all that will ever be saved will



M. Woodbridge Williams, National Park Service

be. Meanwhile, there's a lot to be done. First and foremost we need to convince our senators and representatives of the importance of protecting Alaskan wilderness. There are many ways to do this; letters or telegrams, personal visits and showing up at hearings concerning Alaska. See below for specifics on these.

History

When Alaska became a state in 1959, the Statehood Act granted her some 103 million acres of land plus another 40 million of tide-lands. But when the state began identifying the lands it wanted, the native people protested, saying that many of the lands involved were their ancestral heritage. The dispute became so intense that the Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall put a freeze on all development of, or transfer of title to, public land in Alaska. However, oil was soon discovered on Alaska's North Slope and the state began to chafe at the freeze, wanting to grant the oil companies their necessary 789 mile oil corridor from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez. Pressure was felt in Congress to resolve the native claims problem and in 1971, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) became law. The act gave Alaskan natives 44 million acres of land and about one billion dollars. In the course of the ANCSA debate, it became clear that Alaska was being parcelled out without regard for her wilderness and wildlife. With much effort, conservationists managed to get an amendment to the act which embodied these key provisions:

- 17(a) - established a joint Fed/State Land Use Planning Commission to insure comprehensive planning for Alaska's future:
- 17(b)&(c) - set up a planning procedure for locating public easements and transportation and utility corridors:
- 17(d)(1) - continued the land freeze for 90 days, during which time the Secretary of the Interior determined which of the "public lands" would be withdrawn (i.e. temporarily reserved under Federal management) in the public interest. These

"d-1 lands" are multi-purpose lands and are open to metalliferous mining unless or until Congress indicates otherwise; and

- 17(d)(2) - allowed the Secretary of the Interior to select 80 million acres which he deemed suitable for inclusion in the National Park, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wildlife Refuge and Forest Systems in Alaska. Congress must decide which "d-2" National Interest Lands to include in the four national conservation systems by the end of 1978.

In his recommendation to Congress Secretary Morton was not limited to the d-2 lands but could draw from the d-1 lands. There was a good deal of inter-agency bargaining and in the final Interior Dept's bill, it was obvious that a lot of compromising had occurred. For instance, excluded from Interior's proposal for the Selawik National Wildlife Range are several hundred thousand acres to the west which the Park Service's draft environmental impact statement asserted were "of comparable or greater value to fish and wildlife than the proposed refuge itself". In the Wrangell Mountains, the Park Service would get a park of 88% "barren rock and ice", sandwiched between two huge chunks of Forest Service land which is the fertile and wildlife rich river valleys and productive mountain slopes.

Discouraged with the compromise Interior bill, many conservation groups put their own bill together with the emphasis on complete ecosystems, protecting cohesive units of land which encompass migratory routes of caribou or protect habitat of wildlife within the area or include the watershed of an area etc. The bill gives more acreage to the Parks and Wildlife Refuges and gives none to the Forest Service (which already administers 21 million acres and has shown itself deaf to pleas for wilderness and wildlife protection.)

CURRENT STATUS

On the first day of the 95th Congress, Rep. Morris Udall

(D-Ariz) introduced the conservationists bill, called Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (H.R.39). ANILCA designates 51 units totalling 114.9 million acres- about 1/3 of the land base of Alaska. The National Park System would get 64.3 million acres, the National Wildlife Refuge System would get 46.5 million and the National Wild and Scenic River System 4.1 million (in 23 Wild or Scenic Rivers which would leave about 250 million available for exploitation. Less than 1/2 of 1 percent of the land in the lower 48 is now wilderness. All of the 114.9 million acres in ANILCA would be instantly classified as wilderness and protected under the Wilderness Preservation System. But we are not going to get it without a fight.

The state of Alaska will soon introduce a bill concerning these lands which would only give 25 million acres Park or Refuge or Forest Service management and then under the jurisdiction of a newly created Federal/State Land Classification Commission. Alaska's bill is grossly selfish and presumes that Alaska is for Alaskans, not for all people, for all time. Unfortunately, the oil and gas companies are right there alongside Alaska, complaining that we are "locking-up" too much land. Unhappy with their 250 million acres, they would like every available inch. So would we. But we want it for the wildlife and wilderness that the land supports, not so that we can fatten our pocketbooks.

BY: KATIE PARKER

Alaska Workshops

The Wilderness Society has prepared a three hour Alaska Workshop designed to educate and inspire. All people intending to go to the Denver hearing should try to make it to the workshop nearest you, not only to see the films and slides but to talk with the other folks there who are going to Denver too and begin organizing. All people who think they might like to go to Denver but are unsure, please come to the workshop in your area and maybe by talking with the other folks who will be going your questions will get answered. We need everyone who can go, to go! All people who can not go to Denver should come because it will be informative and you should get some ammunition to write your letters with. So, see you all there!

Santa Fe Workshop:
May 17, 7:00 Inn of Governors
Albuquerque Workshop:
May 18, 7:00, Mitchell Hall, UNM

El Paso Workshop:
For details contact Orvil Robinson (598-0158) or Gayle Eads (591-8685).



Congressional Hearing On Alaska: Denver, June 4. Come!

1. **DENVER HEARING, JUNE 4th** The House Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Lands has scheduled hearings all around the country to hear what we think about this crucial national issue. Here in the Southwest, the hearing in Denver is closest. We are trying to get a whole crowd of people up to that hearing- it will be our one chance to convince, in person those Subcommittee members who will be deciding the future of ANILCA and in large part, the future of Alaska. You don't need to be an expert, you don't need to be outspoken, in fact, you are encouraged to come whether you want to testify or not. We need to show how much support there is here in the Southwest for ANILCA. Groups will be leaving from Santa Fe, Albuquerque and El Paso. We would like to have 50 people up there so come along, please! It will be fun and a real education for all of us. If you want to testify, write; Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Lands, 1327 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. You must let them know a week in advance of the hearing date that you wish to testify. If you care about Alaska, if you just want to know that these lands and the wildlife they support will be protected in perpetuity, please come and show your support.

To get details about going from your area, write or call:

Orvil Robinson, 10504 Candlewood, El Paso, Tx. 79925. 598-0158
Alan Kennish, 4025 Martin Rd. SW Alb. N.M. 87105
Blanche Fitzpatrick, P.O. Box 666 Corrales, N.M. 87048
Kate Parker, 535 Douglas, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501 983-5701

Think what an impression it will make on our senators and representatives when they learn 50 New Mexicans and El Paso folks went to Denver to speak out for Alaska!!!!!!!

