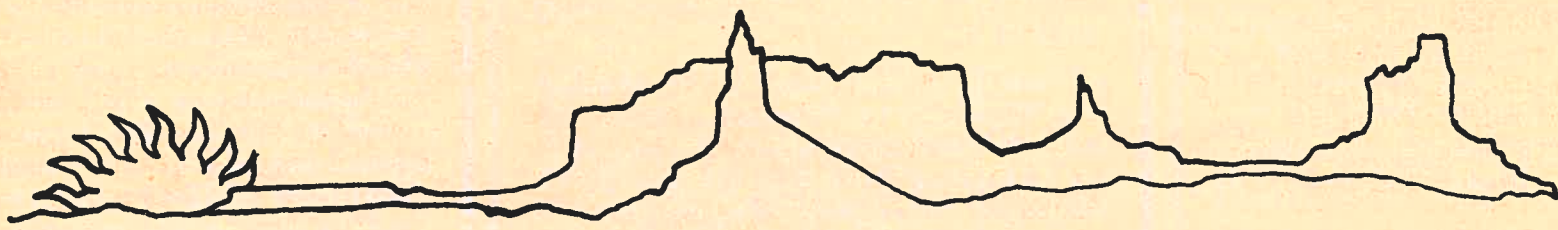


# The Rio Grande SIERRAN

Set 500  
Kenny



THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

NOV. 1981



Here they are: the Replace Watt petitions with over one million signatures! Shown along with the petitions are members of the National Conservation Department Staff. Waving in the back is Sierra Club Executive Director Mike McCloskey. Story on Pg. 7.

# OUTINGS

## EL PASO GROUP

- Nov. 22 - Franklin Mtn. day hike; leader Phil Dangle, 566-6210, limit 12, reservations required.  
 Nov. 28 - Rafaela Schuller Cleanup; Tom Mays Park; leader George Mader, 778-4564  
 Dec. 12-13 - Gobbler Knob Restoration; leader LeBran Hardie, 581-2021  
 Dec. 9 - Texas Canyon day hike; leader George Mader, 778-4564  
 Dec. 16-17 - Big Hatchet car camp and day hike; leader Tom Brasfield, 584-8739  
 Jan. 23 - day hike in the Franklin's Hondo Pass; leader Rafaela Schuller, call June Secrist, 581-9314  
 Feb. 6-7 - Cloudcroft ski trip; leader Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042

## SANTA FE GROUP

- Nov. 22 - Strenuous hike; leader Betsy Fuller, 983-8870  
 Nov. 29 - Moderate hike; leader Norbert Sperlick, 983-1962  
 Dec. 5 - Easy hike in San Marcos Wash, depart 9:30; leader Mickey Bogert, 983-8835  
 Dec. 6 - Strenuous hike; leader Polly Robertson, 982-4074  
 Dec. 12 - Moderate hike with 9:30 departure along Hyde Park Ridge; leader Phil Wagner, 982-2933.

NOTE: ALL SANTA FE OUTINGS LEAVE AT 8:00 a.m. from the PERA PARKING LOT UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.



## YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The National Sierra Club Mountaineering Committee has proposed a "youth exchange" program with the Munich-based German Alpine Club. The exchange features reciprocal arrangements allowing Sierra Club youth (18-23) to spend time in the European Alps hiking and climbing with experienced members of the German Alpine Club. Meanwhile, German Alpine Club youths come to this country and enjoy the same as guests of the Sierra Club.

Families and persons capable of housing/guiding the visitors from abroad should contact the Club's mountaineering chair (Norman Kingsley) at Box 262, La Canada, CA 91011.

## ALBUQUERQUE GROUP

Dec. 5 (weather permitting) - day trip to Pitaca Pinta Wilderness Study Area. Contact either Jay Patterson (243-7927) or Jon Teague (266-4875) in Albuquerque or Steve Scherey (835-3588) in Socorro before this trip.

An outing leader seminar is planned for sometime in December. Those of you who are interested in leading or assisting with outings are encouraged to attend. Experienced outing leaders will present the seminar. It will cover basic policy concerning leader responsibility, preparation, management, safety, equipment, accidents and rescue. This information will be valuable for those of you who lead outings, as well as those who enjoy hiking, backpacking, or any type of wilderness experience. Contact Kathy Chaney at 296-4320 or 345-8886.

CPR - If you're interested in (another) class, contact Kathy Chaney at 296-4320 or 345-8886.

Save the Bisti  
with T-shirts  
for Stocking Stuffers  
(or for yourself)



S, M, L (adult) Beige/Brown

\$6.50 (tax + shipping included)  
50/50 Dacron polyester/Cotton

Order from:

Sierra Club  
1522 Stanford NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106  
(505) 268-8185

Benefit: Bisti Task Force

Published every other month by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club. Subscription rate for non-members is \$2.00 per year. Articles, clippings, letters to the editor, cartoons, drawings, photographs, outings information, personals, etc. may be sent to the editor: Barbara Davis, P. O. Box 739, Sandia Park, NM, 87047 (505-281-1248).

