

The Rio Grande SIERRAN

MARCH / APRIL

1981



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

I want to call your attention to our Leadership Workshop at Camp Thunderbird in the Gila May 16 & 17. It's not just for elected Sierra Club leaders, but for anyone who wants to learn more about the Club, develop leadership skills, and meet Club members in a relaxed, enjoyable setting. You'll find details elsewhere in the Sierran.

At the last Chapter Executive Committee meeting in El Paso with El Paso Group leaders we spent two hours developing a first draft of Chapter priorities for conservation action, public relations, and membership. High priority issues for Chapter involvement will be:

- Clean Air Act Support before Congress
- Preservation of the Bisti Badlands
- Application of Reclamation Standards to Coal Mining
- Protection of Chaco Canyon National Monument from Air Pollution
- Achieve Selected Forest Service Wilderness Additions

The total list included 42 possible issues. We easily begin to feel overwhelmed. Each of us does our best and hopes that more of you will become active in your Group.

Priorities in our Public Relations efforts will be to project a positive image to the public; develop closer relations with media personnel; and more frequently state our positions and actions to the public.

Our membership goals are to bring more supporters into the club as members; develop active Membership Committees in all Groups which will in turn develop New Member Orientation and Involvement Programs.

We just learned that the Sierra Club now has 200,000 members! After struggling to hold at 180,000 members for the past three years that's a phenomenal increase!

Please respond generously to our Chapter Fund Appeal which you should have received in the past week or so. Just a few dollars from every member can make the difference between Wilderness areas preserved or lost, water and air clean or polluted, a Clean Air Act which protects visibility or doesn't.

Phillenore Howard

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- APR.5 10Km(6.2m.)Race in Jemez Pueblo; Save the Jemez 266-9946
- APR.10 BLM sponsors Public Brainstorming sessions on lands 11 in the Chaco/San Juan considered suitable for further consideration for federal coal leasing at Farmington Civic Ctr. Exhibit hall #1, Bob Calkins 325-3581
- APR.11 Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club ExComm meets in Santa Fe, Patty Adam 983-1949
- APR.11 8th.annual desert wildflower tour: Cooke Range, 12 Florida Mnts. Myra McCormick 538-2538
- APR.12 Energy Diversity--29th.annual Convention Rocky Mnt. 15 Sec.American Assoc.of Petroleum Geologists,Albuq. Hilton, T.E.Kelly 884-0580 (to be covered: uranium, coal, oil & gas and geothermal energy)
- APR.14 EPA 1981 National Water Conservation Conference-- 15 Publicly Supplied Potable Water, at Denver Hilton Sheri Marshall 301/468-2500
- APR.22 NM Clean Air Coalition presents National Park Service Representatives, Keith Yarborough of Santa Fe and John Lissoway of Bandelier National Monument talking on visibility standards in NM and the problem of acid rain; at 7:30pm at the Los Alamos High School Little Theater, Nancy Bartlit 672-9792
- APR.24 BLM sponsors Public Brainstorming sessions on lands 25 in the Chaco/San Juan considered suitable for further consideration for federal coal leasing at the Rio Grande Inn in Albuquerque, Jeff Radford 766-2890
- APR.25 15th.annual Ranch Spring Bird Migration weekend, 26 Gila National Forest & Gila River Myra McCormick 538-2538
- JUNE 1 BLM environmental education and natural resource 19 workshop through NM State University in Las Cruces. 3 hrs. grad. or undergrad. credits BLM,Public Affairs Ofc. P.O.Box 1449, Santa Fe, NM 87501 988-6316
- JUNE 6 Edible Wild Plant Workshop: pot herb-salad greens 7 identification, Myra McCormick 538-2538
- MAY 28 Send what you want published for the May/June issue of the Rio Grande Sierran

DAY HIKES IN THE SANTA FE AREA

by

The Santa Fe Group of The Sierra Club

\$4.95 + 50¢ postage

10% Discount to Sierra Club members

This hiking guide by some of the most experienced hikers in the Santa Fe area includes maps. It will be on sale by May 1, 1981. To order your copy send a check to the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club, 1709 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

NOTE FROM FOUR CORNERS

DO WE HAVE ENOUGH MEMBERS IN THE FOUR CORNERS AREA TO ORGANIZE A GROUP? THIS PART OF THE STATE SEEMS NEGLECTED BECAUSE WE ARE SO FAR FROM MEETINGS AND OTHER CLUB FUNCTIONS.

I WOULD LIKE TO PLAN A FEW BACKPACKING TRIPS WITH OTHER MEMBERS IN THIS AREA. MY PHONE NUMBER IN FARMINGTON IS 325-3756.

HANK TAYLOR

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER
LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP
May 16 & 17, 1981
CAMP THUNDERBIRD

At the southern edge of the Gila Wilderness there's going to be a workshop for Sierra Club leaders, activists, and newcomers alike. The purpose of the workshop is to give members the information and skills they need to work effectively in their own communities on environmental issues. The workshop sessions will be informative, useful, and interesting to new members and single issue people as well as to elected Group leaders.

