



Fall 1986

## A BOTTLE BILL FOR NEW MEXICO

by Karen Ikins,  
NM Public Interest Research Group,  
Albuquerque

If you are tired of the trashing of New Mexico, tired of the cans and bottles littering our highways, our parks, and our mountains, the time has come for action. A bill requiring a five-cent refundable deposit on all cans and bottles is scheduled for vote by the New Mexico legislature in January. Letters and calls are needed.

Nine other states have already begun to fight back against litter by implementing a similar bill. In all cases, the results have been substantially positive with respect to reducing litter, saving natural resources, and creating jobs. In Michigan, for example, the bill reduced total solid wastes by 600,000 tons per year or 41% by volume. Savings on disposal costs are estimated at \$18

million annually.

Tourism officials in every state that has enacted a bottle bill tout the effects of clean highways and parks on the state's appeal. According to Richard P. Rust, director of the Division of Tourism, "The bottle bill has made Massachusetts cleaner and more attractive. It has contributed to our efforts to beautify our state, making it a more pleasant place to visit and to live in."

In Michigan, the bill is given credit for 4,000 new jobs in brewing, bottling, distributing, and retailing.

Resource savings are in the form of both materials and energy. Recycling aluminum cans requires approximately 10% of the energy required to manufacture them from raw materials.

The goal of a bottle bill is to eliminate the source of litter before it gets to the

ground. Steel cans take up to 100 years to decompose, aluminum cans 140 years. Glass and plastics do not decompose.

Opposing special interest groups, primarily the bottling industry, have made the passing of a bottle bill in New Mexico a long and difficult battle. Although a bottle bill was first introduced in the legislature in 1970, it was not until 1983 that one made it to the floor. After passing through six committees (three in each house) that year, the bill lost by four votes in the House and by three in the Senate. In 1985, the gap in the Senate was reduced to two votes.

It is no secret how citizens have contributed to the passage of bottle bills in other states: good old constituent pressure. New Mexico Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) has made passage of a bottle

*see Bottle Bill, page 6*

### BLM WILDERNESS UPDATE

by Jim Fish, Placitas

Two dates may have passed before most of you read this, but please read on. On Dec 12, the official comment period on the BLM Statewide Wilderness Study Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) ends. On Dec 13, the New Mexico BLM Wilderness Coalition is having a planning meeting in Socorro. Read on. The unofficial comment period continues indefinitely and the Coalition's work is never done.

Comments on DEIS In the September 1986 DEIS, the BLM recommended 560,328 acres of BLM-managed land in 28 areas for wilderness designation. This recommendation represents 59% of the total acreage of the 46 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) considered. With 55,810 acres of state and private land recommended for acquisition to enhance the 28 areas and with the earlier Malpais recommendation for 145,021 acres, the BLM's current recommendation comes to a total of 761,159 acres.

Members of the New Mexico BLM Wilderness Coalition have

*see Wilderness, page 6*

### ELECTION RESULTS: DISAPPOINTING LOCALLY, NATIONALLY NOT BAD

The November 4 election results in New Mexico were disappointing, with the narrow defeat of Brant Calkin (D) for State Land Commissioner and the much greater defeat of Ray Powell (D) for Governor. Both candidates were endorsed by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, and club members had worked hard in both campaigns.

Despite these losses, the political picture is not all gloomy. Nationwide, Sierra Club-endorsed candidates were successful in 85% of their races, including 14 of 17 Senate contests. It includes Rep. Bill Richardson (D), who was re-elected by a landslide to represent New Mexico's 3rd Congressional District. It also include Rep. Ronald Coleman (D), who was re-elected to his seat as U.S. Representative for the El Paso area. Rep. Richardson has become one of the most effective representatives of environmental concerns in Congress, and Rep. Coleman has also compiled a good environmental record. On the five votes taken on

*see Election, page 6*

### EL MALPAIS WAITS

In the waning hours of the 99th Congress, Rep. Bill Richardson (D-NM) and Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM) reached a compromise for preservation of the magnificent El Malpais region near Grants. The final bill was introduced in the House and Senate, but there was not enough time left in the session for it to pass. It is hoped that the bill will pass early next year.

The legislation finally agreed to by the New Mexico delegation includes the following:

\* About 126,000 acres of El Malpais, including the main lava flow and Bandera Crater, will be managed by the Park Service as a National Monument.

\* All other land in the previous House-passed Richardson bill (about 254,000 acres) will be managed by the BLM as a National Conservation Area with strong management language.

\* Five wilderness areas totaling about 115,000 acres will be designated as BLM Wilderness

*see El Malpais, page 6*

## But What Can I Do?

by Jim Fish, Placitas

Many of you may wonder what you, one individual out of over two million in the area represented by the Rio Grande Chapter, can do to protect our corner of Earth. If you need to ask, you would probably be amazed by how little the effort required to make a difference and by how few those who do anything.

Already, if you belong to the Sierra Club, you have done more than most of your friends and neighbors. You can at least be counted as a card carrying environmentalist and your dues provide a portion of the cost of running both the local and the national operation. Joining the club, however, is not enough. The Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, and the various other organizations cannot function on money alone. There is too much to be done. There are aspects of involvement that money cannot buy.

So what else can you do? The list is long; it is filled with opportunities great and small.

Write letters. Let's start with a small one. Everyone of you can afford the paper, the envelopes, the stamps, and the time to write one or two letters a month to some agency, to a Representative, to a Senator, or to the editor of the local newspaper. Think about it. Last year, the BLM received 465 comments on the 1985 Statewide Wilderness Study. Over 300 of the responses favored the proposal offered by the New Mexico BLM Wilderness Coalition as an alternative to the BLM recommendation. An additional 70 favored the BLM's all-wilderness alternative. What would have happened if the BLM had received 3,000 letters in support of the Coalition Proposal? Three thousand letters, less than one per Rio Grande Chapter member. What if our Congressional delegation receives 30,000 letters in support of wilderness over the next few months?