# BISTI RALLY

## BISTI BADLANDS RALLY A SUCCESS

By Jonathan Teague

On Halloween weekend, the Sierra Club staged a rally and series of tours in the Bisti Badlands. Over 150 people turned out to hear speeches, music, and poetry on the Badlands and the San Juan Basin. The Bisti Badlands are comprised of the Bisti Wilderness Study Area, De-Na-Zin WSA, Ah-Shi-Sle-Pah WSA, the Fossil Forest (not currently protected in any way), and surrounding areas. Their outstanding scenic and scientific resources are threatened with destruction from coal surface mining and related energy development.

Chapter president Phyllenore Howard welcomed the rally participants. Southwest Representative of the Sierra Club, Brant Calkin gave an inspiring and illuminating keynote address, effectively demolishing the notion that the U.S. urgently needs San Juan Basin coal, urging instead the enactment of energy conservation measures. Other speakers included Paul Robinson, Director of Southwest Research & Information Center, Dave Marcus, formerly with the California Energy Commission, Raymond Arviso, a Navajo rancher from the Bisti area, Kathy McElmury representing the Taos Environmental Association, Curtis Schaafsma, State Archeologist & Director of the Laboratory of Anthropology of the Museum of New Mexico, Dave Foreman, former Southwest Representative of The Wilderness Society and an organizer of Earth First, and our own Dave Glowka & Jon Teague. Entertainment was provided by Gary Papenhagen and Bart Kohler as Johnny Sagebrush.

Following the rally Saturday afternoon were hikes into the Bisti. Those who lingered were treated to the spectacular sunset in the area. Many saw for the first time the remarkable beauty of the Bisti, and many old time visitors renewed their determination to save the area from the draglines of coal mining.

Campfires Saturday evening provided warmth for the 100 people who camped out. Sunday morning saw tours of the Fossil Forest and the discovery of a number of fossils including large dinosaur bones. Some then went to see De-Na-Zin WSA and others went to visit Kim Bineola a large Chacoan Outlier.

Thanks are extended by the organizer and participants in the rally to the speakers and to all those who helped out to make the rally a success. Thanks especially to Hank Saxe for bringing the water truck, to Don & Michelle Meaders for handling the sanitary facilities, and to Bob Fugate for the use of the public address system. Finally, thanks to the participants for their care which allowed us to leave the area as we found it. We also wish to thank PNM's Sunbelt Mining Company who obligingly ceased coal hauling operations from their De-Na-Zin Mine for the weekend, leaving the peace and quiet of the area unbroken for the event.

# PNM vs BISTI

PNM PROPOSES TO STRIP THE BISTI  
Ny Jonathan Teague

Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) is at it again. PNM has applied through its subsidiary, Sunbelt Mining Company, for a permit to strip mine a section of state land in the middle of the most spectacular part of the Bisti. This section of land is surrounded on three sides by the Bureau of Land Management's Bisti Wilderness Study Area (WSA). PNM's proposed mine would not only obliterate the scenic rock formations on the state section, but it would also impact the Bisti WSA severely. In fact, it is quite probable that the Bisti Wilderness would never become a reality if PNM is allowed to proceed with their mine.

PNM claims they need the coal for their San Juan Generating Station 50 miles North of Bisti. Yet that power plan is a "mine mouth" operation, having its own mine with an estimated remaining life of 35 years.

PNM used the same reasoning last year to develop their De-Na-Zin Mine, located on state land about two miles from the Bisti. PNM claimed at the time that the mine would have a four year life, yet after less than a year of operation, the projected remaining life is only 14 months. PNM claims they greatly overestimated the quality and quantity of coal at the De-Na-Zin Mine.

PNM's name for the project, The Gateway Project, provides a clue to their intentions for the Bisti. The Bisti mine will apparently be used as a means to degrade the area to the point where more mining won't make a difference - as a "gateway" to mining as much of the Bisti as will provide them profit.

Write to Mr. Jerry Geist, President, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Alvarado Square, Albuquerque, N.M., 87158. In your letter, let him know your feelings toward the Gateway Project. Let's hope PNM has not lost ALL of its environmental conscience.

If you would like more information or would like to help work on San Juan Basin energy development issues, please contact Dave Glowka at 281-1488.

# LEASES IN WILDERNESS?! <sup>3</sup>

OIL & GAS LEASING IN WILDERNESS

The Issue Moves Into New Mexico  
by John Sproul

The U. S. Forest Service (USFS) is now conducting a crash program to process oil and gas lease applications on wilderness areas nationwide. The integrity of the National Wilderness Preservation System is at risk, for once a lease is issued the leaseholder has a legal right to produce oil and gas from the land involved. That means any roads, structures, utility lines or other development necessary for extracting oil and gas must be permitted, subject only to reasonable stipulations for environmental protection.

This can't be, you say? The wilderness system is inviolable? Wrong. The Wilderness Act includes a provision that permits mineral exploration and development, including oil and gas leasing, in designated wilderness until December 31, 1983. A lease issued by that date can be developed after it.