Topics to be covered during the two-day workshop:

- The Organization of the Sierra Club and the Relationships between the National Club and It's Chapters and Groups
- How to Recruit and Keep Members
- How to Hold a Group Together
- Setting Priorities and Planning for Environmental Success
- Dealing with Dinosaurs (or How to Cope with an Unfriendly Administration)
- Making the Most of the Media
- How to Succeed with your own Environmental Project
- How to Raise Money

Camp Thunderbird is a favorite spot with environmentalists. Situated 38 miles northeast of Silver City and eight miles from Mimbres, in the foothills of the Mountains, it has a large lodge, bunk houses and showers, and is famous for its abundant, good food. Sessions will end mid-afternoon Saturday to provide ample time for hiking and exploring before dinner. Saturday evening will be music, singing, and a time to become better acquainted.

The workshop will cost \$22.50 per person, including Friday & Saturday night accommodations, three meals on Saturday, and breakfast and lunch Sunday, and workshop materials. Participants bring a sleeping bag and towel.

Please return your registration form by May 4.

Registrants will receive a detailed map. For further information call Jean Herzegh in the Chapter Office in Santa Fe, 883-2703, your Group Chairman, or Phyllenore Howard, 268-8185

Detach and mail to Sierra Club, 1709 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87501

NAME _____ No. in Party _____
ADDRESS _____ Telephone: _____

- I would like to ride with another member
- I could take someone with me

HIKES

Contact leaders of an outing to make a reservation. Contact leaders of the other Groups for information about their outings.

Las Cruces Outings:

- Apr.4-5 Overnighter at White Sands National Monument
Leader: Sandy Anderson 523-5179
Depart: 3pm from Brannigan Library
- Apr.12 Dog Canyon in Sacramento Mnts., to Frenchies Cabin & Cascades
Leader: Roger Steeb 523-8046
Depart 8am from Brannigan Library
- Apr.24-26 Adventure run in Gila; McKenna Park; Strenuous backpack, 30 mile roundtrip
Leader: Robert DeVelice 522-5025

Albuquerque Outings:

- Apr.4 Maintenance survey of Embudo Trail; 5 1/2 miles
Leader: Kathy Channey 296-4320 345-8886
Depart: 9am from Fina Station at Tramway and Montgomery
- Apr.11-12 Bisti and Fossil Forest; 2 BLM people: Sally Wiesly & Danny Charlie accompany group
Leader: Kathy Channey 296-4320 345-8886
Depart: El Huerfano Trading Post on State Rd.44
- Apr.9-10 Sargent Game Refuge at Chama
Meet at Spruce Lodge in Chama 7pm, the 9th. & Mother's Day
Scott Davis of Fish & Wildlife will show slides of area. Camps are located close by. Photography trip
- Memorial Gila
Weekend Contact Kathy Channey for details 296-4320

Santa Fe Outings:

- Apr.4 Easy hike
Leader: Bill Chudd 982-5334
Depart: 9:30am from old Chapter office, 338 E. DeVargas, park at E.end of P.E.R.A. lot
- Apr.11 Moderate hike
Leader: Don Lowrie 983-6687
Depart from old Chapter office
- Apr.19 Moderate, in Jemez above Cochiti
Leader: Betsy Fuller 983-8870
- Apr.26 Moderate
Leader: Art Judd 983-1594

other Santa Fe Outings contact: Norma McCallan 983-8144

El Paso Group Outings

- Apr.11-12 Bike hike overnighter to Waco Tanks
Leader John Spraul
- Apr.12 Day hike to Baylor Peak of Organ Mnts.
Leader: Phil Dangle
- Apr.18 Day hike to Texas Canyon in Organ Mnts.
Leader: George Mader
- Apr.25-26 Overnight backpack in the Gila to Turkey Creek
Walter Allberg
- May.2 Overnight backpack in the Gila to Turkey Creek
must have child under 10 yrs. accompany groups
Walter Allberg
- Memorial Chaco Canyon
Day Jim Owen

for additional details on the El Paso group outings contact: Jim Owen 915/598-9332

NEPA

Before making a decision on a "major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment", a federal agency must prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS). Once the EIS is prepared, must the federal agency follow the most environmentally favorable alternative? The U.S. Supreme Court said "no" in Strycker's Bay Neighborhood Council v. Karlen, 13 ERC 2157 (Jan.7,1980). The Court said, "Once an agency has made a decision subject to the National Environmental Policy Act's (NEPA) procedural requirements, the only role for a court is to insure that the agency has considered the environmental consequences." Once the agency has reasonably considered the environment, it may act on its choice even though the choice is not the most favorable for the environment.

CLEAN AIR

The Clean Air Act of 1970 and its 1977 amendments provide the basis for federal, state and local efforts to clean up the air. This, the most far-reaching of the pollution abatement legislation enacted in the last decade, comes up for reauthorization this coming September. Until recently, environmentalists and industry representatives agreed that any changes in the Act would be minor. But with the presidential election of Ronald Reagan and with the conservative takeover of Congress, all bets are off.

Encouraged by victories by opponents of regulation, major polluting industries have begun their campaign to gut the Clean Air Act by raising the spectre of economic decline caused by such legislation. These industries have been further bolstered by the report of the National Commission on Air Quality (NCAQ), issued on March 2nd, 1981. The NCAQ was established by Congress to review progress under the Clean Air Act. There was great haste for the NCAQ to prepare its recommendations, and public groups never received the initially planned time to comment on the items before they were finalized. The final report, if adopted in its entirety, would constitute a major retreat from our National commitment to clean, healthy air.

Revision of the Clean Air Act is expected to be the major environmental battle during the 97th. Congress. "No single issue before the new Congress will have a greater impact on both health and the environment than the outcome of the Clean Air Act reauthorization debate," said Richard Ayres, who is chairing a coalition of conservation, health, citizen and labor organizations. This coalition is campaigning for passage of a strong act. The National Clean Air Coalition (NCAC), which includes Sierra Club, will push to regulate airborne toxic chemicals and other health hazards, to curb acid rain, and to clamp down on evasion of controls by polluting industries.