2. Representative Manuel Lujan Jr. has indicated that he intends to support ANILCA. Please write him a note of hearty thanks and encourage him to join as a co-sponsor, thereby showing his support publicly. PLEASE WRITE SENATOR DOMENICI: We desperately need his support as he is on the committee of the senate which will deal with ANILCA. Ask him to sponsor \$500 and let him know you feel that the future of Alaska's wilderness is something all Americans should have a say about- tell him the reasons you support the bill. He really needs to hear from us NOW. Thanks! Addresses in Exercise Your Writes elsewhere in the Sierran.

3. Letter writer teams are being set up all over the Chapter to respond at crucial times during the Alaska Campaign. To get on one, contact one of the folks listed above! It won't be much work but what a reward for all of us!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Boundary Waters Canoe Area Endangered

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area in northern Minnesota would seem to be safe from all mechanized intrusion as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. However, because of a qualifying section tacked on to the Wilderness Act by Congress in 1964, there are two large loop-holes that apply only to the BWCA. The Wilderness Act states that the Wilderness System should provide areas "where earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain... retaining the primal character... managed to preserve its natural conditions... where the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable."

However, beneath this fine language is the qualifying statement which applies only to the BWCA and which states that the BWCA be managed "without unnecessary restrictions on other uses including that of timber." It also allows "any already established use of motorboats."

These two contradictory purposes have become a nightmare to the Forest Service and to conservationists and many law suits, administrative appeals and mass meetings have resulted. Logging and road-building is now going on in the BWCA, destroying this last large virgin wilderness in the eastern United States. Snowmobiling and motorboating are destroying the peace and solitude in large portions of the wilderness.

Almost everyone now recognizes the fact that new legislation is essential for the management of the BWCA and two bills have already been introduced in Congress.

The first of these, sponsored by Representative Oberstar of Minnesota, would designate 600,000 acres as true wilderness area, but would transfer 400,000 acres of the Wilderness to a National Recreation Area status which would allow paved roads and development of resort areas. Commercial logging and motorized recreation would also be allowed in this area. The net result of this proposal of Rep. Oberstar would actually decrease the total wilderness acreage in the eastern United States by 20%!

The other bill (HR 14576) has been introduced by Minnesota Congressman Donald M. Fraser. The bill would end the abuses of the BWCA and terminate the endless controversy over the present management policies by preserving the entire area as Wilderness. Logging would terminate immediately and motorboat and snowmobile use would cease at once except for a discretionary 5 year phase-out period in hardship cases. Mining and mineral exploration would be prohibited except in a national emergency. Quick passage of this bill is urged by conservationists throughout the country. It would effectively serve the long term national interest far better than any other proposal yet advanced.

The BWCA is the largest National Wilderness Area east of the Rockies- slightly over a million acres in size. It is our only lakeland wilderness and is unique in the National Wilderness System; a vast area of interconnecting waterways amidst virgin conifer forests. It contains 1076 lakes and 1200 miles of canoe routes. It is a land where the Canada lynx, the pine marten, the moose, black bear, beaver, bald eagle, otter and other animals are present. It is the last foothold in the lower 48 states of the timber wolf. The relationship of these animals to their environment is a living biological laboratory. If you have ever dipped a paddle or heard the spine-chilling laugh of the loon or listened to the howl of the wolves at night over a still lake, you will want to help in this fight to preserve the BWCA.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: 1) Write to your Representative in Washington. Tell him to support full wilderness status of the BWCA; to support the Fraser Bill (HR 14576) and to oppose the Oberstar bill which would remove lands from the Wilderness System. 2) Write to your senators and tell them to support the introduction of a Senate bill identical to the Fraser bill. 3) Send a contribution to Friend of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, 513 Elm Creek Road, Champlin, Minnesota 55316. BY: BETSY FULLER

SIERRA CLUB INTERNATIONAL

COMMITTEE

As most of you know the Sierra Club has an Office of International Environment Affairs across the street from the United Nations in New York. Briefly, since 1972 the Club has become a leader in the international environmental community. The aim of the International program is to join with other global organizations to exchange information and coordinate action programs in response to common problems.

The Grassroots Program, a new education and activist arm of the Sierra Club International Office, is being developed. The program seeks participation at the Club group and chapter levels. Its aim is to build local constituencies for world conservation and to inculcate a global environmental ethic. Over 100 "international chairpersons" have been appointed in cities all over the country. The role of the international chairperson is to regularly brief their groups on global issues and to offer leadership on working on those issues from the grassroots.

What are your interests? Marine pollution? The Law of the Sea Conference? The SST? Multi-national corporations and their impact on global eco-systems? Air pollution causing the statuary of the Acropolis to be removed to museums or the severe health hazards of air pollution which does not respect national borders? And, what about whales and tigers? And Antarctica? Do you want to follow important United Nations and U.S. conferences which deal with environmental issues? Have an impact on State Department decisions? Do you care that the world forests are being razed to support a wasteful energy style? Would you like to keep up with global public transportation trends? If so, please let us hear from you. We need you. We are now putting together working entities on technology transfer, World Environment Day Program Planning for 1977, Design of an International Environment Education Kit, a Spring lecture and film series, a foreign student internship program, a host committee for visiting foreign environmentalists. All of your ideas and questions are welcome. Contact:

Martha Lackner

Coordinator, Grassroots International Program

Sierra Club
777 U.N. Plaza
N.Y., N.Y. 10017

Each spring the International Committee solicits nominations for appointment to the Committee. Committee members serve three year terms and are expected to contribute substantial amounts of volunteer time. They should have some experience in international affairs if needed; if Club members are interested but have not had an opportunity to gain experience, they are urged to start by serving as International Chairperson for their Chapter or Group.

To nominate persons for the International Committee, complete this form and submit it to the International Committee, & Sierra Club International Office, 777 United Nations Centre, New York, N. Y. 10017.