In New Mexico, the Capitan Mountains Wilderness in the Lincoln National Forest was first to feel the pressure. The USFS is reviewing four lease applications there that involve wilderness lands. The Aldo Leopold and Gila wildernesses in the Gila National Forest are next in line, with a review of lease applications just now getting underway.

Who makes the leasing decisions? On most USFS lands the authority, under the Mineral Leasing Act, rests with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and, ultimately, the Interior Secretary. The USFS makes recommendations to the BLM on: (1) whether or not the leases should be issued, and (2) if so, what stipulations should be required for environmental protection.

The USFS cannot recommend lease denial solely because an area is in designated wilderness. But there are other legitimate grounds for denial: protection of wildlife habitat, recreation and scenic values, archeological sites or endangered species, for example. Or rugged terrain that makes adequate reclamation impossible.

In the Capitan Mountains Wilderness we have a curious situation. The USFS has taken the position that its only responsibility is to recommend stipulations for environmental protection, that it can make no recommendation to deny leasing. In fact, at press time, three of the four leases already had been issued. And if there was any environmental review prior to these decisions, it was a well-kept secret. The Sierra Club learned of the leasing only when the USFS announced it would prepare an Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) on what stipulations should be attached to these leases. The Club has challenged the USFS position and will continue to do so as the EAR is prepared.

If the lands have been leased, what stipulations are needed to protect wilderness values? The Roswell Resource Area of the BLM (remember BLM makes the leasing decisions) says, "The only leasing alternative which will really protect the wilderness character of the Capitan Mountains Wilderness is...the no surface occupancy stipulation." That means development only by directional drilling from sites outside the wilderness. But the Wilderness Act states that stipulations must be "reasonable," and for areas more than 1/4 mile inside the wilderness "no surface occupancy" probably would not hold up legally as a reasonable stipulation. So, barring a successful appeal of the leasing decisions, it seems wilderness values will be protected in the Capitan only if the leaseholder decides not to exercise the right to develop.

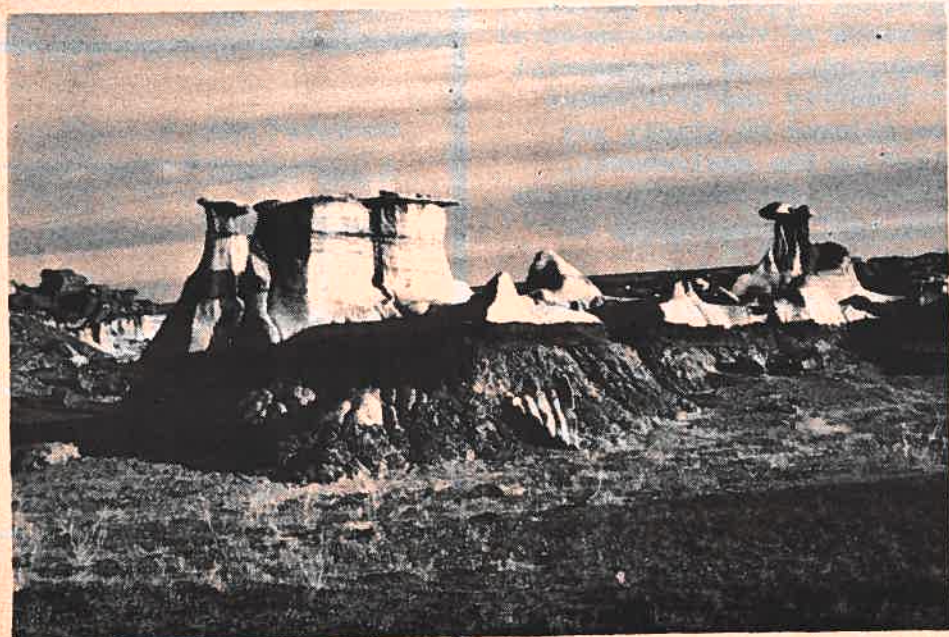
## MOLYCORP

MOLYCORP SUIT AGREEMENT

The water pollution law suit against Molycorp (of Questa, N.M.) brought by the Sierra Club, New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air & Water, and the State of New Mexico, was settled out of court last month.

In addition to paying \$28,000 in fines to the U.S. and \$500 to the State, Molycorp will also pay \$28,000 to fund research on water pollution in northern New Mexico - the fund to be administered by Frontera del Norte, a division of the Sierra Club Foundation. In addition, for each spill until October 1, 1984, Molycorp will pay \$6,000 to the fund, \$2,000 to the federal treasury, and \$500 to the State.

This settlement is for past violation of the Clean Water Act by Molycorp. On 12 different occasions from 1978-1981, Molycorp spilled molybdenum tailings from its Questa mine into the Red River in violation of their discharge permit.



For those of you who haven't seen the Bisti Badlands: here's what they look like.

# CHAPTER ELECTIONS

It's election time for positions being vacated by members of the Chapter Executive Committee. The nine member board replaces three members each year; outgoing members this year are John Tiwald, Jim Owen and Bob Howard. (Members with one more year to serve are Mary Lou Williams, Judy Bishop and Patty Adams; members with two more years to serve are Rollin Wickendom, Ed Burns and Phyllenore Howard.)