The New Mexico Clean Air Coalition was formed as the local chapter of NCAC to ensure that the state's concerns about air quality are considered during the coming debates. A very successful public meeting was held in Albuquerque, February 28, by the coalition to decide what New Mexico should ask of Congress. Representatives of the State Air Quality Division, the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Air Quality Board, the National Park Service, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and the National Commission on Air Quality (NCAQ) participated in an advisory capacity.

Consensus was reached at this February meeting on a number of issues. The major conclusion was that the Clean Air Act of 1977 be retained in essentially its present form. It was recognized that New Mexico needs to protect the concept of Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD). It was not the intent of Clean Air legislation to drive industries from polluted to pristine areas so that they could avoid clean-up measures. The Law's stated purpose is to protect as well as to enhance air quality, and that cleaner-than-standard areas should therefore be protected from degradation. If PSD provisions were successfully challenged, current federal and state ambient air standards would allow for New Mexico's visibility to degrade to 12-15 miles half the days of the year. This degradation would destroy the kind of air quality and life style associated with New Mexico. Furthermore, state law limits PSD enforcement to no-greater-than federal regulations. PSD has not and should not significantly restrict maximum energy development in the region, as determined by the NCAQ study prepared by the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The NMCAC addressed the question of acid rain which may result from the SO2 and NOx emissions coming from copper smelters, power plants and cars. Improved interstate regulation strengthened secondary standards, and reduced SO2 and NOx emissions were all recommended by the group.

Positive incentives were recommended as supplements to the use of sanctions as compliance-forcing mechanisms. Also, methods to streamline EPA review of state plans should be examined.

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The use of the existing health criteria as being the basis for setting primary standards was reaffirmed at the meeting. The use of specific deadlines for attainment was recognized as crucial to the past and future success of clean air legislation. Challenges to the automobile inspection/maintenance program in non-attainment communities were strongly rejected by the group. Establishment of a separate fine particulate standard was supported; fine particles remain airborne for long periods, reach deep into our lungs, and may be more hazardous than larger particles.

There was support for research on ozone, on synergistic effect by pollutants, and the effects of carbon monoxide at high altitudes such as encountered in New Mexico.

Public participation and citizen suit provisions in the Act need to be kept strong and more thoroughly formalized. More government-sponsored public education on air quality issues, and Pro Bono assistance of technical and engineering firms were both proposed.

clean air cont. p.5

Walk Softly And Carry A Big Club.



Since 1892, the Sierra Club has been working to preserve the Nation's wild places—and our environment—through legislative, educational and outing programs. Add your influence on behalf of all that is defenseless, irreplaceable and voiceless in our natural heritage. You are invited to join us.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Individual		LIFE MEMBERSHIP	
	Dues Joint		
Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$29	Per Person	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> 40 <input type="checkbox"/> 44	Spouse of Life Member <input type="checkbox"/>	12
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> 100 <input type="checkbox"/> 104	(annual dues)	
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 <input type="checkbox"/> 16	All dues include subscription to Sierra (3.00) and chapter publications (1.00).	
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 <input type="checkbox"/> 16		
Junior	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 -		

New Member Name: _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS: If you are giving this membership as a gift, please enter your name and address below:

Donor Name: _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS will be announced by a special gift card in your name.

Check here if you would like to be billed for renewal of this gift membership next year.

Mail to: SIERRA CLUB, DEPARTMENT H100
P.O. BOX 7959, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94120

SIERRAN PROFILE

RAFAEL HARPASZ

The following material was excerpted from a Playpov interview with Rafael Harpaz, a member of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club since 1976:

Playpov: When did your concern for environmental issues first develop?

Harpaz: Its hard to establish an appreciation for the outdoors and the environment growing up in Brooklyn, New York. Consequently, my initial involvement with the environment was rather intellectual. I was 19 when the Club of Rome report "Limits to Growth" was published. It blew me away. The explicit relationship described between population, agriculture, resource consumption, air/water quality and economic dynamics was at once obvious, satisfying, but with potentially frightening implications. I promptly joined Zero Population Growth and the Sierra Club.

Playpov: How have your past 6 years in New Mexico modified those concerns?

Harpaz: Well, for starters, now I know what a natural environment is. While visibility standards, for example, don't mean much when your view extends to the office building across the street, with 70 mile vistas and the Sandias now just out my window, I can get an appreciation of what there is to protect even living in the south east heights of Albuquerque. Just as important, New Mexico has enabled me to realize the importance of the individual in making positive changes. We in New Mexico are both blessed and cursed by the enormous issues which confront us. The development of the San Juan basin and the associated destruction of air quality and of scenic, antiquity, and water resources are paramount, but there are numerous other important issues too. And therein lies the blessing. With our small population, we as individuals can have a great say in these issues. We have, if you will, a very high issue-to-person ratio in New Mexico and a low constituent-to-senator ratio as well. Its easier for a few people to raise a stink here than it is in heavily populated states, and that in turn places an activist responsibility on concerned New Mexicans.

Playpov: Those with ecological concerns will certainly have their hands, paws, fins and talons full over the coming years. What are now the most important long-term objectives for environmentalists?