The BLM wilderness issue is only one of many. There are the National Forest plans. The Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps of Engineers seem hellbent to dam any water that moves. Air quality in Albuquerque and in El Paso is

bad and getting worse. The Ojo Power Line is slated to rip through some of the most remote and pristine areas of the Jemez Mountains. Pick one or two of these issues or some other issue. Get educated and then get busy writing letters. Coerce your friends to do the same.

Join a phone tree. Chuck Wiggins, editor of the Albuquerque Group's **WILDLINE**, is forming a phone tree for the purpose of mobilizing our efforts to deluge the New Mexico Congressional delegation with calls and letters during times when immediate feedback from the "grass roots" is desperately needed.

Contribute to a political campaign. How many of you did not contribute either time or money to Brant Calkin's recent campaign? How many more volunteers and how much more money would it have taken to get the less than 3,000 votes he needed? How many of you did not even vote?

Become an agency volunteer. In this period of declining budgets for anything related to the environment, the agencies charged with protecting it are being hit hard. The BLM, the Forest Service, the National Park Service, the state and local agencies are all understaffed and underfunded. We use the land they try to manage; we can help them once in a while instead of heaping interminable harrassment on them for failing to do a perfect job. If nothing else, we can take a garbage bag with us when we take a hike and pick up trash on the way back. We can volunteer to help put up signs or construct barricades or maintain a section of a trail. We can patrol sensitive areas and report fuelwood trespasses, illegal off-road activity, and wildlife poaching. We can gather visitor use data, carry out scientific research, take photographs for agency publications...

One volunteer group that is well off the ground is the Cabezon Coyotes. Several fuelwood trespasses have been documented and one load of wood confiscated. Although the group now has eighteen members, we are still looking for more people, especially those of you who are retired or work a deviated schedule and could patrol during the week. Also, Steve Fischer of the BLM office in Grants is seeking volunteers to form a

similar group for El Malpais.

Adopt a BLM Wilderness Study Area. Over the next one to three (four or five) years, Congress will be deciding on BLM wilderness areas in New Mexico as well as in the rest of the Southwest. Out of the 46 WSAs considered in the latest New Mexico Statewide Wilderness Study DEIS, the BLM is recommending that 18 of them be dropped completely. The boundaries recommended by BLM for several of the other areas are much smaller than they should be. Unless a few people are willing to learn enough about these areas to defend them, we are going to lose some impressive wildlands. See, for example, the writeup on Cooke's Range WSA on Page 2. This area has outstanding wilderness qualities and no real resource conflicts associated with it. The BLM has recommended the no-wilderness alternative.

Much of what needs to be done is field work. We need to have several people for each area, people who have been there and can refute BLM's claims that the area has no opportunity for recreation, or that opportunity for solitude is "less than outstanding," or that there are no interesting plants or animals in the area. We need people to research minerals potential for the areas. We need people to watch for interim management violations so that the areas will not get trashed out before Congress has a chance to designate them wilderness.

Even after an area is designated wilderness, the job goes on. There are still management plans to be developed and carried out.

So what can you do? Plenty. One final point, however, is worth making: getting involved does not mean that you have to commit your every free moment. If enough people gave an evening or two a month or a weekend now and then, who knows, we might be able to stop someone from moving a mountain. ★



Organ Mountains

Drawing by Walter K. Graf

**CHAIR'S COLUMN**

by Jack Kenney, Santa Fe

Anyone remember the 1986 Chapter Executive Committee Elections? No one had as many as 100 votes! We have over 3600 members, so please consider your well-selected candidates and VOTE. It is worth your 22 cents to have a good ExCom.

Three USFS Final Forest Plans should be out by the time you get this newsletter: the Carson, Gila, and Lincoln Plans. Contact the USFS if you did not get a copy; and work with your local group and forest planning committee to analyze the final plans.

Death of Connor Dam ? We seem to have, again, seen the end of planning for the construction of the proposed Gila Dam, the so-called Connor (old Hooker) Dam. Two events seemed to turn the tide: (1) In July the spikedance minnow (found along stretches of the Gila River) was granted Endangered Species Act protection; and (2) Silver City water users have told the Bureau of Reclamation that they alone could not afford to finance the 18,000 acre-foot project. At this time, the Bureau is proceeding with a reformulation effort to consider alternatives with fewer environmental impacts and lower costs. A new draft environmental statement may be forthcoming as early as April 1987. Keep in touch!

Congratulations to the El Paso Regional Group of the Rio Grande Chapter, which has been awarded a grant of approximately \$4000 for the preparation of a report, "Population Growth--Historical Environmental Impact Statement." All groups/chapters, nationwide, were invited to apply for this grant, and the El Paso Group submission was selected as one of the four to be funded. Great show, El Paso!

Superfund: Thanks for all of the wonderful volunteer effort to support passage and final signature of this priority act. You activists did good! We may have troubles with the Acid Rain issue. Remind your Senators and Representatives of your concern frequently. Now is a good time.

The Bottle Bill will ride again in the New Mexico Legislature during 1987. We are working with the League of Women Voters and the New Mexico Public Interest Research Group (at UNM) in support of a real bill. Let your local state senators and representatives know how YOU feel about this issue.

Funds contributed by REI have been used for a third time for a lobbying trip to Washington, DC, by chapter activists to fight for fewer USFS roads and more/better USFS trails. REI has more recently contributed funds to enable the BLM Wilderness Coalition to publish its recent splendid report on New Mexico BLM Wilderness Study Areas. They deserve your thanks. Thank Kathleen Beamer at REI, PO Box C-88127, Seattle, WA 98188; and ask for a free catalog (or sign up as a Co-Op member for \$5.)