In addition to the Chapter Executive Committee election this year will be an election for the position of Council Delegate representing the Rio Grande Chapter.

All members should read the campaign statements in this newsletter submitted by candidates for positions on the Executive Committee and/or the position of Council Delegate. Vote for THREE for the positions on the Chapter Executive Committee and ONE for Council Delegate. Ballots are printed in this newsletter; they must be returned by December 24, 1981.

The results of the election will be published in the next Sierran.

## KEN FERGUSON (Albuquerque Group)

I am a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law, and have been practicing law in Albuquerque since 1977. As a member of the Albuquerque Group Executive Committee, I have been involved in coordinating our Group's efforts to help defeat the infamous Hayakawa-Helms and Santini Bills.

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1977 and, like most members, am primarily interested in issues dealing with wilderness preservation. During this year I have had the opportunity to attend the Rio Grande Chapter leadership conference and the Southwest Regional Conservation Committee meeting. I would appreciate having the chance to serve on the Chapter Executive Committee.

## JOSEPH LEACH (El Paso Group)

Regan/Watt's planned destruction of America's natural environment makes it urgent for every Sierra Club member to rededicate his efforts to protect this nation's lands and skies and waters and wild things. As a founding member of the Club's El Paso Group (1969), I would welcome the opportunity that membership on the Chapter's Executive Committee would give me to work for a revitalized interest in the Club's cause throughout the Rio Grande Chapter and beyond. If I read Watt correctly, all kinds of lives depend on the Club's successful campaign against him. I'm eager to help.

## GEORGE MADER (El Paso Group)

Sierra Club member since 1973. Presently Chairman of the El Paso Group and Treasurer of the Rio Grande Chapter. Past Conservation, Hospitality and Treasurer of the El Paso Group. Occupation: electronics engineer at White Sands Missile Range.

With the present conservative mood of the country, the Sierra Club, at all levels, must keep constant watch over our present wilderness and natural assets. A continued prioritization of our situation is required so that our limited volunteer efforts can have maximum effect. We must have an ongoing program to enlighten the general public on the values of wilderness through publicity, workshops and outings.

## JACK NOEL (Santa Fe Group)

I am a retired Naval officer, former businessman in Europe, and a writer. I am a long-time Sierra Club member who is now active in Santa Fe Group matters. I am the membership chairman for the Group, handle public appearances for the Group in Santa Fe and assist in arranging volunteers to staff the Group and Chapter office in Santa Fe. As a devoted environmentalist, I believe that finding new members and holding old ones is the key to increased influence for the Sierra Club.

## JOHN TIWALD (Albuquerque Group)

Presently member of the Chapter Executive Committee. Served two years as Chairman of the Albuquerque Group. Active in Sierra Club conservation activities for five years, including wilderness and coal mining issues. Presently very involved in the political and legal effort to save the Bisti Badlands from coal stripmining.

In this era of development-at-all-costs, the Sierra Club must broaden its conservation activities to keep the public aware of the environmental costs of industrial and governmental policies. Industry and government must not be allowed to simply pay "lip service" to the environment, and then proceed with their projects ignoring the real consequences of their actions.

An effective Chapter Executive Committee is one which works to incorporate the large influx of new members into the conservation projects and activities, and works to make the Club's presence felt on the broad range of environmental issues so that the public at large is sensitized to the environmental problems, the government is forced to enforce its own environmental laws, and industry is made to do more than just pretend it is concerned about the environment.

## RON GROTBECK (Albuquerque Group)

Occupation physicist; age 40; active since 1972. Positions held: Albuquerque Group Excom 5 yrs.; Albuquerque Group Secretary, Vice Chair, Membership Chair; Tecumseh (Dayton, Ohio) Group Newsletter Editor; Rio Grande Chapter Budget Committee. Present position Albuquerque Group Conservation Chair.

As the Sierra Club adjusts to the challenges of Wattism, special attention must be paid to the concerns and suggestions of the grassroots volunteers who are the ultimate strength of the Club. As the Club's only formal representative body, the Sierra Club Council will be the focus for bringing those concerns and ideas into the planning, goal-setting, decision-making processes that will determine our effectiveness during the next decade. It will also be a principal conduit for timely information exchange between the national organization and the local volunteers - a process vital to maintaining an enthusiastic and coordinated national campaign of effective environmental activism. I have been involved for several years with structuring, organizing, and motivating local volunteer groups within the Sierra Club, and have helped plan and produce two leadership training workshops for the volunteer activists of the Rio Grande Chapter. This background provides me with a broad understanding of the beliefs, abilities, aspirations, and frustrations of the volunteer activists of the Rio Grande Chapter - an understanding I feel is essential for successful participation in the representative interchange of Sierra Club Council activities.

As your delegate to the Council I will make every effort to accurately represent your concerns, to bring those concerns to the attention of Club leaders, and to stimulate innovation and enthusiasm in our local groups by timely reporting of Council actions. We need a strong, representative Council to truly fulfill the Club's potential for preserving our natural environment.