Harpaz: One might say that environmentalists need to inform Americans just how "conservative" their outlook is. We need to educate the industrial community that the deleterious effects of pollution on health and materials can lead to reduced productivity. We need to remind Chambers' of Commerce that open pit mines, reduced visibility and litter don't attract tourists. We need to explain to farmers that possible human-induced climatic changes (i.e. by burning fuels and deforestation) may combine with acid rain and depletion of farm lands to make our strong agricultural sector into an economic has-been. Americans who take their freedoms for granted need to be told that a plutonium-(breeder)-based economy may place extreme restrictions on our rights. We need to impress upon Pentagon strategists that military strength is only one aspect of national security. That 50% of our scientists and engineers are working on military R&D which diverts their talents from problems such as environmental degradation and energy and resource scarcities. These are problems which can lead to international instability. That military billions are diverted from foreign development programs which will amplify overpopulation as well as the economic gap between the developed nations and the third world. This also will lead to international tension. Military competition also prevents the international cooperation so necessary to deal with many environmental problems. Armed with examples such as these, we need to remind economists that once all costs are internalized, cost-benefit analysis will frequently result in environmental advocacy.

Playpov: Pretty thought-provoking stuff. Moving right along, do you lust after women?

Harpaz: No comment!

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER EXCOMM MEETING
March 7-8, 1981 EL PASO

No corrections to the January minutes.
TREASURER'S REPORT—\$9707, \$2500 in savings acct.
CHAIR'S REPORT—NMR list update
Sierra Club Council Awards Committee needs a nominee from the Chapter for the Susan B. Miller administrative award.
Socorro District—BLM is reconsidering its ORV decision allowing vehicles only on existing roads. Meetings in Belen (3/11) and Socorro (3/12). The Ch. endorses the BLM's '77 decision.
EID's Uranium Mining and Milling Proposed Regs—Ed Burns will comment.
Heritage Foundation, a conservative research group on the East Coast, has made recommendations on the Forest Service and BLM. Made available to peruse.
Hank Taylor of Farmington is interested in organizing a Group.
MEMBERSHIP REPORT—Increased nationally by 4000 (actually by something like 7000 since November); Ch. at app. 1700. Discussion of national membership recruitment campaign: Ch. will receive \$3 for each new member resulting from campaign; amt. received will be pro-rated to groups.
CONSERVATION
Cathy Barnes on Air Pollution—highlights
EPA exempted El Paso from particulate standards; strategy around ASARCO, which is a problem for EP as well as NM—what will EPA do about fugitive emissions; contingent upon what happens with the Clean Air Act, EP will try to obtain air standards by '82; need economic sanctions to insure compliance
MT. FRANKLIN—legal description for state wilderness park into attorney; possible opposition on boundaries south of Transmountain Highway
HOOKER DAM—meeting held for applications for water rights; economically as well as environmentally not feasible; suggestion made to support suitable alternative; Ed Burns and Bob DeVelice will follow up
SACRAMENTO ESCARPMENT—Forest Service and BLM land needs protective status
WRITTEN:—BLM letter regarding the number of people allowed on Wild and Scenic River portion of the Rio Grande; letter asking Albuquerque to maintain Chama River water level; letter on EPA ground water regs (Patty Adam will prepare discussion on ground water for April Excomm)
NOTE—S.77, an amendment to the New Mexico Water Quality Act which would mandate water quality variances for economic problems, is, hopefully, being stalled in the legislature
BOTTLE BILLS—New Mexico's killed; Texas' current
FUEL WOOD—Lujan introduced H.R.1729, a measure to allow the cutting of fuel wood in wilderness areas
SAN JUAN BASIN—letter written expressing specific objections to the BLM procedural variations of the law; BLM is doing a cumulative overview of interrelated actions in the Basin rather than an Impact Statement; Public Service Company wants to exchange land for the 4 sections where it plans to build the NM generating station; PSC wants to make the exchange without an EIS; SC Ch. wants thorough analysis of any doings in the Basin; Ch. goals: prevent NM generating, protect Bisti Badlands, full environmental safeguards on coal stripmining, esp. reclamation
BISTI PETITION—to state and to BLM asking that the badlands and the fossil forest be protected as unsuitable for coal mining
MOTION by Rollin W. to accept letter on San Juan Basin written by John Tivald is passed by unanimous vote.
GOALS—Howards are responsible for distributing results
FUND APPEAL—to be mailed in next 2 weeks (from March 7 meeting)
ICO REPORT—discussion of request for funding trip for Janice Lucas to attend ICO meeting in Chicago. Motion by Rollin, 2nd by John T. to fund up to \$200 for air fare with condition that J.L. develop additional support for ICO program.
GROUP REPORTS—El Paso will draw up report on MK, then will coordinate results with Ch.; Las Cruces, Santa Fe and Abq. all made reports; it was recommended that all local groups hold a priorities setting session in their respective excomms; all local groups should be sending 2 copies of their newsletters to National
BUDGET—2 discretionary funds are Conservation Assistance Fund in Conservation Dept. which is not huge and in big demand; and Council Discretionary Fund under Council (\$15,000 pool) which is not usually exhausted, and is often used in partial support of certain one-time conferences—perhaps we can draw on for San Juan. SWIRK funds might also be available for San Juan. Excomm authorized Chair to request funds from all three funds and to report at the April Excomm.
SANTA FE Group is now ready to print their hiking guide and requests Ch. commitment for up to \$2000 though may not actually use it. Wants free advertising in Ch. newsletter and group bulletins. Excomm suggested printing more than 2000 and raising the price from \$4.50 to \$4.95. Motion by John T., 2nd Rollin that \$1000 be set aside for Group to borrow if they need it to print and market hiking guide.
EL PASO Group requested \$300 for Land Use Management workshop and \$200 for Guadalupe Escarpment BLM workshop. Herzegh and El Paso Group will work on land use project and also funding details. Guadalupe project will be evaluated.
MORE BUDGET—Motion by Rollin, 2nd by Jean that all budget requests be submitted to the Budget Committee for evaluation and recommendation to Excomm.
BUDGET COMMITTEE—Jim S. will continue as Chair; Committee should consist of one person from each group
JOB DESCRIPTION for Sierra Club rep. discussed at length. It was agreed that the job was essentially to "assist, encourage, and coordinate." Suggestions will be incorporated into the outline for the position.
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COAL MINING—Motion by John T., 2nd by Rollin that Ch. not participate in formal coalition at this time, but will participate in informal way. Formal coalition will be postponed until such time that it's desirable for legal or formal reasons.
LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP—proposal by Howards, but no date agreed upon.
NEXT MEETING—April 11 and 12 in Santa Fe