The Ojo Line Extension Record of Decision has been issued, with the BIA recommendation that this 45-47 mile, 345 kV overhead transmission line from a new power substation near Coyote be emplaced through the Jemez Mountains to a new substation near Los Alamos, and then on to the Norton Switching Station west of Santa Fe. The Chapter Executive Committee and the Santa Fe Group have approved expenditure of chapter and group funds, respectively, to appeal this decision, and we have engaged legal assistance. We will be joined in submitting this appeal by others, including Save the Jemez; the San Juan, San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, and Jemez Pueblos; and the All Indian Council. If you can help with issues or funds, contact the Santa Fe Group. We must stop this line across pristine and remote mountain areas.

Coal Mining Reclamation Many of our activists participated in the severe criticism of the state's coal reclamation program during 1982-84. A recent oversight report issued by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement has commended the State Mining and Minerals Division (Energy and Minerals Department) for recent successful handling of most areas of permitting, and for good planning and progress toward resolving the few remaining deficiencies which were observed. Our congratulations to the Department; and particularly to Jonathan Teague who was active in the Sierra Club's effort to track down program deficiencies.

Membership Challenge It appears that I have lost my bet/challenge to Guy Trujillo and the Albuquerque Group. In January I challenged Albuquerque and forecast that the Santa Fe Group would outnumber the Albuquerque Group by year's end. As of 9/10/86 Albuquerque has 1422 members and Santa Fe 1382, so it is probable that I owe Guy a pot-luck beverage--after January 1. Remember, the final count is not in. My compliments to Membership Chairs of both the Albuquerque and Santa Fe Groups! ★

**EDITOR'S NOTES**

by Dave Glowka, Tijeras

Presidential Vetos

I've grown to expect pretty much anything from the Reagan presidency, but I still have a hard time believing that even Reagan could veto the Clean Water Reauthorization bill.

After all, we're not talking about an issue that is under a great deal of debate. It is a fact that many of our nation's surface waters (and ground waters, for that matter) are polluted. The American people made the commitment in the early 1970s with passage of the original Clean Water Act to do something to clean up our rivers and lakes. Billions of dollars have since been spent on sewage treatment plants in order to prevent raw sewage and other wastes from being dumped into our waterways.

The 99th Congress reaffirmed the people's commitment to clean water by unanimously passing the reauthorization legislation. Such a display of agreement on any issue is a rare occurrence. On this issue, the only interpretation of a unanimous vote is that clean water is something that means a lot to Americans.

How could any president veto a bill that carries such overwhelming support? The least President Reagan could have done, instead of pocket vetoing the bill, was to have signed a veto while Congress was still in session. That way, the system of checks and balances would have been invoked and Congress would have had a chance to override the veto. Passage of this bill early next session is inevitable.

Ripping Up the Bosque

The Army Corps of Engineers is up to its old tricks again in the Rio Grande riverbottom.

Every few years, the Corps seems to come up with a new scheme for tearing up the remaining cottonwood forest along the banks of the river. About ten years ago, the idea was to cut down all the cottonwoods because they use water that could otherwise be diverted for irrigation purposes. Then about 7 or 8 years ago, the plot involved "improving" the levees on both sides of the river so that they would contain a 750-year flood. Now, they want to repair existing levees using soil dug out of the Bosque. Contrary to the term used to describe the "borrow pits" that would be dug in the Bosque, there would be no return of material back to the pits or, in fact, any adequate reclamation.

For a group that calls itself engineers, the Corps sure does seem to come up with dumb ideas! ★

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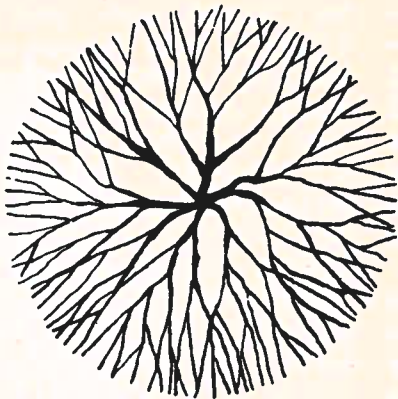
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*Bottle Bill (from page 1)*

bill a top priority, but we need your time and help. In this kind of campaign, it is essential that each and everyone of you write a letter or give a call to your representative and to your senator in Santa Fe. EVERY CALL AND LETTER COUNTS.

If you need to know the name, the address, the phone number, or the prior voting record of your representative or senator, call the New Mexico PIRG in Albuquerque at 277-2758.

Please pitch in!!!!!!!!!!!!!! ★

*Election (from page 1)*

environmental issues by the full House in the 99th Congress, all of Richardson's votes agreed with the Sierra Club-supported position. Four of the five votes cast by Coleman agreed with the Club-supported position. (In contrast, Rep. Lujan (R-NM) voted contrary to the Club-supported position on all but one of the five environmental issues; Rep. Skeen (R-NM) did not vote favorably on any of the issues.)

All four of the congressmen representing the Rio Grande Chapter area will be returning to a much greener Congress. David Skaggs (D) in Colorado was elected to fill the House seat vacated by Timothy Wirth (D), who in turn was elected to fill the Senate seat vacated by Gary Hart. Mike Strang (R) was defeated by Ben Nighthorse Campbell (D) for the seat representing Colorado's 3rd Congressional District. Strang had compiled one of the worst environmental voting records in Congress in just two years on the job.

Another seat close to home that turned a lot greener is that of Utah's 2nd District. Wayne Owens (D) was elected to the seat and will be replacing Rep. David Monson (R-UT) who has a very poor environmental voting record.

Other national races that turned out good for the environment include the following:

- \* Sen. James Abdnor (R-SD) was unseated by Tom Daschle (D).
- \* Rep. Barbara Mikulski (D) defeated Linda Chavez (R) in the Maryland Senate race.
- \* Gov. Bob Graham (D) ousted incumbent Sen. Paula Hawkins (R) in Florida's Senate race.
- \* Rep. Wyche Fowler (D) defeated incumbent Georgia Sen. Mack Mattingly (R).
- \* Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), and Dale Bumpers (D-AR) retained their seats in the Senate.
- \* Harry Reid (D) defeated Jim Santini (R) in Nevada's Senate race. ★

*Wilderness (from page 1)*

carried out extensive field investigations and analyses of the 46 WSAs and of 9 other roadless areas in New Mexico. The Coalition finds 1.88 million acres in these 55 areas suitable for wilderness designation.