# NEW MUSEUM

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
by Jeff Gottfried

The New Mexico Museum of Natural History was created last year by the State Legislature with a mandate to collect, study, preserve and exhibit artifacts of New Mexico natural history. The museum's programs will include all traditional areas of natural history (botany, zoology, geology, paleontology) with the exception of anthropology. Anthropology was omitted so as not to duplicate existing state efforts in this area, including the State Museum of Anthropology and the Maxwell Museum at U.N.M.

At this point in time, five acres of land for a new building has been purchased by the City of Albuquerque (their contribution to the project) and architectural plans are nearing completion. Plans for exhibits that will represent the natural history of the state throughout geological history are underway. Many of the exhibits will reflect the best of traditional areas, along with "space age" exhibits utilizing computers, video-discs and other visitor participation devices. A major public educational program including classes, field trips and guest speakers will complete the program.

In order for groundbreaking to take place this Spring as scheduled, the museum's private foundation must raise \$2 million to match the state appropriation of \$8 million. At this point, approximately \$700,000 has been raised, mostly from contributions. A public campaign is now beginning to give all citizens of the state the opportunity to help make the museum a reality. If you would like to find out what you can do to help, call Jeff Gottfried at the Museum of Natural History at 842-3006.

# AIR

CLEAN AIR ACT UPDATE  
By Rafael Harpaz

A resolution has just been introduced in the House (the Vento-Lewis resolution) proclaiming the "sense of the House" as being in support of the Clean Air Act as currently drafted. We want Congressman Lujan to lend his name to this "Clean Air resolution", a task that should be possible if the Representative feels as strongly about clean air as has been indicated in the local press over the past months. But we need to nudge him! Ask Lujan to request House field hearings on the Clean Air Act in New Mexico. The Senate has held field hearings in various areas around the country over the past months. The pristine air in New Mexico depends on the provisions of the act.

Also, now is the time to contact Senator Domenici to seek his help in preserving the Clean Air intact. Recognize the Senator's strong role in the past in drafting clean air legislation, but ask him to maintain that record. Domenici is on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee which is now hearing the act.

Write today:

Representative Manuel Lujan  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Pete Domenici  
U. S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515



# ENERGY \$

ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN NEW MEXICO

Energy Consumers of NM, Inc., is a nonprofit statewide consumer organization that has spoken up at rate hearings for the past four years and will plan to intervene again in this year's rate increase hearing. These rate hearings have been the primary vehicle to put forth a consumer interest and to encourage conservation and appropriate technology. Funds for professional staff have been seriously drained, and Energy Consumers would like some support from Sierra Club in its effort to examine PNM at the next rate hearing. Energy Consumers of NM, Inc. can be reached at 142 Washington SE, Albuquerque, 87108, phone 268-6792. Get in touch and see what you can contribute.



## BALLOT

Each Sierra Club member should vote for the candidates below for the Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee and position of Council Delegate. Candidates are presented in alphabetical order.

### CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - VOTE FOR ONLY THREE CANDIDATES

	<u>Member #1</u>	<u>Member #2</u>	<u>Member #3</u>
Ken Ferguson	___	___	___
Joseph Leach	___	___	___
George Mader	___	___	___
Jack Noel	___	___	___
John Tiwald	___	___	___

### COUNCIL DELEGATE - VOTE FOR ONLY ONE

	<u>Member #1</u>	<u>Member #2</u>	<u>Member #3</u>
Ron Grotbeck	___	___	___
Jack Noel	___	___	___

Ballots should be returned by December 24, 1981 to the Rio Grande Chapter, Sierra Club, 1709 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

# RIO GRANDE STUDY

## RIO GRANDE BOSQUE BIOLOGICAL STUDY By Carol Cochran

In Spring 1978, the Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club participated in hearings on an Army Corps of Engineers Levee Project which we opposed. The project, in its final draft, proposed to rehabilitate and raise the levees from Bernailllo to Belen to equal the 42,000 c.f.s. flood protection offered by the Albuquerque levee unit. This proposal has become S.B. 620, sponsored by Sen. Domenici, and in March was submitted to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, but has yet to be discussed. Although we opposed the project, it has had one important outcome with which we can agree.

Because work on the levees would entail considerable disturbance to the bosque (105 acres permanently lost, 150 acres temporarily lost), the Corps has contracted for a two-year biological study of the area so that it can plan its construction to reduce impacts and preserve as much of the bosque as possible. That study is now taking place.

A team of six biologists is inventorying vegetation and terrestrial vertebrate wildlife in over 100 transects, representing many different habitat types, located along the river from Espanola to the San Aracia Irrigation Diversion, but concentrated in the area between Bernailllo and the Bosque Bridge. The contract administrator for the project is Corps biologist Mark Sifuentes. The principal investigator is Robert D. Ohmart, a zoologist with Arizona State University and an authority in riparian ecology. His project director is Valerie Hink.