Submitted by Laura Connolly with thanks to Patty Adam for her excellent minutes for March 8.

GOURMET BACK PACK - JULY 4 & 5. Special food, special place, special leaders!! Mark your calendars now and watch for details in the next issue.

AD RATES	The Sierran is published six times a year	
	one issue	six issues (per issue)
Column inch	\$2.40	\$2.15
1/8 of a page	\$10.60	\$9.00
1/4 of a page	\$21.20	\$18.00
1/2 of a page	\$37.00	\$31.80
one full page	\$74.20	\$63.60

clean air cont,...

The National Clean Air Coalition and the Sierra Club have formulated recommendations relating to the upcoming reauthorization. The Rio Grande Chapter as well as NMCAC, NM Citizens Clean Air and Water, and other New Mexico groups were all instrumental during the 1977 Clean Air Act debates, and were largely responsible for the inclusion of the PSD stipulations. We must all once again make every effort to include our input into the coming debates so that the issues specific to our region will all be addressed.

It is not to soon for us to contact the members of our congressional delegation; certainly they have started to hear from development interests. We must write to express our desire for a strong Clean Air Act. Better yet, we can arrange to meet with the members of our delegation while they are home during Easter break (in the 2nd half of April) or during the Memorial day recess. We should encourage organizations to which we belong (labor, senior citizen, minority, health, etc.) to get involved. Finally, since the media will play an important role in shaping public opinion on the Clean Air Act, we can write letters to the editors and urge the media to cover the debate on this important issue.

For more information contact the Coordinator of the NM Clean Air Coalition, Nancy Bartlit at 113 Monte Rey No., Los Alamos, NM 87544, 672-9792

Rafael Harpaz

ADDRESSES FOR THOSE LETTERS

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

EXPRESS

The Hon. Harrison H. Schmitt
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

YOUR

The Hon. Manuel Lujan, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

CONCERNS

The Hon. Joe Skeen
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

CONTRIBUTORS TO
MARCH/APRIL 1981 RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| • Pat Adam | • Raphael Harpaz |
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| • Ed Burns | • NM Clean Air Coalition |
| • Kathy Channey | • Jim Owen |
| • Laura Connolly | • Susan Small |
| • Alana Gallagher | • Hank Taylor |

SO₂ EMISSIONS REMOVED BY NEW METHOD

A new system for removing sulfur dioxide pollutants from stack gases of coal-fired power plants has been developed in Japan by the Chiyoda Chemical Engineering and Construction Co. The flue gas desulfurization system bubbles stack gases and air through a vessel containing a slurry of H₂O and limestone. Sulfur dioxide gas combines chemically with the calcium in the limestone and with O₂ to form calcium sulfate, a more manageable product than the calcium sulfite (sludge) produced by conventional scrubbers. The calcium sulfate appears in the form of gypsum, which can be stacked, land-filled, or pressed into wallboard.

DISCOVERY IN A WEEKEND
at
BEAR MOUNTAIN GUEST RANCH

- | | |
|--|--|
| Backpackers: accommodations the nights before and after going out; ranch transportation to trailheads and pick up at trail's end; safe Ranch parking for backpackers' cars | - stay in Pinos Altos Mountains adjacent to the Gila National Forest |
| | - visit Lower and Upper Sonoran, Transition, and Canadian life zones |

Bear Mountain Guest Ranch
P.O. Box 1163
Silver City, New Mexico 88061

Myra B. McCormick, owner
505-538-2538

OPEN LETTER TO ENVIRONMENTALISTS
IN THE
GRANTS*GALLUP*CROWNPOINT AREA

IS ANYONE OUT HERE IN E.A.T. COUNTRY CONCERNED ABOUT THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT? I'M SURE THERE MUST BE MANY WHO ARE, BUT AS FAR AS I KNOW THEY AREN'T ORGANIZED, AND VERY FEW ARE VOCAL. I'M ONE OF THE SILENT ONES, BUT REALLY WE CAN'T AFFORD THE SELF-INDULGENCE OF TIMIDITY. THERE NEEDS TO BE A WELL-INFORMED PRO-ENVIRONMENTAL VOICE IN THIS AREA.