Nominee's name:

Address:

Telephone: Wk () Hm ()

Educational Training:

International Experience:

Chapter/Group Experience:

Special International

Expertise or Interest:

Nominated by:

Chapter/Group
(Title, if any)



ENDANGERED AMERICAN WILDERNESS ACT

The Endangered American Wilderness Act was conceived because of the inadequate job the Forest Service is doing in considering the wilderness resources of outstanding roadless areas in the Western National Forests. Forest Service planning in general has been superficial, inconsistent, and biased against wilderness. Citizens, therefore, have had to turn to Congress to protect these lands. Under directions from the new administration, the Forest Service has not opposed this bill as they did last year. However, industry lobbyists, and others have worked diligently to kill the legislation. The Endangered American Wilderness Act is a top priority for all conservation groups this year. It is "must pass" legislation. The timber industry, though is making every effort to kill the bill. Only strong public support can save it. We are counting on your letter. If this bill can pass, then there is hope indeed for the great wilderness resource of Forest Service roadless areas.

Early this year, Rep. Morris Udall, Chairman of the House Interior Committee, along with numerous co-sponsors introduced the Endangered American Wilderness Act (EAWA) of 1977 (HR3454). The Act would instantly designate 14 National Forest areas, totaling 1,382,940 acres, as wilderness. Included in this are 30,700 acres in the Sandia Mountains, and 37,000 acres in the Manzano Mountains, both in New Mexico. In addition to the instant wilderness, 6 areas, totaling 604,930 acres would be mandated for formal wilderness study by the Forest Service. A 50,500 acre area in Chama Canyon in the Santa Fe National Forest is included in this. Congressman Manuel Lujan of New Mexico is co-sponsoring the measure. Senator Frank Church of Idaho will soon introduce similar legislation in the Senate, and Senator Pete V. Domenici is considering co-sponsorship.

REPRINTED from:
NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
NEWSLETTER

Sandias Need Your Help

On February 28 and March 1 & 4, the House Public Lands Subcommittee of the Interior Committee held hearings on HR 3454, the Endangered American Wilderness Act. Strong public support from grassroots citizen leaders in all western states affected by the bill was given, and the national conservation groups lined up in solid support.

The timber industry was well represented at the hearings, doing everything it could to kill the bill.

At the House Hearings Erwin Kulosa of the Federal Timber Purchasers Association strongly opposed wilderness designation for any of the east side of the Sandia Mountains, saying that the area should be managed for the production of pulp wood and sawtimber. He said that if any wilderness is designated in the Sandias, it should include only the west escarpment facing Albuquerque and that the boundary should be along the Crest. He also opposed any wilderness designation east of the Manzano Crest in order to permit commercial logging in the still wild portions of the Manzano east slope. Evidently Kulosa is putting all the pressure he can on Congressman Lujan to convince him to pull his boundaries back to the crest line of both the Sandias and Manzanos.

An additional argument Kulosa has used to oppose any wilderness on the east side of the Sandias is that this area, in addition to needing to be logged, should be more intensively developed for recreation and picnic areas. However,

the Forest Service land use plan for the Sandias states that all future developed recreation sites on the east slope of the Sandias will be in an area outside of our proposed 30,700 acre Sandia Wilderness. There is no conflict between wilderness and more picnic areas on the Sandia east slope. Kulosa is waving this red herring to strengthen his plans to eventually log the east slope.

If you want to insure that the Sandia east slope is never managed for timber cutting, write a letter to Congressman Lujan supporting wilderness designation for the east slope of the Sandias as it is included in our 30,700 acre wilderness proposal, today!!

In a separate bill, New Mexico Senator Pete V. Domenici introduced S. 782 and S. 786, which would designate 30,700 acres of wilderness in the Sandias and 37,000 acres of wilderness in the Manzanos, respectively. Senator Harrison Schmitt co-sponsored the bills. These proposals are identical to the ones included in HR 3454, the endangered American Wilderness Act. Letters should be sent to both Senators thanking them for their action in introducing these bills, and urging them to co-sponsor the full EAWA when Senator Church introduces it in the Senate.

REPRINTED from:
NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
NEWSLETTER

There is a new wilderness newsletter on the horizon (the western horizon in fact). The Arizona Wilderness Newsletter has survived into its second issue.

Articles on issues relevant to wilderness at the local, state and national levels are welcome and encouraged. Anybody who would like to write for the Arizona Wilderness Newsletter should contact the editor, Rick Wellenberger. His address is:

R. Wellenberger
2925 North 16th Dr.
Phoenix, Arizona 85015



The Sandia Mountains are unique among the mountain ranges of the Southwest; even in a region renowned for its wide variety of peaks, the Sandias defy comparison.

The western face is an awe inspiring expanse of granite spires, pinnacles and walls, while the eastern slope is gentle and heavily forested. The Sandias rise a full vertical mile above the city of Albuquerque, dominating the eastern horizon from all parts of town.

At sunset, the western escarpment is bathed in warm, pastel alpine glow and, in the morning, the mountain is often hidden in swirling clouds.

The Sandias present a never ending drama for the people of Albuquerque; the mountain's moods change constantly throughout the day, as shadows spread amongst the crags.

For the hiker, the Sandias offer even greater enjoyment. The mountain's 13 established trails give a choice of four different life zones to walk through - from Upper Sonoran desert at the bottom, to high country Hudsonian at the top. In the course of a single day, the hiker may see cactus and spruce trees, aspen and juniper, deep canyons, high ridges, fern-filled meadows and sandy arroyos.

Because of their great and varied beauty, the Sandia Mountains have long occupied a special place in the hearts of Albuquerque's citizens.

BY: JACK KUTZ & LADONNA KUTZ

las cruces ACTIVITIES

The Sierra Club has more than 40 members who reside in the Las Cruces-Mesilla area. For some time the El Paso regional group has included these Sierrans on its rolls.

Now...there are people there who are actively meeting, beginning wilderness studies, planning outings, and wanting to get an official regional group organized in Las Cruces.

This newly active bunch need local support to get the regional group going. Please call Ted Zobeck (524-8764) or Terry Hicks (522-7905) and offer them your time and/or money and/or encouragement.

Reprinted from the EL PASO REGIONAL GROUP NEWSLETTER

May 20-21 Taylor Creek Weekend-call Bob Langsenkamp 505-388 4326

June 4-5 Lower Gila River Box Weekend call Ted Zobeck 505-524-8764

portales

Welcome, Llano Estacado! It is wonderful to have a new group in Portales working on predatory birds, solar energy and spreading the ideas and goals of the Sierra Club around a little more. Good luck and we hope to meet all of you soon!