The study began last February and will continue for two years until February 1983, so that data is collected over eight seasons. The researchers are trying to find out what wildlife is in the bosque and when, and to what extent different plant communities are being utilized. The team will use its data in making recommendations to the Corps. These recommendations might include the location of borrow pits and haul roads so that unique or valuable habitat will be left undisturbed, the use of alternative flood control means if levee rehabilitation would seriously impact a critical area, and various mitigation measures, such as creation of marshes from borrow pits and purchase of specified woodland areas to replace destroyed acreage.

Suprisingly, the Rio Grande bosque has been studied very little; in fact, less is known about it than about almost all other Southwest river systems. As result of this survey, more will be known about the bosque than has ever been known before. Thus, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the N.M. Department of Game & Fish have joined the Corps in funding the study and will use its data in planning future projects of their own which will impact the river and its communities. The study will be used in a third way when its data will be combined with data collected from other Southwestern river systems to form a predictive model for assessments of future impacts. And a fourth objective for the study is to assess the historical composition of the bosque, for purposes of mitigation and restoration following impact. Most of the bosque today is only 40 years old, dating from the 1941 flood. By reviewing old documents, some dating back to the Spanish explorers, researchers will try to find out what the bosque was like before channelization and levees and other impacts. It is surmised that prior to impacts, the bosque contained fewer cottonwoods and more marshes, open spaces, or meadows, and, because of its diversity, may have supported a more diverse wildlife.

Data collected to date suggests that the ponds and marshes of today's bosque are a favored habitat, but that the cottonwoods also support birds in abundance. Some of the most common bird species include brooksbeaks, robins, mourning doves, roadrunners, flickers. Many accipiter nests have been noted. And some endangered species use the bosque: whooping cranes and peregrine falcons, red-headed woodpeckers, Mississippi kites, and Bell's vireos. Mammal and reptile species seem less diverse and abundant within the riparian zone than on the surrounding mesas; it's conjectured that this is due to the greater disturbance in the bosque by levees and channelization and by daily human impact. Most frequent sightings of mammals or reptiles include muskrats, whiptails, white-footed mice, skunk, cottontail rabbits, raccoons, rock squirrels and beavers. And some surprises: the presence of the western jumping mouse which had been hypothetical for the valley, and desert shrews which have been trapped in abundance.

The project is invaluable; it contributes to knowledge of our much abused, often ignored, but precious resource - the Rio Grande bosque.

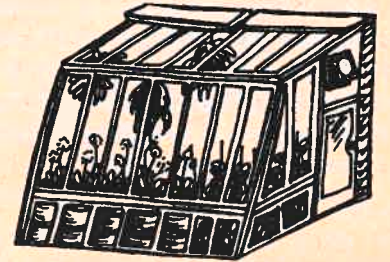
# AWARD

## ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE MONTH AWARD By Phyllenore Howard

Each month the Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee awards the "Environmentalist of the Month" certificate to recognize special efforts on behalf of the environment. In September, Ron, Carter and Chris Grotbeck, Mike Jackson and Bob Howard received the award for cleaning the irrigation ditch which feeds water to the Oxbow on the Rio Grande in Albuquerque. The Oxbow is a wildlife refuge, ten acres of which are owned by the Sierra Club.

Carol Cochran and Ron Grotbeck received the award the following month for organizing the Watt Rally held in Albuquerque on September 13 when Mr. Watt visited Albuquerque.

Awards will be presented each month as appropriate. If you know of a deserving recipient, let a Chapter Executive Committee member know.



# SALES

## A YEAR FULL OF BEAUTIFUL DAYS:

### SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS

All Groups have 1982 Sierra Club calendars for sale. There are five themes as usual: Wilderness, Engagement, Trail, Wildlife and Calendar for Young People. All formats contain outstanding photography and are nicely bound and packed for your convenience. They make excellent gifts for Christmas, as well as other occasions. We urge you to make your calendar purchases through your Group; your purchase will contribute directly to your Group treasury.

### ...AND BOOKS

Also available through all Groups is the same high quality photography and publishing in the form of books. Geared to many interests and all age groups, Sierra Club books are available at discounted prices to members. They are ideal gifts for any occasion. You can order whatever you'd like through your Group and still purchase at a member discount.

THE SALE OF BOOKS AND CALENDARS IS A MAINSTAY FOR GROUP TREASURIES. SUPPORT YOUR TREASURY AND PURCHASE BOOKS AND CALENDARS THROUGH YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB GROUP.

# MR. WATT'S PAGE

7

## WATT COMES TO TOWN

On September 13, Secretary of Interior James Watt came to Albuquerque; he was welcomed at the airport by approximately 250 protestors.

A rally organized by the Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club was held in Burton Park, Albuquerque, after which those present marched approximately one mile to the airport to greet Mr. Watt. Shouldering protest signs, men, women, and babies were escorted by the Albuquerque Police Department to line the normal exit route from the airport. Along with the local press, we all waited for the Secretary to appear. While we waited, the protestors chanted and enjoyed the sun, the press took some film and the police reminded the group to stay on the sidewalk. We all waited patiently. Mr. Watt, however, did not meet his welcoming committee; he gave the press a very few moments before leaving via "the back door" to the airport.