THE GALLUP AUDUBON SOCIETY, OF WHICH I AM AN OFFICER, HASN'T EMERGED AS THAT VOICE. PERHAPS IF ENVIRONMENTALISTS KNEW EACH OTHER THEY COULD PROVIDE SOME MUTUAL REINFORCEMENT THAT WOULD LEAD TO INFORMING THE PRO-DEVELOPMENT MAJORITY THAT THERE IS SOME LOCAL OPPOSITION.

I'M WILLING TO SERVE AS A CONTACT PERSON FOR GETTING PEOPLE TOGETHER. CONTACT ME IF YOU'RE INTERESTED. PLEASE, LET'S DO SOMETHING.

ARCH McCALLUM, Rt.2, BOX 3, THOREAU, NM 87323 (862-7503)

EAT is the acronym for a Grants NM pro-nuclear group
Energy Association of Taxpayers

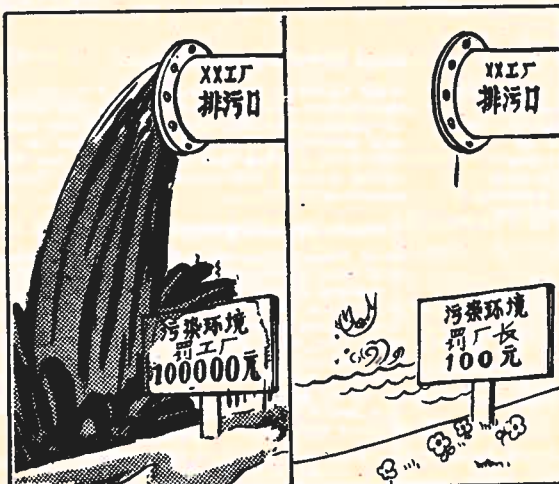
NEW SIERRA CLUB CHAPTER OFFICE

The Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club has moved to a new office:

1709 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

983-2703

PERSONAL OR CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY--
WOULD IT WORK IN NEW MEXICO?



The sign beneath the gushing factory waste pipe threatens: "Factories polluting the environment fined 100,000 yuan." But flowers bloom and fish frolic where the sign reads: "Managers of factories polluting the environment fined 100 yuan."—Translation by Katy Ehrlich
July 5 Renmin Ribao

note: from the article:

Cleaning Up China's Environment

by: Martin Weil

in: The China Business Review/January-February 1981

State By State Resources

To play an active role in environmental/energy issues, citizens and citizen groups need to know where to go to find knowledgeable people--contacts who can help them better understand the issues and help them achieve their goals. The following listings include a broad range of such contacts.

Few states have a single official or office concerned with the environmental impacts of energy development. But columns one and two of this resource guide provide good referral points--individuals or offices that can either inform you or help you locate information on your state's programs and policies relating to energy/environmental issues. In some states, the energy or environment office has an information "hot line." This is the best place to start for general information.

Each state has an office that has jurisdiction over air quality, water quality, radiation, solid waste, and analytical labs. Identifying your particular concern (the air quality impacts of coal burning, for example) will assist such offices in directing you further. Often, a state energy office can refer you to appropriate state or regional offices.

All states have sources within the legislature who can provide information on environmental/energy laws and pending legislation. Such sources may include committee chairmen, staff aides, the Legislative Council or the research bureau. All states also have environmental education coordinators who, among other things, provide teacher training and aid in the development of curricula on environmental matters.

from: Energy Consumer 1/81

STATE ENERGY CONTACT STATE ENVIRON. CONT. LEGISLATURE CONTACT

texas

Mark Lawless
TX Energy & Nat.
Resource Adv. Cncl.
200 E. 18th St.
5th Fl.
Austin, TX 78701
512/475-0773

David Cochran
Bur. of Env. Health
TX Dept. of Health
1100 W. 49th
Austin, TX 78756
512/458-7542

Jim Sanders
Legislative
Library
Reference
512/475-4626

new mexico

Charles Wood
NM Energy & Minerals
Department
PO Box 2770
Santa Fe, NM 87501
505/827-2471

Tom Baca
Env. Imprvmnt. Agcy.
PO Box 2348
Santa Fe, NM 87503
505/827-5271 Ext. 201

Legislative Council
505/827-3141

ENVIRON. EDUC. COOR.

Joseph Huckestein
Div. of Curr. Dev.
TX Ed. Agency
201 E. 11th St.
Austin, TX 78701
512/475-2608

B.K. Graham
Sci. & Cons. Spec.
St. Dept. of Educ.
State Educ. Bldg.
Santa Fe, NM 87503
505/827-5364

• Bisti Coal Leasing Act

The Bisti Coal Leasing Act was another example of a bill which required cooperation by competing interests for its development and final passage. In its final form, the bill allowed Western Coal to continue their exploration and mining of coal aimed at future construction of power plants, while at the same time preserving a paleontological site in northwestern New Mexico. □

from:

96th Congress in
Review, Jan.1981
by U.S.Senator
Pete Domenici

State-by-State Guide to Transportation Energy Conservation Resources

Energy Consumer 9/80

	State Ridesharing Coordinator	Special Driver Services	State Bicycling Coordinator
texas	PHWA Office 826 Federal Off. Bldg. 300 E. Eighth St. Austin TX 78701 512/397-5511	General info; referrals. 512/475-5407	Ron Josselet, Head Resource Planning Sec. Comp. Planning Branch Tex. Parks & Wildlife Dept. 4200 Smith School Rd. Austin TX 78744 512/475-4991
new mexico	Douglas Bennett PHWA Office 117 US Court House Santa Fe NM 87501 505/988-6255	General info; referrals. 800/432-4407	Robert Castellano NM State Highway Dept. PO Box 1149 Santa Fe NM 87503 505/983-0600

State Ridesharing Coordinators

These contacts (located in state energy or transportation offices, or state offices of the Federal Highway Administration) can provide employers with assistance in setting up ridesharing and vanpooling programs. In many cases, they can also direct individuals interested in joining a van- or carpool to a local ridesharing coordinator.