ALBUQUERQUE activities

Highlights of the Albuquerque groups conservation efforts have been: fighting for the designation of the Sandia/Manzanos as wilderness, rescue of the Oxbow, antelope management in Southeastern New Mexico and lobbying for the Chama River Bill.

outings

May 14 - Sandia Peak Clean-Up call - Phil Sussman 821-0230

May 21-22 - Wilderness Study Weekend - location undecided

May 28-30 - Memorial Day Weekend-Bantelher expedition-call Don Meaders

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May 12 - May Meeting of the Albuquerque Group, Sierra Club, 7:30PM at the Monte Vista Church, 3501 Campus Blvd. NE. The Program will be "A Wilderness Proposal for the Sandias", presented by the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee.

MAY 19 - POTLUCK PICNIC - The Albuquerque Group is having a potluck picnic on Thursday, May 19. A special invitation is extended to members who have joined in the past 12 months, and potential members. Sierra Club members who live outside Albuquerque are also most welcome. Call the Sierra Club, 265-1014 for details.

el paso activities

The El Paso Regional Group has been quite busy in recent months working on various issues and with many activities.

First, an Enduro race was proposed by a motorcycle club in Carlsbad in an area of the Lincoln National Forest between the Guadalupe Mtns. National Park and Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Part of the proposed route overlapped the proposed wilderness for that area. Also because of the fragile nature of the Guadalupe Escarpment we felt this a priority item. In addition to writing letters, 14 club members from El Paso (along with cavers and ranchers all over New Mexico) went to Carlsbad to a hearing sponsored by the Forest Service. The race has now been moved to a route above Hwy. 37 in a less sensitive area.

In El Paso Bill Henderson, our air and water quality chairman, kept a close touch on the situation with El Paso Acid which was violating air pollution emissions standards at their plant adjacent to the Standard Oil Refinery and also threatening the water table at a dump for acid sludge east of El Paso. The problem was settled out of court with El Paso Acid giving up their dumping site and agreeing to add emission controls to their stacks.

LeBron Hardie and John Colburn are handling new problems in the Sacramentos. They attended a recent hearing on McGregor Range concerning the military withdrawal there. We have taken no stand at present but will watch the proceedings carefully. The proposed land swap where the Mesquero Apache tribe are asking for land adjacent to the Sierra Blanca Ski area for expansion, is our most pressing problem in the Sacramentos. The land also is adjacent to the White Mountain Wilderness Area and would seriously damage (destroy) Bonito Canyon. The BIA is handling the EIS.

Dr. William Reid was our representative on a three-day tour of the reach of the Rio Grande for proposed boundary restoration project of the International Boundary and Water Commission. His report will be in the next

issue of the Sierran. At this point he feels the Commission is working on the plans to perhaps limit the number of miles to be restored, and to provide alternative solutions for the wildlife habitat problem.

The Club helped sponsor and finance a most successful Gila Wilderness Workshop in February put together by Wes Leonard. Over 100 people attended and many have since joined the Sierra Club.

This is great weather for outings in El Paso and the Weekends have found many members and visitors at Indian Hot Springs on the Rio Grande, at Dripping Springs in the Organs, and a group of 11 had a delightful weekend at the White Sands Backcountry Camp.

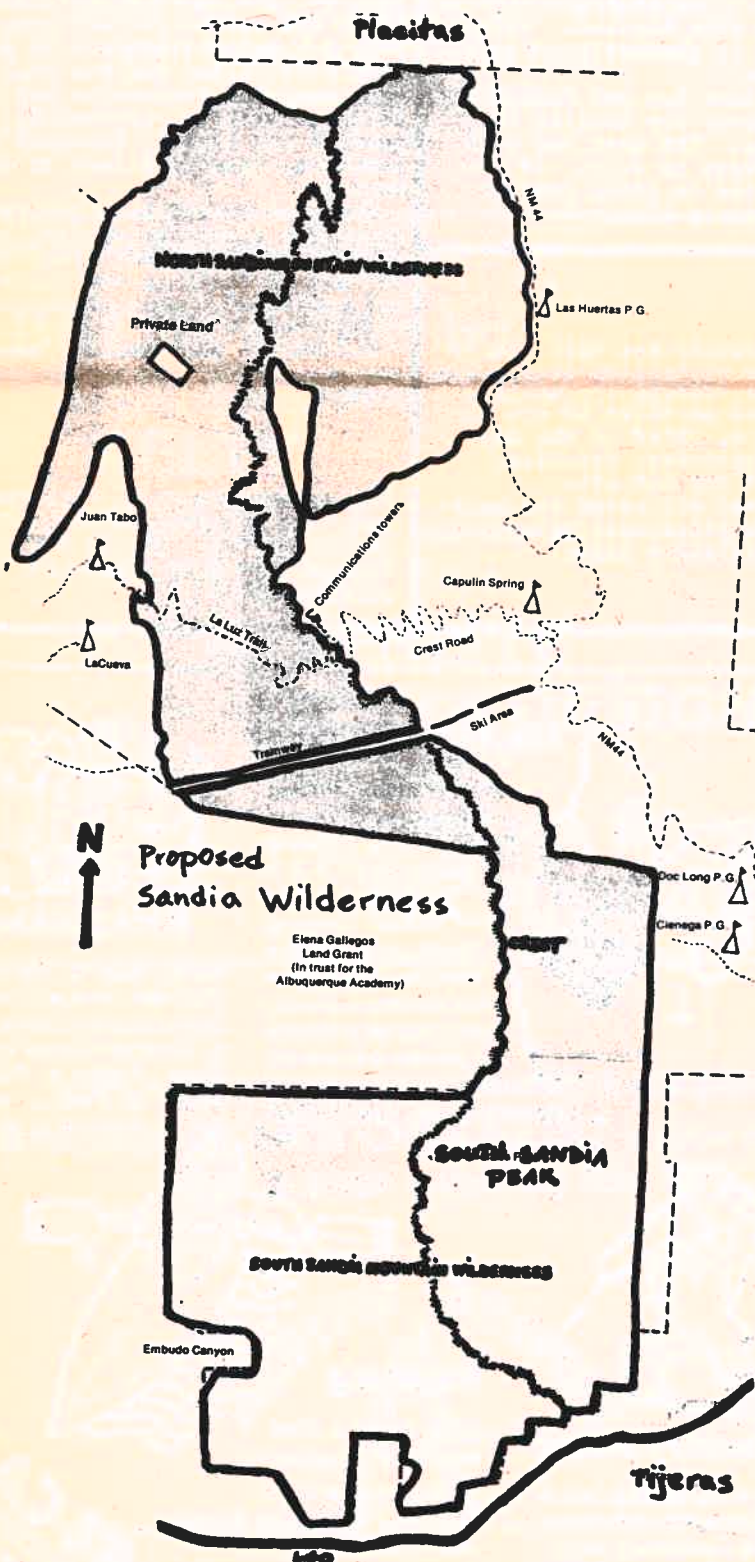
The Alaska slide show has been shown in El Paso about 8 times with more to come. Attendance at meetings is growing with an average this year of 65. We are supporting the people in Las Cruces who are trying to get an official group going there. With all the activity in southern New Mexico, it would be great if they had their own organization BY GAYLE EADS