Mr. Watt came to town to address the annual convention of the International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. The N.M. Department of Game & Fish invited representatives from environmental groups to attend. And so, a few of us did get to hear what Mr. Watt had to say. Those in attendance from the Sierra Club were Kay and Ron Grotbeck, Rob Smith, and Carol Cochran.

## WATT SPEAKS IN ALBUQUERQUE

By Carol Cochran

On September 14, Secretary of the Interior James Watt spoke to the annual convention of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Many of Watt's remarks sounded good. "I'm for the people;" "This administration is people oriented." "The parks and refuges are to be preserved for future generations, never to be mined, never to be drilled, never to be cut." "I am deeply concerned about the recovery of endangered species." But by the time he had finished speaking, his audience knew just what he meant by these empty phrases. When Watt says "I'm for people," he means that man's self-interest is the ultimate goal of wildlife or land management. He ignores the concept of ecosystem and such objectives as the maintenance of natural diversity and abundance. "It's important we improve the habitat for the hunter, the fisherman," he said. And wildlife management will aim at "the beneficial use of the land by man and for man."

The public lands, which were never to be mined, drilled, or cut, are, Watt admitted later in the speech, subject to oil and gas production, timber cutting, farming and grazing. "These acts are provided for by law," he said. Watt congratulated himself on making pro-development decisions, saying this was how he brought balance to the conservation movement.

## WATT MEETS SIERRA CLUB

By Phyllenore Howard

Representatives of the Rio Grande Chapter met with Interior Secretary Watt during his recent visit to Albuquerque. Members of the group were Kay and Ron Grotbeck who arranged the meeting with the assistance of Senator Domenici, Bob and Phyllenore Howard, Carol Cochran, John Tiwald, David Glowka and Ken Ferguson. Topics discussed included mining in wilderness areas, funding for endangered species programs, and the Clean Air Act. The meeting was congenial, but no one changed their mind about anything. The objective was to open lines of communication, and this was achieved.

Mr. Watt agreed that Wilderness areas should be the very last places to mine, but sharply clashed with the Sierra Club in insisting that the easy things have been mined and the time has come when we must begin to mine in Wilderness areas.

During the discussion of the Clean Air Act, Watt insisted that the President had made his decision and that it was out of their hands. The administration is supporting Class I of the Prevention of Significant Degradation program, but had to admit that the administration wants to modify it (in what would amount to a significant lowering of criteria for Wilderness and national park areas).

At the end of the meeting Mr. Watt said, "Some things we're going to do you're going to just dispise. Some things we're going to do you're going to be thrilled with."

Mr. Watt says he's anxious for input from us; what he'll do with that input we don't know.

As a parting gesture, Mr. Watt was presented with a "Save the Bisti" T-shirt (he'd never heard of the Bisti), and we thanked him for his announced support for designation of the Malpais, South of Grants, as a BLM Wilderness area.

## WATT WEEK REPORT

By Carol Cochran

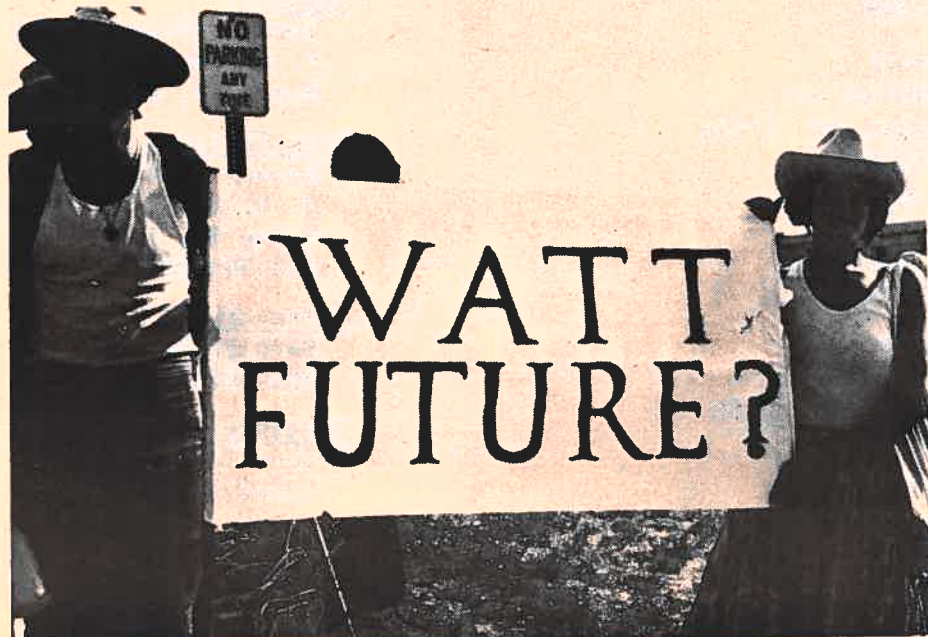
The question I've been asked most often about Watt Week was whether or not it accomplished anything. I think it did.

Watt Week was a very successful media event. When we presented our petitions, there were more reporters than participants on the steps of the Capital. We received good coverage that day, and I've noted that Watt has been in the newspaper more often than not since then. The petition, signed by 1.1 million Americans, represents a lot of awareness, but because of the publicity it received, it generated a lot more.