Special State Services to Drivers

Transportation-related services vary from state to state, but most states have a tollfree 800 number, with staff prepared to answer general energy questions and to make referrals to other agencies or organizations which can help. An 800 number only works within the state for which it is listed.

Many states offer car care clinics to help drivers learn how to maintain their cars for the most fuel-efficient driving. In many areas, these clinics are offered by the League of Women Voters, indicated in the guide by "LWV."

State Bicycling Coordinators

Many states have designated a bicycle coordinator who represents bicyclists' needs in transportation planning. These contacts can generally provide information on existing bike routes and facilities, and can often direct individuals to local bicycling organizations.

Private Bicycling Organizations

Many states abound with organizations actively involved in promoting bicycling as a commuting option. The group listed can generally refer you to a group nearer you. Each group's activities will vary, but most have newsletters, can tell you about the status of legislation and planning efforts affecting bicycling in your state or city, and can help you find people who can share their tried-and-true commuting routes with you.

In many cases the organization listed is a state chapter of the national bicycling organization, the League of American Wheelmen (LAW). The national office address is 112 S. 16th St., 9th Floor, Philadelphia PA 19102.

NewMAEE

The New Mexico Association for Environmental Education is people — people working in public school systems, state and federal natural resource agencies, private industries, and conservation organizations to further environmental education, and thus environmental awareness in New Mexico. NewMAEE is affiliated with the National Association for Environmental Education. We have held four annual state conferences and hosted the national convention in May 1980 in Albuquerque.

NewMAEE's goal is to help create a human population possessing skills, knowledge, attitudes and values necessary to identify and solve environmental problems in a manner consistent with natural ecosystems.

As a member of NewMAEE, you will receive our quarterly NEWSLETTER, be notified of environmental education events occurring in the state and be placed on the state mailing list which is used in many cases as an invitation list for workshops, field trips, educational materials, etc.

FIRST ANNUAL SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN ALBUQUERQUE

****Saturday, April 4th****

9am — 4pm

Reddy's Rendezvous
Public Service Company of NM
5th and Silver

This meeting is part of our new reorganization. The proposed morning agenda includes a review of our goals as an organization, the presentation of our newly developed By-laws and Constitution, the election of the first slate of NewMAEE officers, and committee assignments. This structured reorganization is being done in response to member's suggestions at the fall meeting to help us work more effectively as an organization and to allow us to register with the State Corporation Commission as a non-profit corporation.

Lunch will be supplied for a nominal fee and is likely to be salad and Kentucky Fried Chicken. We hope this time can also be spent hearing from people around the state, their accomplishments and frustrations.

The afternoon program allows for a panel discussion titled "Environmental Education and Accreditation" followed by a group discussion of what can be done -- an action plan. The panel will consist of Professor Anne Taylor of UNM's Architecture Department, Al Clemmons, State Department of Educational Finance, and someone (as yet undetermined) from the State Department of Education. More details will follow in another mailing.

Also, plan to stay for the pot-luck "no agenda" dinner and good times that evening. We look forward to seeing you on April 4th.

NewMAEE
Luann Sisson
1727 Royal Drive
Las Cruces, NM 88001

BACK*PACKING IN THE ZUNI MOUNTAINS

THE ZUNI MOUNTAINS, BETWEEN GALLUP AND GRANTS, ARE LARGELY OVERLOOKED BY BACKPACKERS, EVEN THOUGH THEY OFFER SOME VERY FINE SCENERY AND ABUNDANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE. THE MAIN OBSTACLE TO HIKING IN THE ZUNIS IS THE LACK OF TRAILS AND WATER; MOST HIGHER-ELEVATION LAND IS PUBLIC.

A SMALL, INFORMAL, GROUP HAS COALESCED IN GALLUP TO PURSUE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HIKING TRAIL ALONG THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE. THE PORTION OF THE DIVIDE ALONG OSO RIDGE IS BETWEEN 8500 AND 8900 FEET IN ELEVATION. THE VEGETATION IS OPEN PONDEROSA PINE FOREST, SO NO CLEARING WILL BE REQUIRED. INITIAL EXPLORATORY TRIPS HAVE REVEALED MORE WATER THAN EXPECTED AND SEVERAL PLANT SPECIES HERETOFORE UNRECORDED IN THE ZUNIS.

THE GROUP WELCOMES THE PARTICIPATION OF ANYONE INTERESTED IN ANY PHASE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRAIL AND SOLICITS THE ADVICE OF ANYONE WITH APPLICABLE EXPERIENCE.

IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT ARCH McCALLUM, ROUTE 2, BOX 3, THOREAU, NM 87323 (862-7503).



It's Time To Speak Out

What is the real motive of the extreme environmentalists, who appear to be determined to accomplish their objectives at whatever cost to society? Is it to simply protect the environment? Is it to delay and deny energy development? Is it to weaken America?

-James G. Watt

The plans of the Reagan Administration do not bode well for the environment. Reagan's appointments to significant positions show no sensitivity to the complexities of environmental issues; his budget changes penalize the public and the environment; the proposed gutting of environmental regulations, and of the regulatory process itself, seem designed to subsidize industry to the detriment of the public.