OUTINGS

- May 14-15 - Apache Kid Roadless Area Knapsack - Moderate call Wes Leonard 584-7730*
- May 28-30 - Fourth Annual Memorial Day Family Knapsack - Easy-call John Colburn 592-4033*
- July 1-4 - Sangre-De Cristo Mountains Knapsack (Colorado)-Strenuous- call Rollin Wickenden 598-8042*
- May 28-30 - Cumbres De Majalaca National Park Car Camp and Dayhiking - Easy to ? - Rollin Wickenden 598-8042*

* Reservations required

REPRINTED from: EL PASO



SANTA FE GROUP activities

MAY

- 1 moderate hike, leader: Maurice Dixon 988-1190
- 3 Executive Committee Meeting, Central Clearing House, 7:30
- 7-8 Manzano Mountain Car Camp, leader: Brett Roorbach 983-2868
- 8 easy hike, leader: Julie Gomez 988-5023
- 14 backpacking SWAP! Santa Fe Prep School Auditorium, 1101 Camino Cruz Blanca. 9:00 sellers, 12:00 buyers
- 15 hike, leader: Betsy Fuller 983-8870
- 15 GROUP FUNDRAISING PICNIC, Campground #2, Hyde State Park Group will be selling barbecued hamburgers & hotdogs, 5:00
- 17 General meeting will be an Alaska Workshop to prepare people for the Denver hearing, also to inform public. 7:00
- 22 strenuous hike, leader: John Muchmore 983-1250
- 24 Conservation Committee Meeting, Central Clearing House, 7:30
- 29 moderate hike, leader: Ann Kunz 983-7994
- 27-31 backpack in Gila wilderness, leaders: Betsy Fuller 983-8870 and Ken Adam 983-1949

JUNE

- 4 DENVER HEARING! See Alaska article for details
- 4 orienteering clinic and practice hike, leaders: Ken Adam and Phil Nelson 982-9707
- 7 Executive Committee Meeting, Central Clearing House, 7:30
- 5 moderate hike, leader: Polly Robertson 982-4074
- 11 moderate hike, leader: John Baxter 983-5836
- 12 strenuous hike, leader: John Muchmore 983-1250
- 19 moderate hike, leader: Mike Oothoudt 662-3812
- 21 General Meeting, 7:30 McMasters Room, Inn of the Governors
- 25-26 Overnight Pecos wilderness, leaders: Norma and Collins Richey 983-8144
- 26 easy hike, leader: Bill Chudd 982-5334
- 28 Conservation Committee Meeting, Central Clearing House, 7:30

Note: All group meetings are open to members- we would love to have as broad a participation as possible.
The hikes depart from the SW corner of the PERA parking lot- 8:00 for moderate, strenuous and special, 9:30 for easy. Check with leader about remuneration to drivers, reservation charge.

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EX-COM MEETINGS

The Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee meets about every 5 or 6 weeks. The meetings last for most of the weekend and deal with conservation topics of New Mexico and El Paso. Chapter organizational matters are also handled. Saturday night there is generally a lively get-together.

We wish thank Kay and Paul Krehbiel of Socorro for hosting the last meeting. The next one will be in Las Vegas in July. If you are interested in going contact your local group leader.

DON LEAVES

Don Campbell, who for over two years gave us outstanding service as editor/writer for the Rio Grande Sierran, has moved to California. Those who worked closely with Don know how much of himself he put into every issue and how well his wide range of interests and talents editing, writing, cartooning, lampooning and layout, improved environmental communications in New Mexico.

Don also served as a chapter executive committee member, coordinator of roadless study area reviews in northern New Mexico and monitored timber practices in the state.

California has gained a special person. He will be keenly missed here.

THE SIERRAN WANTS TO KEEP MEMBERS INFORMED ON ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN NEW MEXICO. IF YOU HAVE A MEETING YOU WANT ANNOUNCED, LET US KNOW.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

June 13-20
BLM and UNM's Division of Continuing Education are sponsoring an institute on environmental education June 13-20 at the D.H. Lawrence Ranch, about 15 miles north of Taos. For info write: Maureen Kerr, BLM, P.O. Box 6770, Albuquerque, N.M. 87107.

D.C. TRIP

The third Sierra Club Leadership Training Workshop was held in Washington, D. C. March 20-25, on the theme of Alaska, Wilderness and National Parks. Sixteen Sierra Club volunteers from across the nation were invited to participate. Joanne Sprenger, our chairlady was among them.

The participants met with the Sierra Club Washington leadership, and various federal top administrators such as Chief of the Forest Service, Chief of the Army Corps of Engineers, Associate Director of the BLM etc. Some time was set aside for meeting with Congressional delegations and/or legislative aides.

ORV Appeal

The Administrative Appeal, filed by the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club concerning Off Road Vehicles in the Santa Fe National Forest is presently in a 90 day extension period. This extension was granted to the Sierra Club to allow us to finalize our legal and scientific briefs and data. The Sierra Club and the New Mexico Public Interest Research Group, the original co-appellants, have been joined by the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee. The administrative appeal was filed by the Santa Fe Group because it was felt that the Forest Service ORV Management Plan for the Santa Fe National Forest was unacceptable. The plan left the vast majority of land in the Santa Fe National Forest open to cross-country ORV use, ignoring sensitive soils and key wildlife areas as well as the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee's proposed additions to the Wilderness System. Several people in the Groups' Conservation Committee have been working to accumulate evidence for our case and we have been lucky to have the help of local attorneys in the legal work. We'll keep you posted on the progress of our appeal. For more information, contact John Schneider at 983-5701, evenings.
REPRINTED from: SANTA FE GROUP NEWSLETTER

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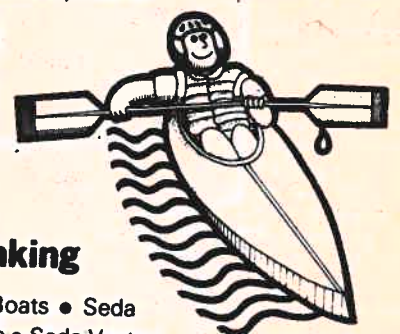
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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Summer goals of New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee

With the creation of the Wilderness Act agencies of the federal government were required to study the land they administer for possible designation and protection as wilderness areas. The New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee was formed by concerned citizens in order to watchdog the agencies' studies. The group is very competent, organized and experienced. They have inventoried much of the forest of New Mexico, however there is still work to be done, particularly on BLM lands.