The Sierra Club was very visible that week in Washington, as we walked about Capital Hill with our petitions, Doonesbury posters and "Zap Wattism" buttons. A lot of folks, from Congressional aides to elevator attendants, expressed interest and sympathy and asked for buttons.

In as much as our visibility drew attention to the Replace Watt movement and gave support to others of like kind, Watt Week accomplished a great deal. BUT, all of our congressmen defended Watt, generally by justifying his actions in the name of budget reductions, or by making a distinction between his style, which some said they didn't like either, and his substance, with which they agreed and thought we should, too. We're going to have to counter thinking like this by being as specific as possible in our criticism of Watt's actions and policies and by convincing our congressmen that Watt and Wattism are political liabilities; Americans will not stand for the degradation of their environment, not even in the name of economy.

Editor's Note: Carol was one of four Rio Grande Chapter members that went to Washington to present the Replace Watt petitions.



Demonstrators at the Watt Rally to meet Interior Secretary Watt at the Albuquerque Airport Sept. 13

# The Sierra Club

## A way for all of us to help.

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Individual		LIFE MEMBERSHIP	
Dues Joint		Per Person	
Regular . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$29	<input type="checkbox"/> 40 <input type="checkbox"/> 44	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750
Supporting . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/> 40 <input type="checkbox"/> 44	<input type="checkbox"/> 100 <input type="checkbox"/> 104	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse of Life Member
Contributing . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/> 100 <input type="checkbox"/> 104	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 <input type="checkbox"/> 16	(annual dues)
Senior . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 <input type="checkbox"/> 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 <input type="checkbox"/> 16	
Student . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 <input type="checkbox"/> 16		
Junior . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/> 12		

All dues include subscription to Sierra (3.00) and chapter publications (1.00).

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 H 100**  
 P.O. BOX 7959, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94120

Rio Grande Chapter  
 Sierra Club  
 1709 Paseo de Peralta  
 Santa Fe, NM 87501

NONPROFIT  
 ORGANIZATION  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 PERMIT 612  
 ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

13783039 1704 0182 0 ABW014  
 BOBBE DYER  
 106 VERANO LP  
 ELDORADO  
 SANTA FE NM 87501

RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

#### RIO GRANDE CHAPTER DIRECTORY

##### CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

###### Chairman

Phyllenore Howard  
 1522 Stanford N.E.  
 Albuquerque, NM 87106

###### Vice Chairman

Jim Owen  
 9905 Cork  
 El Paso, TX 79925  
 915-598-9332

###### Council Delegate

Ken Adam  
 416 Apodaca Hill  
 Santa Fe, NM 87501  
 505-983-1949

Patty Adam

419 Apodaca Hill  
 Santa Fe, NM 87501  
 505-983-1949

Robert Howard

1522 Stanford N.E.  
 Albuquerque, NM 87106  
 505-268-8185

Rollin Wickenden

11113 Warf Cove  
 El Paso, TX 79936  
 915-598-8042

John Tiwald

4701 Burton SE  
 Albuquerque, NM 87108  
 505-266-4822

Mary Lou Williams

Rt. 5, Box 114D  
 Santa Fe, NM 87501  
 505-455-7221

Ed Burns

1910 Sand Hill Road  
 Las Cruces, NM 88001  
 505-522-9084

#### EL PASO REGIONAL GROUP OFFICERS

##### Chairman

George Mader  
 8704 Catalpa Lane  
 El Paso, TX 79925  
 915-778-4564

##### Vice Chairman

James Owen  
 9905 Cork  
 El Paso, TX 79925

##### Secretary

Kathy Morrison  
 Box 767  
 El Paso, TX 79905

##### Treasurer

Gilbert Vallari  
 915-584-7567

#### SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS

##### Chairman

Spencer Shannon, Jr.  
 P. o. Box 1251  
 Santa Fe, NM 87501

##### Vice Chairman

Wesley Horner  
 P. O. Box 110  
 Santa Fe, NM  
 505-983-1824

##### Secretary

Carolyn Keskulla  
 505-982-9570

##### Treasurer

Judy Bishop  
 505-471-4439

#### ALBUQUERQUE GROUP OFFICERS

##### Chairman

Kay Grotbeck  
 812 Harwood N.E.  
 Albuquerque, NM 87111  
 505-296-0944

##### Secretary

Carol Cochran  
 1415 Phoenix NW  
 Albuquerque, NM 87107

##### Treasurer

Barbara Davis  
 P. O. Box 739  
 Sandia Park, NM 87047  
 505-281-1248

#### SOUTHWESTERN REGIONAL GROUP

##### Chairman

Ed Burns  
 1010 Sand Hill Road  
 Las Cruces, NM 88001  
 505-522-9084

##### Vice Chairman

James Hansen  
 Biology Dept. NMSO  
 Box 3AF  
 Las Cruces, NM 88003  
 505-696-2934

##### Secretary-Treasurer

June Price  
 1101 North 3rd  
 Las Cruces, NM 88001  
 505-521-4873