Help us save our wildlands by sending your comments to:

State Director, NM(912)  
Bureau of Land Management  
New Mexico State Office  
P.O. Box 1449  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
87504-1449

If you ignored the flyer in October and have not written your letter, please do it now. The sooner the better. Even if you miss the "official" deadline, your letter will be read. In your statements, please support the New Mexico BLM Wilderness Coalition Proposal. Additional comments on specific areas about which you are familiar and in which you have special interest would be valuable. **IMPORTANT:** Send copies of your letter to the New Mexico Congressional delegation. The next step is Congress. The more letters received by our delegation, the more wilderness is likely to be preserved.

Coalition Meeting The next random meeting of the Coalition is scheduled for Saturday, Dec 13 in Socorro, starting at 10:00 am. The location is not Room 54 of the Workman Center at Socorro Tech, but go there and follow posted directions to the meeting.

Terry Sopher of the Washington office of The Wilderness Society will be there to brief us on recent developments concerning legislation to designate El Malpais a National Monument. The other topic of discussion will be a statewide bill for the remainder of the potential BLM wildernesses in New Mexico. Who is going to do what? When?

If you read this column in time to make the meeting, do it. If not, have no fear; there is much to be done over the next one to two years if we are to secure preservation of anything near the 1.88 million acres of BLM wilderness.

For more information contact Judy Bishop (505) 471-4439, Jim Fish (505) 867-3062, or Jim Norton (602) 256-7921. ★

*El Malpais (from page 1)*

within the National Conservation Area (West Malpais, Rimrock, Little Rimrock, Sand Canyon, and Pinyon).

\* Two additional areas (Chain of Craters, 16,600 acres, and the main El Malpais unit, 126,000 acres) will be re-studied for wilderness in management plans required for the Monument and Conservation Area.

\* The Masau Trail, which will link El Malpais, El Moro, Chaco, West Mesa Petroglyphs, and other archeological sites as a tourist loop, will be authorized.

Unfortunately, after introducing this compromise, Sen. Domenici offered an amendment to ban the establishment of any federal reserved water rights for the area. This embroils El Malpais in a nationwide controversy over water rights that has already killed a number of public land bills. This controversy is related to the surface water rights of National Forest Wilderness Areas. It is apparently not pertinent to El Malpais, where no surface water exists, but has been attached as part of a larger effort on the part of conservative Senators to set a precedent that could deny sufficient water flow in mountain streams in other Wilderness Areas.

Because of the Domenici amendment, the El Malpais bill was stalled and failed to pass before Congress adjourned in October. It is hoped that passage of the bill will be forthcoming early in the 100th Congress.

The final agreement protects the entire area that conservationists originally set out to protect. Send your letters of thanks to Rep. Richardson and Sens. Bingaman and Domenici. Encourage Sen. Domenici to drop his water rights amendment--the issue is not relevant to El Malpais since there is no surface water, and there is no reason to use El Malpais to try to set a dangerous and controversial precedent. ★



## SWRCC REPORT

By Dan Jones, Socorro

The quarterly meeting of the Southwest Regional Conservation Committee was convened the morning of September 27 in Salt Lake City. Midday the meeting moved to the Wasatch Mountain Club's lodge at Brighton, which was in fine winter form thanks to an early 3" snowfall.

Sharing of information on common conservation issues was a high priority at the meeting, attended by delegates from the Four Corners chapters. A discussion with national Board of Directors member Sandy Tepfer, board liaison to SWRCC, on Club policies and internal Club activities was also an item of interest to the delegates. Commenting on the financial difficulties of the Club, Director Tepfer said that the Club's contributed income took a nosedive and that insurance premiums had quadrupled (while coverage declined). Also leasing of space in the new national headquarters building has not been as successful as expected. The result is that the current budget has no cushion as has been the case in past years. Chapters will be paying more of their dues subvention from national into their share of insurance premiums and will be asked to do more aggressive fundraising of their own.

There was considerable discussion about the process of setting the Club's conservation priorities. Director Tepfer questioned the current system and said he supports a proposed annual poll of the membership to generate a sense of the members' preferences for the Board to consider when establishing priorities. While on this issue, the SWRCC passed a resolution opposing nuclear war issues as Club priorities. Arguments against these issues centered around the dilution of Club effectiveness on issues in which we are more traditionally involved, more expert and better prepared to address.

SWRCC also passed a resolution requesting the Board of Directors to amend the Club's off-road-vehicle (ORV) policy to remove mountain bikes from classification as ORVs. The resolution did not request a change to the policy opposing use of mountain bikes in wilderness, wilderness study areas, or other fragile areas. The intent was that they should be considered separately from motorized vehicles, while still recognizing that they are often not appropriate on trails.

The next SWRCC meeting will be held Jan 17-18 in Tuscon, where the SWRCC budget will be set for 1987 and new officers elected. ★

## REAGAN VETOES CLEAN WATER BILL AND EFFICIENCY STANDARDS BILL

Despite widespread support, President Reagan has vetoed two important pieces of legislation.

On Nov 6, Reagan announced he would not sign the Clean Water Act Reauthorization, passed unanimously by the House and Senate at the end of the 99th Congress. Reagan pocket-vetoed the bill, claiming the cost of the legislation "exceeds acceptable levels."

The bill would have provided \$18 billion through FY 1984 for construction of sewage treatment plants and for a transition program to help states after federal funding ends. The states face a 1988 EPA deadline to upgrade treatment facilities. About 4,800 plants nationwide do not meet current federal standards.