If you enjoy hiking in back country you can painlessly contribute to wilderness preservation. People are always needed who are willing to hike to a specific area and report back on the area's wilderness potential. This summer there are four regional committees that will be responsible for work done in different areas of New Mexico. The group also publishes a regular newsletter, sponsors occasional workshops and lobbies for wilderness. You might be interested in getting involved.

The Albuquerque District has six canyon areas: Simon Canyon; Negro Canyon; San Antonio Canyon; Chama Canyon; Embudo Box and Sabino. There are also the Bisti Badlands, the Grants Malpais, Ceboletta Mesa (an addition to the Guadalupe Canyon Breaks Study Area), and the Cerro de Olla Mtn. There are also areas on the Forest Service and Park Service Lands that need boundary and follow up work. Some areas that need attention this summer are Aldo Leopold Wilderness Proposal, Carlsbad Wilderness Proposal, east side of the Pecos Wilderness, White Mtn. Wilderness Additions, Carrizo Mtn., Mt. Taylor Roadless Area, Guadalupe Canyon Breaks, Dome Roadless Area, Caballo Mtn., the Blue Range and the Sacramento Escarpment.

If you are familiar with any of the above areas or are interested in exploring them, fill out a copy of the enclosed "Adopt a Roadless Area Questionair", and/or contact your regional Wilderness Study Committee representative. (SEE PAGE 15.)

BLM AREAS QUALIFY FOR Wilderness

Prior to September 1976 BLM lands did not qualify for designation as wilderness within the National Wilderness Preservation System. The BLM Organic Act, which was passed in September, mandated BLM to study their lands and prepare an inventory of roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more (or roadless islands) with wilderness characteristics. Roadless areas can eventually become official wilderness areas. A preliminary survey of BLM lands in N.M. has identified about 40 roadless areas. BLM employees have little familiarity with some of these areas and limited manpower and funding. BLM is very open to input from the Wilderness Study Committee.

Prior to the BLM organic act, most of the areas designated as wilderness or wilderness study areas in N.M. were forest lands. We have a unique opportunity to preserve different sorts of ecosystems: prairies, deserts, canyon lands, desert mountains, lava flows etc.

The Wilderness Study Committee will be concentrating on getting people out into these 40 BLM areas this summer.

In the Las Cruces District of BLM, areas of interest are (1). 15 desert mountains: Blue Creek-Black Mtn.; Peloncillo Mtns: Pyramid Mtns: North Animas Mtns; Alamo Hueco Mtns.; Big Hatchet Mtns; Cedar Mtns; Tres Hermanas Mtns.; Florida Mtns.; Las Uvas Mtns.; Cornudas Mtn.; Organ Mtns.; Franklin Mtns.: Cuchillo Mtns.; and Cooks Peak. (2). 2 volcanic cinder cones: West Potrillo Mtns; and Mt Riley. (3). 2 lava flows: Jornada Lava Flow and Carrizozo Malpais. (4). also a desert canyon: Lower Gila Box and an addition to a Forest Service study area: Devils Den (a steep escarpment).

The Roswell District has two canyon areas: Big Canyon and Fawn Canyon. It also has a sand dune area: Mescalero Sands.

The Socorro District of BLM has three mountains: the Ladrons; Horse Mtn; and Pelona Mtn. There also is a canyon area: Petaca Pinta.

got a 1/2 hour ?

A short written report after your hike can help make a natural area a wilderness!!

Northern Region - Contact

George Grossman
 1391 Santa Rosa Dr.
 Santa Fe, N.M. 87501

505-982-1024

Southern Region - Contact

Terry Hicks
 1608 Imperial Ridge
 Las Cruces, N.M.

505-522-7905

GROUP TRIPS to Big Hatchet Mtns and Lower Gila Box. Dates uncertain.

Central Region - Contact

Armen Chakerian
 6039 Downey N.E.
 Albuquerque, N.M. 87109

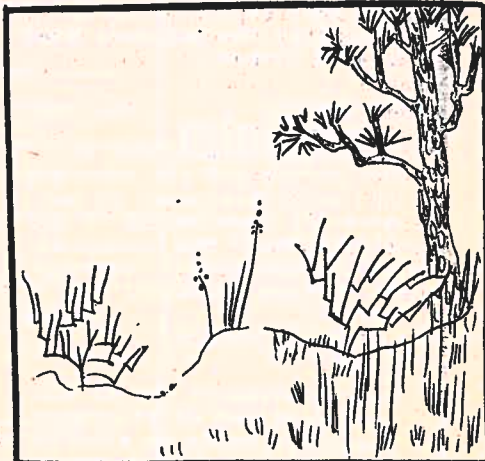
505-883-1897

Gila Region - Contact

Bob Langsenkamp
 107 S. Bayard St.
 Silver City, N.M. 88061

505-388-4326

GROUP TRIPS to the Gila Creek Area in the northern part of the Black Range. 21st and 22nd of May.



HELP SAVE THE WHALES!