Enough. Enough. It's time we got busy and let our elected representatives know what we think about all this. The honeymoon is over -- if it ever began.

The People

from: NNR 13:6 3/6/81

In the aftermath of the furor over appointment of James Watt as Interior Secretary, the administration continues an unbroken pattern of anti-environment appointees:

ANNE GORSUCH, nominated as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is a Colorado attorney and former state legislator who has virtually no background in environmental matters and no administrative experience. Like Watt, Gorsuch is a protégé of energy and brewery magnate Joseph Coors, and she is "eminently disqualified" to head EPA, says Sierra Club Executive Director Michael McCloskey. "Environmentalists must vigorously oppose this nominee, whose obvious lack of qualification blatantly demonstrates a thorough disregard for the deep commitment of the American people for protection against environmental pollution," he says.

important that conservationists voice their objection to this nomination in particular. Mailgrams of protest are needed to all members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture Helms, Dole, Hayakawa, Lugar, Cochran, Boschwitz, Jepsen, Hawkins, Andrews, Huddleston, Leahy, Zorinsky, Melcher, Pryor, Boren, Dixon, and Heflin.

RAY ARNETT, nominated as Assistant Secretary of the Interior with control over the National Park Service and the Fish & Wildlife Service, is former director of the California Fish & Game Department under Reagan. Although a traditional wildlife management advocate, Arnett is a vocal opponent of wilderness, and has not demonstrated an appreciation for broader conservation concerns.

ROBERT BURFORD, rumored to be likely nominee for Director of the Bureau of Land Management, is a Colorado rancher and former colleague of Anne Gorsuch in the Colorado legislature. A rancher who utilized federal grazing permit lands in Colorado, Burford has been a proponent of the so-called "Sagebrush Rebellion" and can hardly be expected to exercise the tough management needed to restrain exploitative pressures from grazing and mining interests.

It is likely that all of these nominees will be approved by the Senate. That political reality does not diminish the importance of expressions of public concern, not only to senators, but also to representatives. Indeed, public concern is vital to urge Congress to closely question each nominee, to extract policy commitments, and to keep a watchful eye on them once they are in office.

(44) Capitol Reef Park, Utah—May 17-23. Leader, Gene Andreasen, 183 S. Orange Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90036. Cost: \$180.

Far from population centers, Capitol Reef is one of our newest national parks. Colorful layers of a sedimentary rock deposited from Permian through Cretaceous periods of geologic time, are laid bare here. We will cross the reef, following a stream from piñon-juniper forest on the west to slickrock desert on the east. (Rated L.)

(49) Gila River Boat Trip, New Mexico—April 5-11. Leader, John Ricker, 2610 N. 3rd St., Phoenix, AZ 85004. Cost: \$265.

We will take advantage of the spring runoff to run the white water of the upper Gila River. The trip will start at Forks of the Gila, run through Gila Canyon and end just below the proposed site of Hooker Dam. This section of the river is in the Gila Wilderness area. Rubber rafts will be provided. Those with experience are encouraged to bring kayaks or inflatable boats. No open canoes will be permitted.

WE HAVE MANY, MANY MORE TRIPS!

Write For Your 1981 Outing Catalog

The Outings described in these pages are only about 10% of the total planned by the Sierra Club in 1981. Write today for your free copy of our complete 1981 catalog, published in mid-January. (The catalog will automatically be mailed to all Sierra Club trip participants in 1978, 1979 and 1980, but do let us know if you've moved.)

- Nearly 300 Outings:
- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
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| Base Camps | Hawaii Trips | Water Trips |
| Bicycle Trips | Highlight Trips | Foreign Trips |

SEND TO: Outing Department Catalog, 530 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94108

Name: _____ Membership # _____
Address: _____

Materials available from Environmentalists for Full Employment (1536 16th St. NW, Washington DC 20036) include:

"The Politics of Jobs & Energy," remarks by Richard Grossman before the Meeting Energy Workforce Needs Conference, February 1980; \$1.

Energy, Jobs & the Economy, by Richard Grossman and Gail Daneker, October 1979; \$3.50.

"Energy & Employment - A Review and Commentary," by Dr. Len Rodberg, with Richard Grossman & Gail Daneker, February 1980. \$5.

(45) Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Arizona—May 31-June 6. Leader, Don Lyngholm, Box 103, Flagstaff, AZ 86002. Cost: \$245.

Canyon de Chelly is in the heart of the Navajo Reservation in northeastern Arizona. It has a long, exciting history of Anasazi, Hopi and Navajo habitation. We will observe and discuss southwestern Indian culture, past and present, and also investigate the varied plant and animal communities found here. Elevations range from 6000 to 7200 feet. (Rated M.)

(43) Kanab Canyon/Thunder River, Grand Canyon, Arizona—May 9-16. Leader, Peter Curia, 1334 W. Willetta, Phoenix, AZ 85007. Cost: \$175.

The north rim of Grand Canyon offers an unforgettable series of vistas, ranging upwards from the merely spectacular. Starting and ending with the Esplanade, we will visit Scotty's Hollow, Whispering Falls and Deer Creek Falls, as well as Thunder River. Neither words nor pictures can describe these places, but a lucky few will have them indelibly imprinted on their memories after this trip. (Rated S.)

What's Important To You?

send what YOU want published in the SIERRA to the editor by the last week in MAY