The bill was the product of four years of hard work. It had the backing of EPA and pollution control officials of all 50 states.

Reagan also pocket-vetoed the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act of 1986. He complained that the bill "intrudes unduly on the free market, limits the freedom of choice for consumers...and constitutes a substantial intrusion into traditional state responsibilities and perogatives."

The bill was the result of negotiations between major utilities, appliance manufacturers, and environmental and consumer groups. It would have set energy standards for major appliances, reducing energy consumption by 15-25%, saving consumer dollars, and settling industry dissatisfaction with inconsistent state standards.

Rep. Edward Markey (D-MA), sponsor of the bill in the House, said the president's veto represented "a triumph of extreme right-wing ideology over practicality and common sense."

Supporters of both bills vowed to bring the bills back in the upcoming 100th Congress. If the bills are passed earlier in the session, Congress will have a good chance of overriding a veto. This year, they were passed so late in the session that Congress had already adjourned when Reagan let the bills die by ignoring them. Presumably, if we ignore the problems of water pollution and unnecessary energy consumption, they too will go away! ★



## SAVE THE BOSQUE

by Nathan Gifford, Secretary  
Corrales Bosque Advisory Commission

excerpted from *Sierra Club Wildline*

The 400-acre Corrales Bosque Nature Preserve, a joint project of the Nature Conservancy and the Village of Corrales, protects for posterity one of the finest surviving remnants of the once extensive middle Rio Grande broadleaf woodland, an endangered and irreplaceable native Southwest ecosystem.

The Corrales Bosque, and also the sensitive riverside Bosque within the Rio Grande State Park between Corrales and the Oxbow wilderness area just below the old University of Albuquerque, is seriously threatened by an ill-considered proposal by the US Army Corps of Engineers to enlarge the western levee along the Rio Grande. To get sufficient dirt for the levee work, the Army Corps' proposal calls for the digging of massive "borrow pits" every two miles along the 12.5-mile stretch of the river, extracting nearly 800,000 cubic yards of soil from the Bosque floor.

The huge borrow pits, the extensive clearing of vegetation, and the building of construction roadways for earth hauling within the Bosque would seriously segment the fragile cottonwood forest, resulting in several small, isolated blocks of woodland where once stood a continuous, uninterrupted riverside forest. As proposed, the Army Corps' project would destroy the essential continuity and unacceptably stress the regenerative capacity of the native cottonwood forest ecosystem.

The Corps' proposal has sparked a statewide petition drive that has reached mandate proportions in the Corrales area and has gained the enthusiastic support of environmentalists throughout New Mexico. Although the proposal has been challenged in Congress (as well as in Corrales) as unnecessary and wasteful, the "Save the Bosque" Petition merely asks that borrow pits not be dug in the Rio Grande Bosque (suggesting that fill material for any needed levee work can and should be brought in from outside the Bosque area).

When complete, the petition will be presented to the members of the New Mexico Congressional delegation before Congress reconvenes in January. Although an authorization bill has already passed Congress, the petition is expected to influence upcoming appropriations affecting actual construction monies for the Corps' proposal.

If you are interested in working to help save the Bosque, please contact Nathan Gifford, Corrales Bosque Advisory Commission, PO Box 117, Corrales, NM 87048. ★

## EID TO HOLD HEARINGS ON AIRBORNE POLLUTANTS

by Patty Adam, Santa Fe

At press time, the Environmental Improvement Division (EID) was scheduled to hold a hearing on airborne toxic and hazardous pollutants. The hearing was to be held Dec 2-4 in Santa Fe.

The federal EPA has at present set standards for less than twenty of the estimated 60,000 chemical products available for use. Although the NM legislature limited state air quality laws to the lower standards of federal ones at a recent session, the EPA has now turned development of these programs back to the state.

Toxic emissions are produced from a wide variety of sources, ranging from tail-pipe emissions, metal processing, use of solvents, and manufacturing, to the burning of wood in stoves.

The EID has little data on existing emissions of airborne pollutants within the state. The regulations will establish a process for registration and control of these pollutants, which increasingly present a risk to public health.

Further information can be obtained from the EID at (505)827-0075. ★

## SIERRA CLUB TO SPONSOR TRIP TO CHINA AND PAKISTAN

The Sierra Club National Outing Program announces a rare and exciting adventure in Northern Pakistan and Western China scheduled for July 12 through August 10, 1987. The Swat-Hunza-Kashgar Trek (Trip #965) offers the best that photography can capture in two culturally and historically diverse worlds.

The entire trip is divided into three segments: a nine-day trek through the Vale of Swat over two high mountain passes; a four-wheel drive traverse through Gilgit, the legendary Hunza, and over 16,000' Khunjerab Pass to Kashgar, a city of the colorful past of camel caravans and Sunday bazaars; and a five-day trek across the mighty Batura Glacier, amidst a grand meeting of the Earth's highest mountain ranges...the Himalaya, the Karakoram, the Pamir, and the Hindu Kush.

Both treks will be supported by porters to carry personal and group gear, with a professional kitchen crew to prepare meals. Comfortable accommodations will be provided while the group is between treks.

For full trip description, cost, and an application form to a life-time adventure, contact the Trip Leader, Bud Bollock, 1906 Edgewood Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94303; phone (415)326-3301. Leader approval is required. ★

## CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

by Dan Jones, Socorro

The chapter awards are used to give greater recognition to those members who, as volunteers, have given their time, talents, and devotion to service of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club. Our many members actively involved in conservation and chapter work receive no pay for their time and energy, without which there would be no chapter. The awards program on the chapter level, as on the national level, is intended to provide a mechanism whereby the chapter may thank these members for their contributions.

Any member may nominate an individual for a chapter award, and all members are encouraged to nominate members who stand out in their mind as likely candidates for an award. To make a nomination, please obtain a nomination form from Dan Jones (301-1/2 Park St., Socorro, NM 87801); or send the following information to Dan on any piece of paper: name and address of nominee; name of award; accomplishments/services which qualify the nominee for the chapter award; your name, address, and club position (if any); and the date.