We must not let the plight of the whales disappear from our thoughts and efforts. All of the eight species of great whale are now endangered, several of them are feared to be biologically extinct. Whales are gentle, wonderfully massive yet graceful and some have minds more highly convoluted than ours so that some scientists believe their intelligence to be of an order above ours! We are slaughtering them by the thousands for pet food, fertilizer, chicken feed, lipstick, margarine and fur farm animal food. Every use has a cheap, economical substitute. Yet each year, thousands of these endangered whales are blown up by grenade tipped harpoons by whalers, in flamboyant disregard for the unanimous resolution passed by the United Nations in 1972, 1973 and 1974 calling for a ten-year moratorium on whaling. 85% of all the whales killed every year are killed by Japanese and Russian whaling fleets. The business is a dying one but they want to get every last penny out of their ships and equipment so they continue. Whale meat makes up less than 1/4 of 1% of the Japanese protein diet. If we could force them to lose 60 million dollars a year by boycotting Japanese products - cars, radios, cameras, binoculars, etc., they would be losing more money than

they are gaining by whaling. Worldwide, the whaling industry makes a profit of 150 million dollars. That's not much. The Sierra Club and many other conservation organizations have been supporting the boycott of Japanese and Russian goods for years now and some improvements

have occurred. But not enough. We are still faced with the **IMPENDING EXTINCTION**

of many of the great whales, perhaps all of them. LET'S DO SOMETHING!!!!!! I want to set up a Chapter-wide task force to work on whales - telling people about them, getting people to join in the boycott - getting the word out. We need many more people to join us in this effort if we are going to save the whales. I have a wealth of material and information on whales and I am willing to help out in any way to get you started. If you want to help and be on the Whale Task Force, write or call me:

Katie Parker
535 Douglas Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
(983-5701)

Thanks so much!



Conservation Chairman's Corner

WHAT'S IN THE CONSERVATION POT?

What is the Rio Grande Chapter involved in or what could we be involved in with the help of interested folks:

Toxic Substances

- The New Mexico Dept. of Agriculture has requested that the Environment Protection Agency approve the emergency use of DDT in New Mexico for plague control.
- The Santa Fe National Forest proposes spraying 15,000 acres with Dylox to suppress the black grass bug.

Wilderness

- Many natural areas around the state are possible wilderness areas, and need people to delineate boundaries and work to have them included in the National Wilderness System.

Air Quality

- Of extreme importance to New Mexico and the Southwest is the maintenance of our pure air even though it is cleaner than the standards say it must be -- industry and energy producers disagree!

Energy

- Conservation of energy and the promotion of alternate forms are basic to alleviating our energy shortage --

they take energy -- yours!
-Two new power plant proposals would degrade N.M.'s air and strip mine our coal -- the Coronado Project in N.E. Arizona and the Intermountain Power Project in S.E. Utah.

-Three geothermal leasing sites need to be scrutinized by environmentalists. They are located in the Santa Fe National Forest, Socorro Peak area and Radium Springs area.

Wildlife

- The decimation of predators is not a new problem or unique to N.M. -- in fact, the bobcat is in extreme danger nationwide. Since the ban on the importation of many furs the bobcats skin elevated from \$10 to \$300.
- Coyotes have declined 16% from 1975 to 1976 in N.M.
- Whales worldwide are being driven to extinction. New Mexican's have helped and will continue to help -- **BOYCOTT JAPANESE GOODS!!!**

Water

- The International Boundary Commission wants to channelize the Rio Grande south of El Paso for approximately 200 miles. This would destroy prime water fowl habitat and areas enjoyed by 2 endangered species -- the Mexican wolf and the Mexican duck.
- The new N.M. ground water regulations have been challenged by the mining industry -- Why? They don't want our water to be clean, they want to discharge their wastes to our water - including uranium, molybdenum, acids and the list goes on.

Exercise Your Writes

The address for all Senators is: Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

The address for Congressmen is: House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

The Washington offices of Senators and Congressmen can be reached by calling the Capitol operator at (202) 224-3121.

The inexpensive way to make contact is to call the local offices. Your message will be relayed to Washington.

Senator Harrison Schmitt
Santa Fe 988-6647
Albuquerque 766-3636

Senator Pete Domenici
Santa Fe 988-6511
Albuquerque 766-3481
Roswell 622-9272
Las Cruces 523-7433

Congressman Manuel Lujan
Santa Fe 988-6521
Albuquerque 766-2538
Las Vegas 425-7838

Congressman Harold Runnels
Lovington 396-2252
Las Cruces 863-3400

Congressman Richard White
El Paso (915) 543-7650

The Senators in Texas are John Tower and Lloyd Bentsen.

WILDERNESS

Experiences for Young People

A non-profit educational organization



Small, coed backpacking & nature study trips for young people 13 and older. Pecos, Gila & San Juan Wilderness areas.

505-831-1841

Box 12586

Albuquerque, N.M. 87105

MINING TASK FORCE Appeal Got No Response Last Month

Big changes are coming to northwestern New Mexico. The push is coming to develop the vast supplies of coal in that region. Company estimates are that between 1980 and 2020 over 2 billion tons of coal will be mined (mostly from surface mines). 5,000 people will be employed during maximum levels of operation, and over 5 billion in salaries will be paid over the life of the mines.

The Bureau of Land Management Albuquerque District, is writing an Environmental Impact Statement covering these proposed operations. We must be ready to provide all the information we can about ecologically sensitive areas, sensitive animal populations, valuable archeological sites, and desires regarding reclamation efforts.

The Rio Grande Chapter needs Mining Impact Task Force to study the proposed plans at the BLM office, become knowledgeable about the other resources of the San Juan basin (BLM has done a resource inventory) and participate in the drafting of the EIS. If you would like to volunteer some time, contact the Chapter Conservation Coordinator, John Schneider, 535 Douglas Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501.

BY: PHIL HOWARD

Land Use

- Ski areas in Red River, Los Alamos, and the White Mountains would like to expand -- to bring more tourists, use more water and energy -- should they?
- OFF road vehicles -- the Santa Fe Group has filed an administrative appeal concerning the use of ORV's on the Santa Fe National Forest lands.
- A new power line is proposed to run from Ojo Caliente to Taos -- what route will it take?

If you are interested in these or other conservation topics, please contact John Schneider in Santa Fe or a Sierra Club leader in your area. We can provide background info and get you started on saving your corner of the Earth. We need help in all areas from library work to lobbying.

John Schneider
338 East De Vargas
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

CHAPTER questionnaire

The following data will be kept on file by the chapter conservation chairman. People in outlying areas, where there is no active group, are especially urged to fill this questionnaire out.

Date _____ Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Occupation _____

N.M. Senator or District _____

N.M. Representative or District _____

Areas of Expertise _____

What environmental issues concern you the most?

Nationwide _____

Southwest _____

Would you like to be informed of issues needing your letter/telegram _____

Would you like to be part of a telephone chain (call others and ask them to contact legislators)? _____

Any particular issues you would feel most comfortable with? _____

Would you like to help in conservation work?

Issues:

Energy - Nuclear _____
 Solar _____
 Conservation _____
 Geothermal _____
 Fossil Fuels _____
 Other Alternatives _____

Radioactive Wastes _____
 Mining _____
 Air Quality _____ Alaska _____

Water quality _____
 Pesticides/toxic substances _____
 Wilderness study _____
 Land use _____
 Wildlife _____
 Forest management _____

Others _____

Type of work:

Self education _____
 Research _____
 Review E.I.S. _____
 Write articles _____
 Government watching (attend hearing, lobbying, compiling voting records etc.) _____

Mailings _____
 Media preparation (article writing, typing, layout, photography, poetry) _____
 Fund raising _____
 Program arrangements _____
 Membership _____

Other _____

Are you interested in outings _____

Day hikes _____ Nature study trips _____
 Cleanup hikes _____ Wilderness addition study _____
 Overnight _____ trips _____
 Backpacks _____ River trips _____
 Car camps _____ Rock climbing _____
 Other _____

For people in areas with no active group: Would you be interested in getting together with other interested local members and go hiking together? _____
 Would you be interested in organizing such hikes? _____

Any other comments? _____

My membership in the club represents a financial commitment and I am unable to participate actively at this time. _____

1977 NEW MEXICO WEST TEXAS Adopt A Roadless Area QUESTIONNAIRE

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____ Work Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Occupation _____ Date _____

Are you willing to write letters in support of wilderness once in awhile for areas in: _____ New Mexico; _____ Western States; _____ Alaska; _____ Eastern States; _____ National Issues;

Are you willing to make a long distance call or send a telegram once or twice a year in response to a wilderness crisis? _____

Are you willing to testify in support of wilderness at a public hearing? _____

Are you willing to participate in agency planning meetings? _____

Would you like to attend NMWSC Board Meetings? _____ Would you like to be the NMWSC contact for another group? Which group? _____

Are you willing to attend mailing parties (address alerts, beer, fun)? _____ Would you like to be on a telephone alert chain? _____ Would you like to help the NMWSC in some other way? How? _____

Would you like to be the wilderness contact person in your community or local area? _____ Would you like to help organize a local one-day or evening wilderness workshop? _____ Would you like to attend such a workshop? _____

Are you interested in presenting wilderness slide shows, talks, etc. to groups? _____ What groups? _____

Are you influential or do you have influential connections? (please don't be modest!) _____ What? How? _____

Do you have any special skills? (attorney, geologist, biologist, forester, range manager, archaeologist, etc.) _____

Are you interested in making field trips to gather information about areas? _____

Are you willing to take leadership responsibility for your adopted area? _____

Are you interested in being on a study team? _____; Are you particularly interested in Wild & Scenic Rivers? _____; National Forest Wilderness? _____; BLM Wilderness? _____; Alaskan Wilderness? _____; Wilderness in other states (please indicate states)? _____; Areas in New Mexico that are essentially unknown? _____

The following are the regions of New Mexico/West Texas. Please indicate those regions you are interested in.

- _____ Northern (Santa Fe and Carson NF's, part of Albuquerque BLM)
- _____ Central (Cibola NF, Socorro and part of Albuquerque BLM)
- _____ Southeast (Lincoln NF, Roswell BLM, and Guadalupe Escarpment)
- _____ Gila (Gila National Forest)
- _____ Southern (Las Cruces BLM)
- _____ West Texas (Big Bend, Lower Canyons)

The following are the priority wilderness resource areas that will be considered by Congress or the agencies for wilderness designation this next year. Please indicate those you are interested in.

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| NORTHERN | CENTRAL | SOUTHEAST |
| _____ Cruces Basin 1 | _____ Sandias 8 | _____ White Mt Additions 13 |
| _____ South San Juan 2 | _____ Manzanos 9 | _____ Guadalupe Escarpment 14 |
| _____ Pecos Additions 3 | _____ Mt Taylor/ 10 | |
| _____ Lome & Caballo 4 | _____ Cebolleta Mesa | |
| _____ San Pedro Parks 5 | _____ Ladron 11 | |
| _____ Chama River 6 | _____ Grants Malpais 12 | |
| _____ Rio Grande RU (BLM) 7 | | |
| (Embudo Box, Cerro del Olla, San Antonio Canyon) | | |
| SOUTHERN | GILA | |
| _____ West Potrillos 15 | _____ Gila Wilderness Adds 18 | |
| _____ Peloncillo Mts 16 | _____ Aldo Leopold 19 | |
| _____ Lower Gila Box 17 | _____ Blue Range 20 | |

Are you especially interested in any areas not listed? Please list: _____

What areas are you already familiar with? _____

Please return to: NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE
 PO BOX 38
 GLENWOOD, NEW MEXICO 88039

How could the Rio Grande Sierran change its format or coverage to better address issues and matters that concern you? _____

What does the Rio Grande Sierran do that you especially like? _____

What could the Rio Grande Chapter do to more involve you and address your interests and concerns? _____

return to

Editor
 Rio Grande Sierran
 338 East De Vargas
 Santa Fe, New Mexico

Attention: Questionnaire

do you draw, have patience, live in santa fe? Can you donate one or two evenings every two months? Volunteer to be on the Sierran layout staff. It's fun, especially if you like to make things. Call 982-4349 988-2549 (evenings) and ask for Nancy

SIERRA CLUB/RIO GRANDE CHAPTER
P O Box 25271
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125

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Tell Somebody about the Sierra Club

The Sierra Club's power is in its membership. A healthy environment requires positive political action, and that takes strength. We need the even greater power that comes with more members.

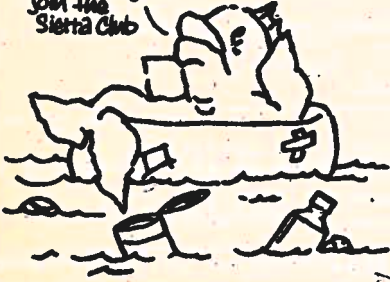
Ask someone to join the Sierra Club. Today.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Categories	Individual Rate	With Spouse
Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35.00
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> 40.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.00
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> 100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 110.00
Life (one person)	<input type="checkbox"/> 750.00	<input type="checkbox"/> U
*General (4 Life Members)	<input type="checkbox"/> 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> U
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> U 15.00
Senior (60 and over)	<input type="checkbox"/> 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> U 15.00
Junior (through 14)	<input type="checkbox"/> 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> U

MS-Dept. C, Box 7088, River Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94120

Maybe I oughta
join the
Sierra Club



**Sierra Club
Membership
Week
May 15-22**

**Get a new member
and we'll send you
a tree.**