The awards which will be presented to the selected nominee(s) are:

\* ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR  
Honors a member who has shown dynamic leadership and competence in furthering the preservation of the environment.

\* SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
Honors a special service or accomplishment by a member, committee, regional group, or combination.

\* EXCELLENCE IN SUPPORT OF  
RIO GRANDE CHAPTER  
Honors one or more members who have demonstrated professional competence in performance of support activities of the Rio Grande Chapter (such as fundraising, recruitment, organization, newsletter editing, media work, etc.).

\* PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD OF THE  
RIO GRANDE CHAPTER  
Honors a member who has made material contributions to the public awareness of the Sierra Club and of the issues of concern to the Club.

\* OUTING LEADERSHIP AWARD  
Honors a member for innovative and dynamic leadership and excellence in organizing and administering the outings program of the Club.

Please return your nominations to Dan Jones (address above) before Jan 1, 1987. ★

## TESTERS SOUGHT FOR ThingList

Are there any owners of IBM PCs (or compatibles) who might be willing to "beta test" a program called "ThingList"? The software developer is Ken Bergeron of Albuquerque, and he characterizes it as follows:

"ThingList keeps track of things in alphabetical order. People who do not use ThingList to order their experiences (bird siting, fish catches, etc.) lead chaotic and unrewarding lives."

Ken is interesting in hearing from a few people who would be willing to try ThingList on their own PCs for their own applications, and who would agree to provide written comments and suggestions.

In exchange for their assistance these "beta testers" will receive the release software free of charge. After release, the software will be available only from the Sierra Club, to whom Ken is donating ThingList.

For more information, contact Ken Bergeron at (505) 292-7109. ★

## THERE ARE NOW FIVE BILLION OF US

Since most, if not all, environmental problems are caused by human pressures, the news that we are now 5 billion strong on this planet is not welcome.

It took millions of years for the Earth's human population to reach 1 billion, in about 1830. Within a mere 100 years, the population doubled to 2 billion. By 1960, there were 3 billion; and by 1975, there were 4 billion. We have grown 20% in the 11 years since then.

According to Rupert Cutler, executive director of Population-Environment Balance, "Five billion probably puts the world population about at its carrying capacity. It will be difficult to feed, clothe, shelter, and employ many more people at more than a subsistence level of life."

The Sierra Club has a different vision for the Earth. The Club believes that population stabilization in this country and around the world is an essential part of any effort to protect the environment, sustain the ability of the Earth to support life, and enhance the quality of life for human beings. The Club's Population and Growth Policy Program invites you to participate actively in the Sierra Club's efforts to achieve population stabilization. Subscriptions to the Population Report are available free upon request from the Director, Population and Growth Policy Program, Sierra Club, 730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109. ★

## ★ ★ **Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee Election** ★ ★

The Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club consists of nine members elected at large, each for a term of three years, plus one member appointed by each of the groups.

The elected members currently serving on the ExCom are: Dan Jones, John Hamilton (replaced Carol Cochran), John Somers (replaced John Colburn), Jack Kenney, Les King, Hal Reynolds, Ben Zerby, Hank Taylor, and Ned Sudborough. ExCom members delegated by three of the groups are: Tom Brasfield (El Paso), Nick Nicolaus (Albuquerque), and John Pierpont (Santa Fe).

The terms of elected members of the ExCom are staggered so that only three members' terms expire each year. The expiring positions this year are held by Dan Jones, John Hamilton, and John Somers. In addition, Ned Sudborough has resigned from the ExCom, leaving us with four empty positions going into 1987.

Which brings us to the question of electing someone to fill those positions. We have some excellent candidates, thanks to the work of the nominating committee (Guy Trujillo, Bettina Caffrey, Katie Parker, Janet Peacock, and Rollin Wickenden). Our candidates statements appear below.

Please take the time to read the statements and vote! Last year, only a handful of ballots were received from the membership. Why not take some time to let us know that you care about the vitality of the Chapter and, consequently, of the Club? These are the folks who have to lead the Sierra Club through whatever environmental crises may be looming on the horizon.

But vote for only four of these candidates. The four who receive the most votes will be designated ExCom members. Given the qualifications of all of our candidates, this could be your most difficult decision all day!

After you make your decision, mark the ballot on page 12 and cut and fold the ballot according to the directions on page 11. Joint members should mark the ballot separately (provisions for keeping votes confidential are incorporated in the ballot).

Once you've finished with the ballot, we ask you to perform one last service--affix the proper postage (\$0.22) and mail the ballot.

Now all of this may sound like a lot of trouble. Studies show that we might get more response from the membership if we had a separate ballot and envelope, rather than the cut-and-fold puzzle we have adopted. But then we would have to spend your money sending you a separate piece of paper. With a mailing of 3000, it is easy to see why we opt to consolidate mailings, save your money for better uses, and rely on you to take a minute and spend two bits in order to let your ExCom members know you support and appreciate their work.

### ★ ★ **CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS** ★ ★

#### *Dan Jones, Socorro*

##### Background

Life member of Sierra Club since 1960. Executive Committee member, Rio Grande Chapter, 1984 to present; Chapter Conservation Chairman 1984 and 1986; Southwest Regional Conservation Committee Delegate 1984-1986; Chapter Awards Committee Chairman 1985-1986; Chapter Vice Chairman 1986. Age 47, occupation-physicist, New Mexico Tech, Socorro.

##### Statement

The Sierra Club functions on the strength of its volunteers. It is important to recognize the work of these volunteers and to encourage interested members to join their ranks. Future chapter retreats such as the one held this past May are one way to get members inspired and to help prepare them for an active role in the conservation work of the chapter. The need is real, for every one of the conservation priorities of the Sierra Club on the national level is an active issue in the Rio Grande Chapter area. If reelected to the Chapter Executive Committee I will continue to contribute what I can to the work of the chapter and to encourage more members to join in our efforts to maintain and improve the environment. Clean air and water, and public land issues are of particular interest to me. I encourage all members to attend Executive Committee meetings when the committee meets in their area.★

#### *Kay Grotbeck, Albuquerque*

As a previous chairperson of the Albuquerque Group, I have been involved in every aspect of a group's operation including planning, fundraising, volunteer development, issue promotion, and program. I would expect to use this management experience as a member of the Chapter Executive Committee. I have worked on a variety of issues, including clean air, toxics and "Right to Know" legislation, sludge disposal, water conservation, and state legislative issues. Most recently, I have concentrated on making the Sierra Club a force in the political arena.

I believe that an important function of the Chapter is to foster the growth and vitality of each of the groups. This can be done by offering leadership training, providing resource materials, offering guidance on Club policy, and quickly disseminating information. The Chapter should coordinate group involvement in state conservation issues. If elected, I would lead in providing service to the groups to make the Club more effective on each priority issue. ★

#### *Gary Williams, El Paso*

##### Background

Age 34; Director of Community Resources for the United Way of El Paso County.

I consider El Paso home, but I had the opportunity to live in Japan, Panama, and Taiwan while growing up. Prior to returning to El Paso in 1983 I attended Graduate school at the University of Utah (M.S.W.) and then spent three years working for the Southeastern Utah Association of Governments as Director of Social Services.

Sierra Club member for three years. I have served on the Executive Committee since 1984 and have been group Chair since August, 1984. I have been actively involved with the BLM wilderness study process both in New Mexico and while living in Southeastern Utah. I lead outings on a regular basis and have spent considerable time hiking throughout New Mexico and Southeastern Utah.

##### Philosophy

The Sierra Club has always represented the most viable means by which individuals can collectively have an impact on environmental issues. I am especially interested in regional issues such as public land use, but also the impacts of growing urban centers on air quality, water conservation, and unrestrained development. As an executive committee member I would be prepared to invest the time and energy necessary toward ensuring that the club continues to be an effective route to solutions. ★



*Norman Martin, Alamogordo*

I have lived in New Mexico since 1942. I was raised in and went to school in Carlsbad and have lived in Clovis, Artesia and Albuquerque before moving to Alamogordo where I currently reside.

I am manager of Apaca Inc. Moving and Storage in Alamogordo, a business that is labor intensive and has minimal effect on the environment.

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1982. I have also been a member of such groups as the National Wildlife Federation, The Nature Conservancy and New Mexico Citizens For Clean Air and Water.

In the fall of 1982 I was responsible for establishing the Tularosa Group of the Sierra Club. I was the first group chairman and have served three terms as Chairman. I have also been vice chairman, wildlife chair, membership chair and served as newsletter editor.

I have served on the Chapter Executive Committee and for a time I served as Chapter membership chair.

I believe the greatest challenge to the Sierra Club is educating the public to the existing environmental concerns. The Chapter ExCom is primarily committed to the selection of the most critical of the environmental concerns and the funding of these concerns. My business experience and previous service on the ExCom as well as my overall environmental experience, I believe, qualifies me for the ExCom. ✦

*Isaac C. Eastvold, Albuquerque*

Member since 1973. Conservation Chairman for San Geronio Chapter, CA, 1978-1985. Environmental awards include: State of California Natural Resources Stewardship Award of Merit, 1978; Sierra Club Joe Momeyer Chapter Conservation Award, 1981; City of Riverside Mayoral Proclamation, 1985; and City of Albuquerque City Council Proclamation, 1986.

Coming from the fastest growing part of southern California to another fast-developing area like Albuquerque, many of the issues are identical: air and water pollution, poor land use planning, loss of agricultural lands, and endangered cultural and natural resources. BLM and Forest Service issues are also similar. I have concentrated my efforts on air quality and open space issues, particularly preserving the West Mesa escarpment with its array of over 10,500 examples of Indian and Hispanic rock art, bringing a coalition of groups together to fight poorly-planned developments which threaten the area. At Senator Domenici's request, I authored a Conceptual Proposal for a new National Monument on the West Mesa, blending economic incentives and environmental preservation within a framework of inter-governmental acquisition and management. The Park Service is now drafting legislation along these lines for introduction in Congress next year.

I would like the opportunity to work with the ExCom and see if my successful approach to environmental preservation on the West Mesa might also work in other areas throughout the state. It strikes me that many outstanding natural and cultural areas have not received the status and protection they deserve, either as new wilderness, units of the National or State Park systems, or locally-managed open space areas. An inventory of outstanding cultural and natural areas needs to be compiled and prioritized for different approaches to protection. I would also like to examine various fiscal approaches to funding a permanent Conservation Coordinator staff position for our Chapter who would be responsible for training and involving volunteers in implementing these statewide priorities. ✦

*Nick Nicolaus, Albuquerque*

Background

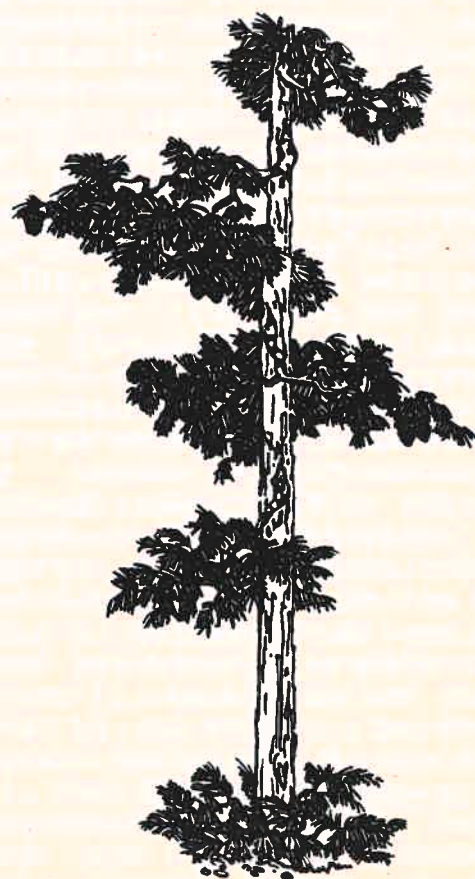
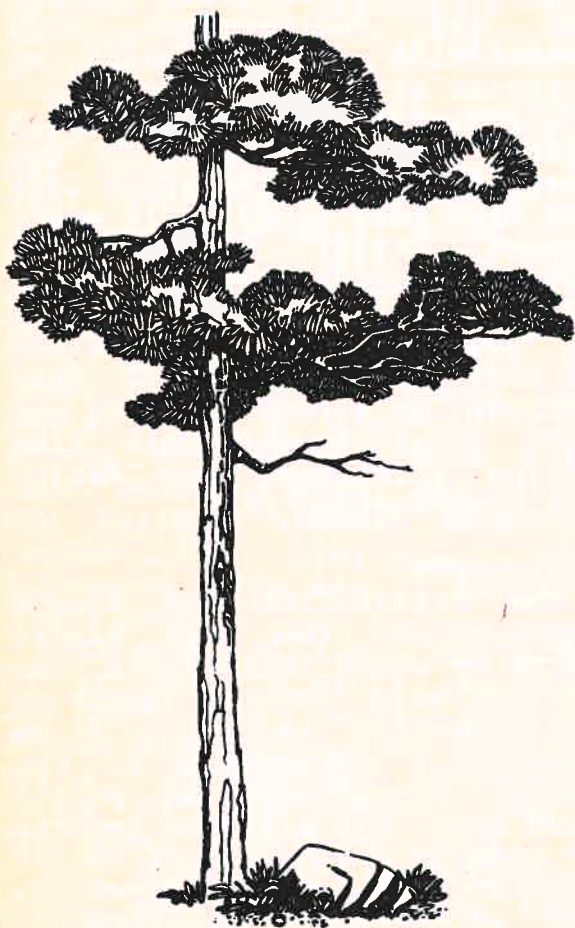
NM resident for 20 years. Sierra Club member since 1972.

Have served as Outings chair, literature salesperson, group wildlife chair, group excom member 1977-81, group chair 1977 and 1980, chapter excom member, SWRCC representative. Currently excom member, group and chapter. Participant in Oxbow battle begun 1976, in first Alaska Wildlands hearings in Denver, in proposed Intermountain Power Project at Capitol Reefs, in reconstruction of Sandia Crest Hwy. Organized original cooperative agreement between Sierra Club and Forest Service for Adopt-A-Trail Program on Embudito Trail, and organized trail maintenance for first 3 years.

Philosophy

Although the Environmental Movement has changed dramatically since I first became a Sierra Club member, one thing has not changed: the Albuquerque group as well as the Chapter revolves around a few working activists. There is a need for more new faces (minds) to input more new ideas and energy. This year is particularly taxing to our resources with the additional task of helping in the Brant Calkin campaign.

My involvement, now and in the future, includes wilderness areas, excessive logging and road building in our National forests, wildlife issues, and clean air. I am particularly interested in the Malpais National Monument proposal and would work towards congressional approval of this area in 1987. The Malpais is a unique volcanic area we must preserve. ✦



### Cooke's Range Wilderness Study Area

Cooke's Range WSA is located 15 miles north of Deming in Luna County. Legal access is available on the east, west, and southwest boundaries via County Roads A019, A008, and A016, respectively.

The summit of Cooke's Peak rises over 3,600 feet above the surrounding plains to an elevation of 8,404 feet and can be seen from I-10, US 180, Deming, Las Cruces, and City of Rocks State Park.

Naturalness, Solitude, and Recreation: Although the BLM intensive inventory identified a number of intrusions including ways, rangeland improvements, evidence of historic mining activities, and a trespass telephone line, the WSA generally appears natural. The major topographic features are virtually pristine. The rugged canyons and steep ridges have restricted man's imprints to the periphery of the WSA with only minor development within the range itself. The ways generally have insignificant impacts due to vegetative and topographic screening. Even the cherry stemmed roads and the rangeland improvements at the end of them are substantially unnoticeable.

The combination of ridges and drainages creates dramatic



croppings. In the south, the WSA becomes less precipitous, giving way to rolling hills cut by deep canyons.

The cultural and historic component of Cooke's Range is the most significant of all the WSAs in the Las Cruces District. A major petroglyph site in the southeast portion of the WSA contain Mogollon style designs of crosses, abstracts, masks, lizards, plumed serpent, and

COOKE'S RANGE (NM-030-031)  
WSA ACREAGE: 19,608  
BLM RECOMMENDATION: 0  
COALITION PROPOSAL: 23,848  
BLM: 19,658  
STATE: 4,190

#### DESCRIPTION AND RATIONALE OF DIFFERENCES:

The primary reason for BLM's negative recommendation for Cooke's Range WSA appears to be potential mining conflicts. As of April 15, 1986, there were 92 mining claims recorded with the BLM inside the WSA. Only 10 of these minings claims, however, are pre-FLPMA. In the analysis of the all-wilderness alternative, BLM found that the 10 valid mining claims could be explored and developed without destroying the wilderness values of the area, but costs would likely be higher.

Given the high potential for undeveloped minerals that exists outside the WSA, the Coalition feels that the wilderness values of Cooke's Range WSA far exceed the potential minerals values within the area. It should also be pointed out that if a critical need for

# The Rio Grande SIERRAN



THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Fall 1986



Photo by Jim Fish

Cerro Parido In Ignacio Chavez Wilderness Study Area

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- Focus on Cook's Range Wilderness Study Area
- A Bill to Cut down on Garbage
- Update on El Malpais and Other BLM Wilderness



BALLOT FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION