

# The Rio Grande SIERRAN



THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

March/April 1986

## A MAJOR STEP FOR EL MALPAIS

by John Somers, Albuquerque

Many and varied were the voices speaking in support of protection for El Malpais at the Congressional field hearing held in Grants on March 26. Rep. John Seiberling (D-OH) chaired the afternoon hearing after touring the area by helicopter that morning.

Rep. Bill Richardson (D-NM), author of the El Malpais National Monument bill (H.R. 3684), accompanied Seiberling as a member of the U.S. House Public Lands Subcommittee. Towards the end of the day, Congressman Seiberling congratulated Richardson on introducing a bill which received such widely-based support and virtually no strong objection.

Officials of the State of New Mexico, representing the Govern-

nor's office, the Department of Energy and Minerals, and the State Historical Preservation Office, voiced their support for the National Monument bill. Additionally, the City of Grants and the local Chamber of Commerce were supportive.

Bill Luscher, State Director of the Bureau of Land Management, expressed his agency's willingness to manage the area as National Monument and Wilderness in accordance with the bill, assuming adequate funding is provided by Congress.

Sierra Club support was presented by George Grossman and by Jack Kinney, Rio Grande Chapter Chair. The Sierra Club's position, like that of the Wilderness Society, the New Mexico BLM Wilderness Study Committee, and the New Mexico

BLM Wilderness Coalition, was to support the National Monument with certain modifications. These were outlined in a map and testimony presented by Jan Cummings and John Somers. The map depicted a proposed Monument boundary slightly larger than the that previously circulated by Richardson's office. The additional acreage, primarily on the southeastern edge of the Monument area, was proposed following extensive field checking by Jan and others over the past several months.

The second distinguishing feature of the conservationist groups' position consists of calling for immediate Wilderness designation for the Monument area east of Highway 117,

*see El Malpais, page 9*



*El Malpais Lava Flow from the Sandstone Bluffs*

*Photo by Dick Ruddy*

**WILDLIFE REPORT**

by Carol Cochran, Albuquerque

Mountain Lion:

Those who attended the February 27 meeting of the New Mexico State Game Commission had an unpleasant experience in the twilight zone which left them with little faith in the rationality of public officials. For about an hour, game commissioners listened to both sides of the mountain lion question--to those who wanted a reduced or eliminated season due to uncertainty about the health of the mountain lion population and to those who wanted an expanded season with more opportunity to kill. The Sierra Club opposed the current four-month season and asked for a moratorium or at least a shortened season. Our reasons were the same as they have been for the last three years: because no one knows anything about mountain lion numbers, the most responsible action would be to interfere as little as possible with mountain lion populations--thus, there should be no hunting or very little.

A good number of Sierra Club members showed up and gave clear and logical arguments for this position. We were supported by the Audubon Society. This year we had other allies as well: the Game Department recommended shortening the season to three months, and the sportsmen, as represented by the N.M. Wildlife Federation, also recommended the three-month season. Few ranchers showed up. That left only the guides and outfitters--a small, special interest group which makes its living killing animals--to argue for maintaining or lengthening the season. In the end, the Game Commission unanimously decided to maintain the four-month season. Thus they formed a partnership with the outfitters, in opposition to conservationists, sportsmen, and wildlife professionals.

Why the Game Commission chose this wierd alliance is anyone's guess. The Commissioners gave no reasons which held up under analysis. Their decisions seemed to be motivated by some sort of politics within the Commission--something we're powerless to do much about since the situation is beyond our control and understanding.

Those individuals who wrote letters to the Commission or came to Santa Fe can feel proud of their efforts and take comfort in the fact that we did just about all we could. An irrational Commission is beyond us. Perhaps we should be thankful the season wasn't extended.

The Commission will probably be replaced when a new administration comes into power. Realizing that, they moved next year's big game regulation meeting from February 1987 to October 1986. So, fairly soon, we'll have another chance to lobby for the mountain lion. But a new strategy is clearly in order. We'd be happy to hear comments or suggestions. Write or call Carol Cochran (see directory, page 5.)

Mexican Wolf:

The Wildlife Committee received a \$2000 grant from the Sierra Club's Avery Wildlife Fund to put together an educational package on the Mexican wolf. Anyone interested in helping, please contact John Somers (see directory, page 5.)

Endangered Species Fair:

The second annual Endangered Species Fair will be held September 6, 1986 from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History in Albuquerque. The Wildlife Committee is now planning for the Fair, which is co-sponsored by the Museum, the NM Department of Game and Fish, and the Rio Grande Zoo and is funded by Share with Wildlife. If anyone has ideas on speakers or events or would like to help, please contact Susan Larson (505/299-3496).

Furbearer Kills:

You might be interested in how many furbearers in New Mexico were killed by trappers in 1984-85. The figures do not include animals killed by animal damage control personnel (a considerable number in the case, for example, of the coyote). In most cases, the NM Department of Game and Fish sets no limits on how many animals may be trapped. Nor does it have accurate figures on the population size of furbearer species. The figures come from the NM Department of Game and Fish Annual Report. \*

**Furbearers Killed in New Mexico in 1984-85**

SPECIES	TRAPPER PRESSURE	TOTAL PELTS TAKEN	AVERAGE PRICE PER PELT	TOTAL VALUE OF PELTS
Badger	280	809	\$ 5.36	\$ 4,336.24
Beaver	116	768	17.00	13,056.00
Bobcat	676	2,731	150.00	409,650.00
Coyote	1,209	18,717	32.50	608,302.50
Fox	1,110	8,723	27.28	237,963.44
Muskrat	133	9,515	2.94	27,974.10
Raccoon	328	1,768	14.06	24,858.08
Ringtail	206	1,324	4.71	6,326.04
Skunk	342	2,819	2.56	7,216.64
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>47,174</b>		<b>\$1,339,683.04</b>

**CLEANER AIR FOR EL PASO**

by John Hamilton, El Paso

It's been over a year since I wrote an article on air pollution in El Paso, and so I would like to bring you up to date on the happenings of the past year. There is much to make you all feel pleased.

As I reported in the January February 1985 issue of the Sierran, the situation at that time left El Paso County in violation of federal standard for ambient (all-around) air pollution in regards to ozone and carbon dioxide. The El Paso Regional Group of the Sierra Club was working as member of the El Paso Clean Air Coalition to bring about an effective I/M (inspection and maintenance) program incorporating a parameter and tailpipe emissions test for El Paso. We were convinced that this program would dramatically reduce the levels of air pollution in our community.

However, we were faced with several major obstacles to our goal of implementing an effective I/M program in El Paso:

1) the Texas Air Control Board (TACB) seemed set on pushing only for a parameter check (visual inspection of anti-pollution devices);

2) the statutes of Texas provided only for a parameter check; and

3) there was no demonstrated support for an I/M program by either the city or county governments.

It gives me special pleasure to report that WE "whupped 'em." State law now provides for both a parameter and tailpipe emissions test. The TACB has already introduced the parameter check and is preparing to introduce the tailpipe emissions test as a part of the I/M program. The city and county governments have demonstrated support for an I/M program.

Notice when I wrote "We whupped 'em", I capitalize "we" to emphasize how this battle is being won because of the multitude of people and organizations involved. I would like to give special acknowledgement of the support provided by Ken Kremer and all those folks at Lone Star, who played such a pivotal role in the legislative skirmish. The members of the El Paso Clean Air Coalition did yeoman work and deserve bouquets of roses.

While the good feelings are fine, I am reminded that the struggle is not over. We still have to see the implementation of the tailpipe emissions test in January 1987. Toward the end, the TACB conducted a public meeting January 14 in El Paso to solicit public input in regards to the standards and requirements of the tailpipe emissions test. We feel it was

## WILDERNESS ETHICS

Edited by Jim Fish, Placitas

The purpose of this column is to provoke discussion. So far, however, the responses have been rather sparse. In an attempt to stir up some of you out there on an issue which I feel is important, I asked Tom Mayer, a mountain bike enthusiast, to share some of his thoughts with us.

Mountain bikes have been outlawed from most wilderness areas. Yet, large pack trains, which can wreck havoc on trails, are allowed. What are your feelings on this? Should bikes be allowed? Should horses be banned? Should there be permitting systems to limit the number of both? \*

Send comments and contributions for *Wilderness Ethics* to: Jim Fish, P.O. Box 712, Placitas, NM 87043

### A MOUNTAIN BIKER'S PERSPECTIVE

by Tom Mayer, Albuquerque

My love of the mountains and nature began at the age of five when my family moved to southern Colorado where I enjoyed the privilege of living in the mountains. Hiking and camping became favorite pastimes of mine. There was always the desire to go one more mile and to see what was around the next bend; and with it often came sore feet.

As a way to overcome some of my limitations without compromising the serenity of nature, I began building bicycles for trail riding in 1963 and have been at it ever since. Today's mountain bikes are a vast improvement over those early beginnings. They provide us some freedoms not allotted by foot travel, without the negative impacts of horses.



Pearl Pass on a Mountain Bike



Photos by Tom Mayer

We are able to travel and explore without the sore feet or the neckaches or the backaches that are all too common when carrying a backpack.

As we grow older, our free time seems to become more and more limited. Those few hours are very precious and I utilize them to their maximum potential. The mountain bike is a natural tool. I can experience a trip in a weekend that may have taken a week on foot. On the bikes, my friends and I cover 25 miles a day regularly, with ease. Occasionally, we cover over 50 miles in a day. There are so many places to go and see on this planet no one person could begin to see them all. We ride nearly every weekend, except when the snow is good for x-c skiing. We tend to go somewhere different each time and, with a few favorite exceptions, may not go on the same trip more than every couple of years.

Being able to travel further makes finding drinking water much easier and allows us to go to areas we would probably not consider for hiking.

One of the great pleasures is the wildlife that we see. Because the bikes are very quiet we see more game than when hiking. The animals seem to watch us with intrigue rather than bolting off before we get more than a glimpse.

I am not suggesting that mountain bikes will replace hiking or backpacking for everyone (especially considering the cost, skill, and effort required), but as an adjunct to them as is x-c skiing or snowshoeing. Riding in rugged terrain demands endurance as well as agility and ability. Also, mechanical failure, though not common, can demand full utilization of one's resourcefulness.

When climbing a hill you must propel the 30 pounds of bike in addition to your own weight. There is a minimum amount of energy that must be expended. Drop below that level and you will be pushing instead of riding. The riding skills must become second nature, allowing you to enjoy the scenery as you glide through it, the bike an extension of your body.

With freedom comes responsibility. Though not motorized, mountain bikes are not allowed in most wilderness areas, or national parks; and as with hiking or skiing, there is a trail etiquette. The following are some guidelines we feel rather strongly about:

- 1) Ride within your ability -- medical help can be hours or even days away.
- 2) Give hikers and horsemen the right of way -- bikes are very quiet, let people know you are approaching so you don't startle them.
- 3) Don't chase animals, whether domestic or wild -- if you stop gently they will often stop and watch you.
- 4) Avoid areas with heavy foot traffic.
- 5) Reduce speed on blind corners.
- 6) Respect private property -- stay out of posted areas.
- 7) During wet weather, avoid riding in areas where there may be the possibility of leaving ruts.
- 8) If you come to deadfall or rocks, move them off the trail if you can, rather than riding around them -- stay on the road or trail.
- 9) Avoid sliding tires -- mountain bike brakes have excellent control.
- 10) Maintain the bike in top condition.

And, finally, the packers' maxim:

- 11) Pack it in; pack it out. \*

**CHAIR'S COLUMN**

by Jack Kinney, Santa Fe

Your Chapter March Fund Appeal has been mailed. We will not send individual thank-you letters to contributors, but thank you NOW.

The First Annual Chapter Retreat is planned as a fun way to meet others, to share experiences, and to learn from other volunteers. The sign-up sheet is on page 11. Please sign up. Contact your Group Chair if you need financial support.

Our spring priorities involve:

\* Clean Air--We need to educate ourselves and others. See Hank Taylor's article on page 10.

\* BLM Wilderness--We need to formulate our input to the coalition and BLM. See Jim Fish's article on page 8.

\* Forest Plans--Provide your input to your Group Forest Committee. Comment (prior to April 30) on the Santa Fe National Forest Plan.

\* El Malpais--Write your Congressman and Senator. See John Somer's article on page 1.

\* Superfund--It's not too late to write your Senator. See Fe Baran's article on page 10.

\* New Mexico EID--Talk to your local legislator in support of the Environmental Improvement Division budget.

\* SSCOPE--Support Brant Calkin! Work with the SSCOPE Committee for 1986. See Pam Brode's article on page 12 and Tom Brasfield's article on page 9.

John Colburn recently computed the area covered by the Rio Grande Chapter in New Mexico and West Texas. When divided by the number of members in the Chapter, the result is that there are over 41 square miles for each member to watch! Perhaps a better way to split up the responsibility is to ask each volunteer to adopt an issue of his/her own choice and to work on that issue in his/her own way. To keep you informed, we will periodically list current issues, as shown in the inset below. Contact your Group Chair or Group Conservation Chair if you can assist in our efforts to influence these issues. And write the Chapter Chair or Conservation Chair if you have other issues that should be added to this list. \*



**EDITOR'S NOTES**

by Dave Glowka, Tijeras

The article by Carol Cochran on page 2 touched a tender spot in me, so I decided in this column to address an issue that I have long had deep feelings about. That issue is the subject of hunting.

I think I understand some of the reasons for hunting. I grew up in a family that raised it's own meat, and that meant slaughtering the animals, cattle and poultry, that we had spent so much time feeding and caring for. That forced us as kids, who have a natural tendency to love animals on a one-on-one basis, to make an effort to stay detached from those animals. So after my first flock of chickens, which I hovered over like a mother hen, I did indeed adopt an attitude that considered the animals as meat-on-the-hoof.

Members of my family hunted deer for the couple of months of the year that it was open season. Much to my later shame, I even went through a phase of walking through the countryside where we lived and shooting any bird in sight with my BB gun. I can still remember by grandmother's disappointment with me when I shot a beautiful redbird perching in her hackberry tree.

Now, as an adult, I find it hard to kill anything. I had nightmares last time I killed a chicken. I still own a flock of chickens, but now it's for the eggs, not the meat. Although I'm not convinced that humans are naturally carnivorous, I must admit that we have been hunting and eating meat for thousands of years (this, of course, pales in significance with the millions of years that we have been evolving). I, therefore, can accept the fact that people still kill domestic and wild animals to eat them.

But killing animals for sport is something different. That activity I regard with the highest contempt. What possible satisfaction could an intelligent adult derive from killing something just to justify their trip outdoors? People don't eat mountain lions, nor are they forced by harsh conditions to wear their skins. Perhaps it's related to some antiquated belief that there is still some wilderness out there that needs to be tamed in order for us to survive.

Well, for the professional outfitters and guides and those who employ their services, I've got some shocking news. This is the 20th century. Our remaining wilderness is surrounded by paved highways and concrete and steel cities. We have no more use for your kind, if in fact, we ever needed you. It's time to grow up and stop playing "Cowboys and Indians."\*

**Chapter Conservation Issues to Watch**

New Mexico Wilderness Study Areas	BLM scoping.
Connor/Hooker Dam studies	Bureau of Reclamation
Socorro Resource Management Plan	BLM
Abiquiu and Chama Dam capacities	Corps of Engineers
National Forest Plans: Santa Fe	Comments due April 30.
Apache	Comments due May 1.
Carson	Final due in May/June.
Gila	Final due this spring.
Lincoln	Final due this spring.
Cibola	Final under appeal.
Ojo Power Line Extension	BIA EIS due in May (?).
New Mexico Generating Station	Under study/consideration.
Navajo land selections near Bisti	Under study/consideration.
Valle Grande management	Under study by Carson NF.
Ruidosa Airport study	Under study by FAA.
El Malpais protection	Bill under study in House; no Senate bill yet.
Air Quality	Visibility regulations; El Paso regulations; Albuquerque regulations; all currently under study.
Ortiz Gold Mine closure	Water quality oversight.
Bisti Wilderness Management Plan	Completed; BLM currently assessing public comments.
De-na-zin Wilderness Management Plan	Under study by BLM; coming soon.

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- John Hamilton
- Tom Mayer
- Jack Kinney
- Elaine Bergeron
- Pam Brode
- Tom Brasfield
- Hank Taylor
- Fe Baran
- Dick Ruddy
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**OUR EDITORIAL POLICY**

Opinions expressed in the Rio Grande Sierran are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Sierra Club or the Rio Grande Chapter unless so stated. Other organizations may use non-copyrighted materials appearing in the Sierran as long as acknowledgement is made. We welcome contributions of articles, essays, prose, poetry, photographs, drawings, and other submissions. We request that all submissions be signed and accompanied by a telephone number and address at which the author may be contacted. Send submissions to the Editor (see directory).

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Editor:

Shortly after the January meeting in Taos dealing with the Carson Forest Plan, I read in the Taos News that plans for the Sangre de Cristo Ski Area are still on the drawing board. I have been opposed to these plans since I first read about them, and it appears to me that if they are to be changed or stopped, more individuals and organizations will have to target them for specific opposition.

Only a strip mine like the Moly Mine at Questa will change the environment, and especially its looks, as much as a ski area; and the Sangre de Cristo Ski area is planned for the East side of Wheeler Peak on the edge of the Wilderness. The established ski areas close to the proposed new one provide more than enough opportunity for skiers to enjoy their sport and others to make money from them. Previously beautiful streams have been pushed aside to make way for improved roads that require considerable maintenance and are often jammed with traffic. Crowds of people flock to deep, narrow canyons to add pollution to the water, air, and sounds; and all of this is planned to be extended up another canyon in a nearly wild area.

I hope that you will see the importance of stopping and/or changing these plans.

Walton Hawk, San Cristobal

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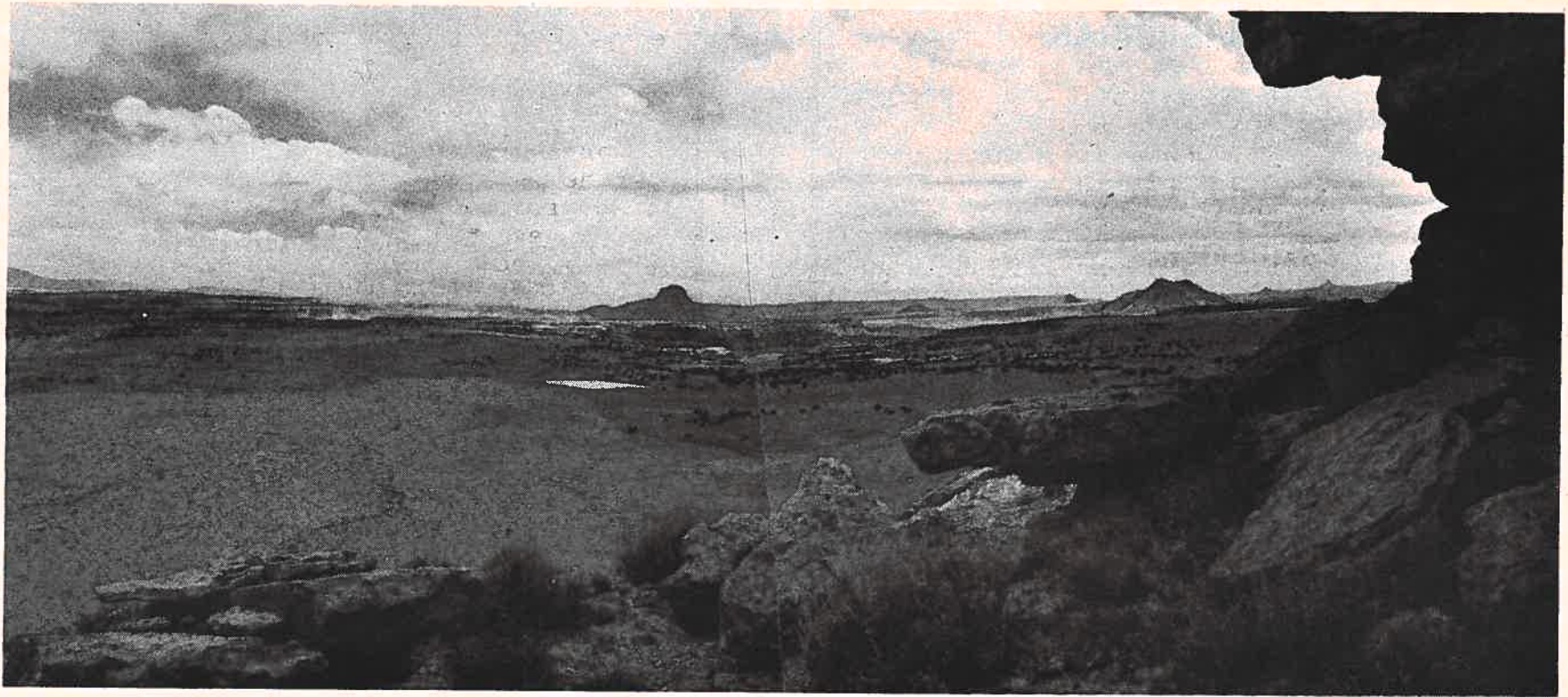
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Cabezon Peak and the Rio Puerco Valley from the Northern Mesa of La Leña WSA



Photos by Jim Fish

### TRIP REPORT:

#### La Leña Wilderness Study Area

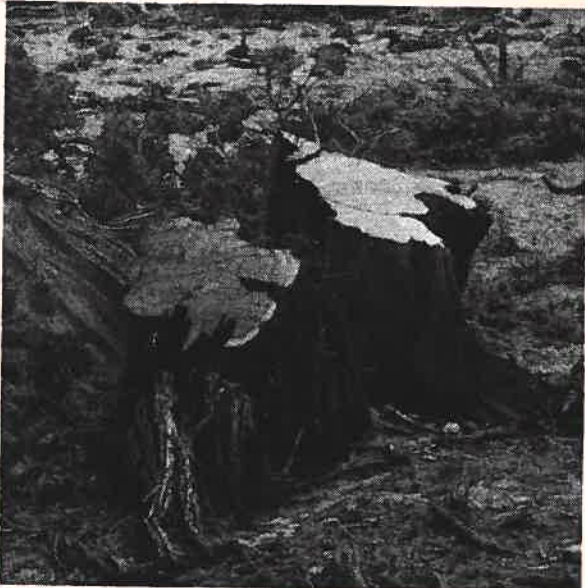
by Jim Fish, Placitas

Early afternoon, Sunday, March 16. Heavy clouds in the northwest threatening to dump late winter snow. Lighter, scattered clouds sweeping by overhead. Wind starting to pick up. Becky and I sitting on a sandstone ledge at the edge of the mesa, watching an eagle which had lifted off another ledge further down the mesa just as we topped out a few moments earlier.

It was Becky's first trip to the "Cabezon Cluster," the six WSA's in the vicinity of Cabezon Peak. I wanted to show her what has me on this activist binge. She had heard and read the words and had seen the photographs. It was time she sat on a rock and watched an eagle.

South of San Ysidro, I pointed out the turnoff to Ojito. "Limestone sculptures and soil colors that range from pure white to deep red to pastel green with endless shades of brown and yellow thrown in."

North of San Ysidro, through a momentary break in the closer



Centuries to Grow...

mesas, Cabezon Peak peeked over the distant mesas like some giant burrowing owl sneaking a glance.

Highway 44 climbed quickly and then dropped into the middle of the Rio Puerco Valley. San Luis Mesa on the right. Cerro Parido. Bear's Mouth. Mesa Chivato. An array of volcanic plugs. Cabezon Peak looming most prominently in the distant foreground.

Becky and I rattled down the road through the village of San Luis, passed the turnoff to the "Ghost-town" of Cabezon, passed the Cabezon Community Reservoir, detoured around a washed-out culvert, and turned onto the road that forms the northeast boundary of La Leña. The road skirts a deep arroyo in the bottom of La Cañada Santiago. Three to four hundred foot high bluffs along sections of the Mesa San Luis crowd the road on both sides, narrowing the canyon to a width of less than two tenths of a mile before the country opens up into the broad, rolling valley which runs east and west through the heart of La Leña. The mesa beyond this valley was our destination. On the topo maps it looks like a more rugged version of Mesa San Luis. More rugged. More isolated. Good place to find an eagle.

We parked at the high point in the road where an old two track leads west out onto the top of the mesa. Through scattered pinyons and junipers, we followed the two track to the edge of the mesa. The eagle saw us first and took to the sky.

Good lunch spot. The view from left to right: the Jemez Mountains, the Sandias, Mesa San Luis with Cabezon in the distance, the Rio Puerco Valley disappearing into the southern horizon, Mesa Chivato leaping up on the far side of Arroyo Chico, Cerro Parido marking the old stage coach stop.

After lunch, we wandered along the edge of the mesa toward the spot from which the eagle had come. Suddenly, ahead of us, I saw something that did not look right. I walked toward it. Sure enough, stump of a juniper, over a foot in diameter, cut down recently. I looked around. Tire tracks in all directions. Another stump. Another one. Two more in a wash that spills over the edge of the mesa. Another one at the edge. Twenty, maybe twenty-five large trees taken in all, most of them within a hundred yards of the edge of the mesa, within a hundred yards of the spot where the eagle had been sitting.

We documented the transgression, shook off the bumper, and continued down the mesa, around a box canyon, and to where we could see Cabezon again. Gathering clouds bade we head back. We cut across the point of the mesa directly to the truck.

In addition to the eagle and the juniper stumps, we saw countless coyote and deer track, two sets of bobcat tracks, a cottontail, a large red-tailed hawk, a sun-bleached deer antler, several harvester ant hills, a badger hole, and not a single person except each other from the time we left San Luis until we were back in the vicinity of Cabezon.

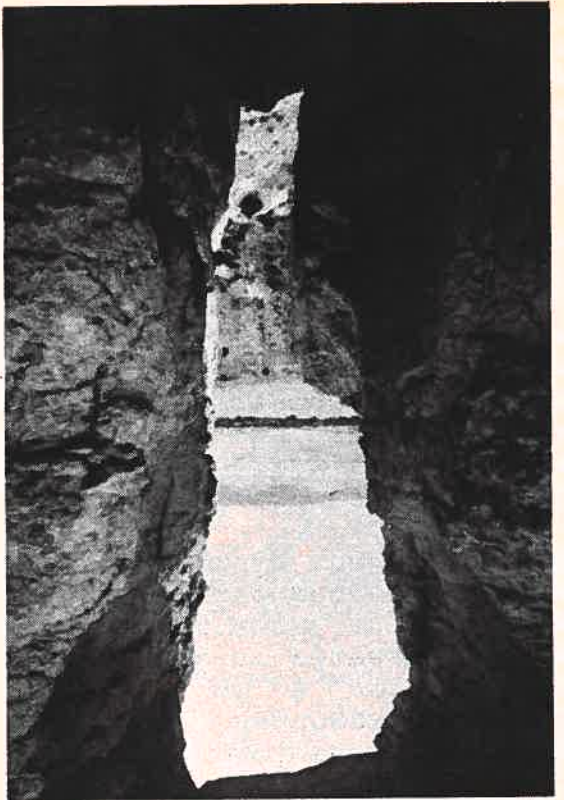
La Leña is an impressive area. I hope we can protect it before the mesa tops are denuded and the deer and the eagles have one less place to go.

La Leña is Spanish for firewood. Perhaps, at some time in the past, the mesas of La Leña provided firewood on a sustained basis for a few locals. That time was before the time of four-wheel-drive and chain saws, before Albuquerque grew a fuelwood appetite that is going to denude half the state if we are not vigilant. \*

TRIP REPORT:

Ojito Wilderness Study Area by Elaine Bergeron, Albuquerque

The first time Catherine came to the states, I took her to the Sandia Crest. It was July and the Crest was covered with red painted cups, columbines, and sunflowers. She is a gardener and an Englishwoman who had never seen the American Southwest. I felt that she needed to be shown on this first visit that the West has amenities similar to those back home. Her second visit was an opportunity to show her some of the unique desert beauty of New Mexico. Several friends recommended the Ojito Wilderness Study area which I had never seen myself. They spoke of unusual rock formations, canyons, a mesa to climb, and excellent views from the mesa top. Ojito fulfilled the promise, and more. The February day was warm and overcast. About an hour out of Albuquerque, we crossed the deep arroyo east of Bernalillo to Mesa and knew we were almost there. We topped out, turned the corner, and parked. Although from the road the mesa looked no different from any of the number of steep-sided mesas we had been seeing from the road since we left Highway 44, our perspective was soon to change. We walked across the plain slightly northward and toward the mesa, so that we could encircle it. The desert plants were growing in clumps and crunched underfoot. We were tiptoeing through them, they seemed so fragile. Before long we met up with a primitive dirt road going in much the same direction as us and followed it. The road quickly led us into unusual terrain -- severely eroded rocks in regions with red-twigged bushes sometimes growing right in the middle of them, patches of green and red and brown rocky



On the way back to the car, Catherine, in understated British fashion, declared that it had been "quite a nice walk." I was already planning my next visit to Ojito.

The walk across the mesa top was uneventful. This is ordinary desert land. Some bleached cow bones and a blooming purple vetch were our biggest excitement away from the rim of the mesa. The rim, on the other hand, is frightening. The rocks there are broken and unstable, overhung in many places. We had to go almost to the southern end of the mesa before we found a place to descend through another break in the cliff and another soft, steep, crumbling scree field. On the way back to the car, Catherine, in understated British fashion, declared that it had been "quite a nice walk." I was already planning my next visit to Ojito.

Photos by Elaine Bergeron



earth, a stranded stand of ponderosa pines, always a myriad of contrasting color. The road disappeared and for the next mile or so we scrambled over rocks trying to gain the mesa by circling the northern edge. To the northeast, the ground falls away from the mesa into rugged ravines. Five hundred to a thousand feet below us, we could see four people and a dog wandering through these ravines. Further on, the northern slope offers a wide, open panorama of gentle desert valleys, distant mesas, the Jemez Mountains, and a stunning view of Cabezón Peak.

The ascent to the mesa top could have been discouraging to less ardent hikers. We scrambled over steep, soft, and unstable scree fields until we were on the western face of the mesa at the very bottom of the cliffs that guard, like a last fortification, the mesa top. To the west and south were steep canyons between long sloping fingers of cliff-ringed mesa top. We started to despair of finding a break through the cliff -- a descent from there would be difficult and the walk around the fingers would take hours -- but we finally found a curious ramp cutting into the cliff and climbing behind it. A short time later we were on top of the mesa.

CHAPTER OUTINGS

Cabezón Peak

Date: Sat.-Sun., May 3-4

Place: Cabezón Peak and Surrounding WSA's

Leader: Jim Fish, 867-3062

Saturday will be mostly a working outing to familiarize people interested in contributing their efforts to preservation of these six areas.

On Sunday, Jim will lead up to 10 people to the top of Cabezón Peak. On Saturday, meet at 9:00 at the Circle K in San Ysidro. On Sunday, meet at 10:00 at the Ridge Road turn off on Road 279 (the dirt road off 44 which goes through San Luis to Cabezón). We intend to camp on Mesa Chivato on Saturday night if anyone wishes to join us. Bring plenty of water.

Mount Withington

Date: Sat.-Sun., April 26-27

Place: San Mateo Mountains

Leader: Don Krider, 522-5792

This carcamp/dayhike outing is for both hikers and non-hikers. Depart from Mesilla Valley Mall (between Sears and Cinema 4) in Las Cruces at 2:30 PM on Saturday, April 26. For those coming from north of Socorro, contact Don for a more convenient meeting location. Camp overnight at either Hughes Mill Campground (8200 ft) or Bear Trap Campground (8600 ft) on New Mexico 52 underneath 10,119 ft Mt. Withington. Sunday, drive up to the Mt. Withington Lookout, overlooking the VLA Array on the Plains of San Augustin. At about 10 AM, drive through alpine forests to Grassy Outlook (9514 ft). Here the sitters may sit, the strollers may stroll, and the hikers may trek a loop on the fabulous San Mateo Crest Trail.

Black Range Crest

Date: Sat.-Sun., May 31-June 1

Place: Black Range

Leaders: Don Krider (522-5792) and Chet Warwick (894-6427)

The Southwest New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club will do voluntary trail maintenance for the U.S. Forest Service during this outing. Our mission is to clear the Pretty Canyon Trail and Sid's Prong Trail. The trailhead is one mile north of Boardgate Saddle and 1-3/4 miles south of McKnight Mt. (10,165 ft). Come and join the fun and enjoy some exotic scenery and the Aldo Leopold wilderness.

## WILDERNESS WORKSHOP GETS THE BALL ROLLING

By Jim Fish, Placitas

On Saturday, March 1, about 30 people attended a New Mexico BLM Wilderness Coalition workshop in Socorro. The purpose of the workshop was to get organized for the work that remains in putting together a Coalition proposal for BLM wilderness. Timing is critical. The BLM is currently preparing a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the New Mexico Statewide Wilderness Study and Wilderness Analysis Reports (WAR's) for the 8 WSA's that were recently reinstated. The DEIS and the WAR's are scheduled for release in September 1986. By starting now, not only will we be in a position to respond quickly and effectively during the public comment period next fall, but also we may be able to influence the recommendations that BLM makes.

After Judy Bishop opened the meeting with a brief history of the Coalition, an update on El Malpais was given by John Somers, Jim Norton (The Wilderness Society), and Rob Smith (Sierra Club). The discussion on El Malpais was continued in the afternoon and led to a unanimous decision to support the Richardson bill calling for National Monument status for El Malpais with amendments to include the four roadless Rimrock and Sand Canyon areas to the southeast and to specify wood cutting and off-road vehicular use as activities not allowed in the monument.

The rest of the workshop focused on the preparation of the Coalition proposal for a statewide wilderness bill. The 52 WSA's were divided into logical groups, and the various groups assigned to coordinators.

### BLM WSA Coordinators

- Steve Marlatt and Gary Williams  
22 WSA's in Las Cruces - Lordsburg Resource Area and Roswell District
- Carl Popp and Paul Krehbille  
13 WSA's in Socorro Resource Area
- Jan Cummings  
Petaca Pinta and 4 WSA's southeast of El Malpais
- Roger Peterson  
4 WSA's in the Taos area
- John Somers  
El Malpais
- Dave Glowka  
Ah-shi-sle-pah
- Jim Fish  
6 WSA's of "Cabezon Cluster"



Natural Arch

Drawing by Walter Graf

Steve Marlatt led a discussion for standardizing both our mapping and our comments on the areas. The package for each area will consist of four sections. The first section will be a one-page summary. The second section will contain maps of the area showing boundaries and land status in detail. The maps should include one with a scale of 1/2 inch to the mile for the body of the proposal and 7-1/2 or 15 minute USGS topographic maps for documenting field work and conflict resolution. The third section of the package will be an acreage summary comparing the BLM proposal with the Coalition proposal. The final section will be photographs of the area. Each should be dated and keyed to the maps. At least one high quality 8X10 color photograph should be included.

At the end of the day, the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee held a brief annual meeting which was well attended because Jim Stewart barred the door and would not let anyone from the Coalition meeting leave. Jim stressed the importance of remembering, in the midst of the BLM excitement, that there is also Forest Service wilderness needing attention. The meeting closed after election of new officers for the Study Committee: Roger Peterson as President, Jim Stewart as Vice President, Jan Cummings as Secretary, and Cowan Collings as Treasurer. Overall, the day was a huge success. We did get organized and we did get excited. Much work remains, but we have a good start. We have already seen that a few people doing lots of work can indeed make a difference. Let's keep the ball in our court. To do that, we now need all the help we can get. If every member of the Rio Grande Chapter picked one WSA and spent a weekend working on it, the result would be overwhelming. What we need more than anything else is field work, and field work is the fun part. So pick an area, contact the coordinator to see what you can do, and get after it. \*

## WALTER GRAF WINS PHOTO RAFFLE

Walter Graf of Albuquerque is the winner of the Rio Grande Sierran Photo Raffle. This contest, announced in the November/December 1985 issue, was intended to provide photographs and drawings for use in upcoming issues. Walter came through with flying colors, sending in eleven beautiful line drawings of New Mexico landscapes. We printed one of his drawings last issue, and a second one is printed at left. For his efforts, Walter will receive a free one-year subscription to High Country News--and we'll all get to enjoy the beauty of the Land of Enchantment through the eyes of an artist! \*

## WHO SPEAKS FOR THE SIERRA CLUB?

by Jack Kinney, Santa Fe

At your Chapter Executive Committee meeting in Albuquerque on March 15-16, there was a heated discussion on this question, and various local issues/projects which have been represented as being supported by "The Sierra Club."

This is an issue almost 100 years old, generated by the very individuality, uniqueness, and values of our volunteers. But the nature of the Sierra Club, the loyalty of volunteers to the institution and programs of the Club, establish parameters (called the Ten Commandments in the Volunteer Handbook) for the establishment of positions, public announcements, and entry into coalition activities not specifically approved by the club entities.

Obviously not every volunteer can establish the club position on, say, a Forest Plan; or a Wilderness Area; or a political endorsement; or a coalition action.

Your Executive Committee will attempt to soon publish detailed, although not stifling, guidelines for our members. A worst-case solution (from the Volunteer Handbook) can be transfer of a volunteer to another job or release, and we trust that such an emotional and disruptive choice may never be made within the Rio Grande Chapter.

Meanwhile responsible members must responsibly remember that our Groups and Chapter Executive Committees establish Local/Chapter positions and guidelines. And our Chapter Issue Chairs are responsible for Chapter Issue Positions--to be cleared by the ExCom when new or in doubt!

We must serve our cause together and speak within club policy when we purport to represent the Sierra Club. We ask that all members act responsibly and observe the above courtesies. \*

**THE SIERRA CLUB AND ELECTORAL POLITICS**

by Tom Brasfield, El Paso

Sierra Club members often ask, "Why is the Club involved in electoral politics?" The following brief history of the Club's electoral involvement may help answer this question. With the rapid growth of awareness of environmental problems in the 1960's, it became clear that some means would be necessary to bring environmental concerns into the electoral arena. The first step was in 1969, when the League of Conservation Voters was formed as the nation's first environmental political committee, to endorse candidates and contribute money and assistance. The Club proceeded cautiously in developing its own electoral program. 1976--Sierra Club Committee on Political Education (SCOPE) was set up to educate our own members about voting records and decisions (but we still did not make recommendations or endorsements). 1980--As an experiment, five California state legislators were endorsed. Then, as November approached, it was becoming clear that many of our oldest and strongest allies in the U.S. Senate and House were facing defeat from well-financed challengers. Our Senate allies were frustrated that we would sit by and not lift a finger, after they had fought for our positions on some of the most landmark conservation legislation of the century. After much discussion, the Club decided to contribute significant financial assistance (eventually some \$80,000) but still refrained from making endorsements. 1982--After 1980 the Club realized it could not remain on the sidelines, and it laid plans for an activist electoral program. We knew we had to adhere to strict criteria of fairness and non-partisanship. We knew we had to master the voluminous detail of election law at all levels of the Club. We knew we had to train our leaders and volunteers in election politics.

The 1982 elections were a major watershed for the Sierra Club. For the first time we endorsed federal candidates, some 164 all told (80% won). We contributed over \$235,000. We endorsed several hundred state and local candidates. 1984--Planning for U.S. Senate and House race involvement began shortly after 1982, but in addition we were faced with the question of the presidential election. The administration's policies sought to turn back decades of environmental progress, and after much discussion the Sierra Club's Board of Directors unanimously voted to oppose the reelection of

a good meeting. The majority of the speakers voiced support for an effective program. We particularly impressed with the support the I/M program received from State Representative Arvis Jones. The TACB will be returning to El Paso with their formal proposal for the tailpipe emissions test later this spring. They hope to begin training programs for mechanics during the summer and implement the full I/M program in 1987. As Paul Harvey says, "stand by for the rest of the story."\*

*El Paso Air (from page 2)*

**BRANT CALKIN**  
**DEMOCRAT • STATE LAND COMMISSIONER**

President Reagan and to support challenger Walter Mondale. It was felt that not to do so would run the risk of discrediting ourselves as an organization willing to stand up for policies we advocate so strongly in Washington and around the country. In 1984 we also began to encourage our members to become active in the political parties of their choice, to further spread the environmental message and increase our influence. Nearly 100 Club activists were sent as delegates to the Democratic National Convention. Activist Republican Sierra Club members met with the delegates to the Republican National Convention to discuss ways environmentalists could participate in that party's structure. In 1984 we endorsed 201 candidates for the U.S. Senate and House (73% won) and contributed over \$225,000. The Rio Grande Chapter has been actively involved in this history. Starting in 1982 we have endorsed U.S. Senate and House candidates, several statewide candidates, and many local candidates. We have contributed money and donated thousands of hours of volunteer time. Our efforts have made a very good success record. The Chapter continues to be involved in political activities. We have endorsed Brant Calkin in the Land Commission-er's race in New Mexico, and we are considering endorsements in many races throughout the Chapter area. Any member who would like to get involved in SCOPE activities or has questions or concerns about SCOPE should contact your group newsletter listed in your group newsletter or Chapter SCOPE chair, Tom Brasfield (see directory, page 5).

El Malpais covered by four BLM Wilderness Study Areas: Rimrock, Little Rimrock, Sand Canyon, and Pinyon. This position is based on the concept of consolidating the four areas into one Wilderness Area, designated Ceboila-Rimrock. Roads in the area would be closed except for occasional use, as necessary, by the ranchers working for the grazing allotment, the King Brothers' York Ranch. This aspect of the proposal was met with some scepticism by spokespersons for the King Brothers. Discussions among the parties involved are continuing now. Finally, the proposal would add specific prohibitions on woodcutting and off-road vehicles throughout the National Monument. A highlight of the conservationist presentation was the inclusion of a portfolio-case set of high-quality photographs of the El Malpais area. This work was commissioned by the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society and was done by Dick Ruddy, professional photographer in Albuquerque and Sierra Club member (see photo on page 1). The set consists of eight black-and-white and three color scenes depicting parts of El Malpais, ranging from the Chain of Craters area in the west to the Sandstone Bluffs, Rimrock, and La Ventana Arch in the east. Individual prints from this set, matted and covered, are now available for \$30 each. Proceeds from the sales go to the Sierra Club and to Dick to recoup expenses incurred in providing cased sets to Richardson, Seiberling, and to Senators Domenici and Bingaman. The latter two sets are part of our continuing effort to spur action for El Malpais from the Senate. Prints may be ordered by sending your check to: Sierra Club, 207 San Pedro NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108, Attn: John Somers. Having one or more of these museum-quality photos may be the next best thing to actually visiting the area itself, and purchases do support the Sierra Club's efforts for El Malpais. Your letters are still needed to carry this effort to completion. Please write Senators Jeff Bingaman and Pete Domenici and urge them to introduce a comprehensive protection for El Malpais provided in the House bill. For additional information, contact George Crossman (Santa Fe, 505/982-1024), Jim Stewart (Albuquerque, 505/831-5911), or John Somers (Albuquerque, 268-2350).

Senator Jeff Bingaman  
502 Hart Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Pete Domenici  
4239 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510 \*

*El Malpais (from page 1)*

## AIR POLLUTION AND POWER PLANTS

### Part I: Emissions, Removal Techniques, and Regulations

by Hank Taylor, Farmington

[Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part article explaining some of the facts about air-borne pollution produced by electric generating plants. The second half will appear in the May/June issue of the Sierran.]

Most Club members are concerned about air pollution and power plants. Concern is not enough. We need to understand what air pollution is, how it is regulated, and how to influence regulations. This article is an attempt to clarify the aspect of air pollution related to power plants. Initial understanding should be of what air pollution is and what the pollutants are.

There are three regulated emissions from power plants: 1) sulfur dioxide, or SO<sub>2</sub>; 2) nitrogen oxides, or NO<sub>x</sub>; and 3) particulates.

Sulfur oxides, mostly SO<sub>2</sub>, result from combustion of sulfur in the fuel. Coal can be low sulfur (0.6-0.9%), high sulfur (over 3%), or anywhere in between.

Nitrogen oxides are more complicated because they exist in several different chemical species, some of which change in our atmosphere. A small amount of NO<sub>x</sub> results from atmospheric nitrogen which is present with air in the boiler during combustion.

Particulates result from ash in the fuel, i.e. unburned solid residual after combustion. Ash content varies, but most coals being used today seem to run 10-30% ash.

These emissions are controlled by various methods, according to emission regulations. Sulfur dioxide is removed from the flue gas (combustion products) by scrubbers at most power plants. The most common type of SO<sub>2</sub> scrubbers are lime and limestone, which produce a low quality gypsum that must be disposed of directly or mixed with the ash. These are referred to as "throw-away processes." A few types of scrubbers exist which regenerate the absorbing solution and produce salable products such as sulfur, sulfuric acid, and gypsum. Research is also being conducted to develop new processes, primarily of systems which are either less capital intensive or can be easily retrofitted on existing power plants.

Present technology in this country utilizes reduction of nitrogen oxides by combustion control. This type of control is limited because of the need for safe, complete combustion--fuel rich, low NO<sub>x</sub> combustion can be very dangerous. Experi-

mentation is underway to develop scrubbing or post-combustion removal techniques, and Japan actually utilizes some NO<sub>x</sub> scrubbing technology today. There are some very promising processes, but in this country, they are all in the developmental stage.

Particulates can be removed by electrostatic precipitators, baghouses, or scrubbers. The first two are most common today and can be very efficient (greater than 99% removal). There are some SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> scrubbing techniques which produce dry products that can be collected along with the flyash. Fuels, particularly coal, produce two types of ash: flyash which exits the boiler with the flue gas, and bottom ash which is removed from the bottom of the boiler. All ash must be disposed of, usually in a mine or pit.

Regulations to control emissions vary according to state, fuel, and age of power plant. The federal Clean Air Act established emission levels for power plants beginning with their date of construction. There have been additions which place more stringent controls on newer plants, stepwise according to their construction dates. This regulation does not apply at all to "existing sources," i.e. sources in existence prior to the Act.

New Mexico has established air emission regulations, as have most states; and state regulations can affect older plants. New Mexico's regulations are much more stringent than the federal regulations, but not all states have followed suit. New Mexico's hearings were conducted in the late 1960's, and citizens spoke out for stringent state regulations, knowing that it would increase the cost of electricity.

The high cost of pollution control is the main deterrent to additional controls in the power industry. Capital cost can run up to one-half the capital in a new power plant, and retrofit costs for older plants can run much higher than the original cost of the power plant.

Operating costs vary, depending on process, location, and emission levels; but they seem to run around 20% of the electric power cost. The power industry, regulatory agencies, and consumers are all caught in the same vise between high cost and the desire to control pollution. In addition, the equipment used to control pollution is, like any process equipment, susceptible to malfunction or breakdown. It is usually high tech and very susceptible to high corrosion rates and adverse operating conditions.

One major disadvantage to state regulations which are

more stringent than federal regulations is that a state may bear a higher power cost than adjoining states but suffer air pollution from those same states. This, of course, can also exist on the international scale. Europe is particularly concerned with air emissions from all countries involved.

Driving forces which are changing air emission regulations besides cost are the acid rain problem and "best available technology." As technology improves, costs tend to decrease and regulations become more stringent. The big question in this country is concerning the large number of "existing sources," which have little or no controls. When can this country afford to expend the capital for additional controls, especially considering the high cost of power that we are experiencing?

Since coal-fired power plants have been of greatest concern, it would be desirable to review their situation in New Mexico. In the second part of this article, we will examine the issues in detail. \*

## SUPERFUND UPDATE

by Fe Baran

Superfund is presently at the final critical stage in its reauthorization, and the outcome could, to the environment, be victorious or disastrous. If certain senators and representatives are heard, Superfund will continue its cleanup of toxic wastes across the nation as it has in the past, only more quickly and with more money to do so. But, if the team of Senators Domenici and Simpson, and Senator Baucus have their way, Superfund could turn into a hazardous waste dumper's dream come true.

Superfund was created in 1980 as a five-year program, to include a fund of \$1.6 billion used by EPA to implement cleanup of toxic waste sites and a way to place a heavy burden of liability on those who use and dispose of the hazardous materials. We are finally coming to the end of the Superfund reauthorization process. Different versions of Superfund legislation have been passed by the House and the Senate, and these two versions are before a congressional conference committee to resolve the differences between them, before the final bill goes on to President Reagan. Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM) is the creator of two amendments to the Senate bill, both of which are opposed by the Sierra Club. However, the entire Southwest region of the United States is represented by only one conferee in the committee--Senator Domenici. Clearly, the House bill is the

superior of the two versions of Superfund. One of the major conflicts between the House and Senate bills is the amount of the fund itself. The House bill's funding level is \$10.2 billion over the next five years, while that of the Senate bill is only \$7.4 billion. It is felt by many that more money means more cleanup, so the House bill is supported on this point. The Reagan administration has proposed and continues to propose lowering the fund to \$5 billion, which would be disastrous in light of the mounting number of hazardous sites discovered each year. At the time of this writing, the Senate had made a compromise offer of an \$8.9 billion level for the fund, which will be argued further by House conferees. Another difference between the two bills is the issue of liability, focusing on the Dornier-Simpson amendments which passed in the Senate bill. One of these provisions allows for responsible parties to move their toxic wastes to EPA-approved sites and then be released from future liability for the relocated wastes. In other words, a waste dumper could move his wastes from place to place, yet if the new site leaked, the dumper would be excused from further financial liability on his own toxic wastes. This discourages permanent cleanup of toxic wastes and allows dumpers to shirk all responsibility for the continuing contamination problem. Another Dornier-Simpson amendment would force EPA to take financial reimbursement (from the polluters) of only 50% of the cleanup costs, not 80% as in the present policy. This, many fear, will encourage "sweetheart deals" as in the Superfund's past, and it will greatly increase federal costs. Obviously, the Dornier-Simpson amendments are not supported by environmentalists. A third area of conflict concerns the Baucus amendment to the Senate bill, regarding "special study" wastes. These are defined as solid wastes from the extraction and processing of ores and minerals, and this amendment would essentially exclude these wastes from Superfund coverage. Sites with special study wastes would have to show specific qualifications with regards to concentrations, toxicity, quantity, and hazardous risk--findings above and beyond those already required under the current Hazardous Ranking System of ranking waste sites for cleanup. No other waste categories are subject to these limitations, and this amendment would make it difficult or impossible to get mining sites on the priority list of cleanup sites. If passed, this would be particularly damaging to many

REGISTRATION DEADLINE MAY 13

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REGISTRATION FORM

Southwestern states, for obvious reasons. There has been strong opposition to the mining waste provision by a number of people, including Governor Toney Anaya and NM Environmental Improvement Division Director Denise Fort (see January/February issue of the Sierran). In a letter to House Minority Leader Robert H. Michel, Governor Anaya lists several sites in New Mexico where cleanup would end if Superfund were halted, including: the United Nuclear Corporation uranium and milling facility in Churchrock, a site containing high concentrations of heavy metals; the San Jose site in Albuquerque's South Valley, where two municipal wells have already been contaminated; the Homestake Mining Company site in Milan, which contains two uranium tailings impoundments; and the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad site in Clovis, which contains a lake that overflows the Ogallala Aquifer, a major drinking water source to six states. In our view, the differences between the House and Senate Superfund bills are easily resolved: more money should be allocated to Superfund to increase cleanup activities; hazardous waste dumpers should be responsible for full liability of any and all of their wastes; and mining sites should not have to exhibit additional specifications to be included in the Superfund cleanups. The conflicts will not be easily resolved in the congressional conference committee, however. Of this we can be sure, since Dornier, Simpson, and Baucus are all conferees and will surely fight for passage of their respective amendments. Calls and letters to Senator Dornier's office are urgently needed. It is important to keep reinforcing him with the fact that the provisions he created for Superfund are unacceptable and that the people of the Southwest support the House version of Superfund. [Editor's note: Fe Baran is an intern at the Sierra Club Southwest Office, which represents New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and Arizona. Senator Dornier's office phone in Washington is 202/224-6621; in Albuquerque, 505/766-3481.]

**CHAPTER PLANS**  
**WEEKEND RETREAT**

You are invited to the first Annual Rio Grande Chapter Retreat. This event will be a weekend of workshops designed to train new, old, and prospective volunteers on the intricacies of effectively defending the environment. The retreat will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 17-18, 1986, at the Blue Triangle YMCA Camp near Tijeras, New Mexico (about 10 miles east of Albuquerque). Among the subjects covered will be Sierra Club history, planning environmental campaigns, political activity, public relations and publicity, newsletter production, and the jobs of the various officers and chairpersons. The primary focus will be on sharing ideas and helping to solve problems. The cost will be \$25.00 per person, which will include four meals and lodgings Saturday night (please remember to bring bedding, towels, and silverware, however). While camping out might be desirable, the emphasis will be on learning and sharing, and no one will have to worry about pitching a tent or cooking a meal. The Chapter Excom authorized "scholarships" to cover the expenses for approximately one percent of the membership of each group and payment of four cents per mile travel pay for everyone who attends the session. The rather low travel pay is intended to encourage car pooling. To reach the camp, which is nestled on the edge of the Cibola National Forest, take I-40 east from Albuquerque to the Tijeras exit. Turn south on NM 14 and go one mile to the USFS Ranger Station. Turn left just south of the Ranger Station and follow the dirt road to the parking area at the main lodge. Send your check and registration form to: SIERRA CLUB RIO GRANDE CHAPTER RETREAT 207 San Pedro NE Albuquerque, NM 87108 (505/265-5506)

Come and join the fun, but remember to register early--there is room for only 65 participants. \*

Send your newsletter contributions to David Glowka, Star Route Box 282 B, Tijeras, NM 87059 \* Photographs, articles, stories, poetry, graphics, announcements, book reviews, drawings \*

## VOLUNTEERS PUT CALKIN ON THE BALLOT FOR STATE LAND COMMISSIONER

By Pam Brode, Campaign Manager,  
Citizens for Calkin for Land Commissioner

Sierra Club members and other volunteers collected an astonishing 16,000 signatures in two months to put Brant Calkin on the ballot for State Land Commissioner in the Democratic Primary.

Calkin has been a Sierra Club activist and employee for 18 years and has served as national Club president. He has also been New Mexico Secretary of Natural Resources and Assistant Land Commissioner under Jim Baca.

Both the Sierra Club Committee on Political Education (SCOPE) and the Conservation Voters Alliance have endorsed Calkin.

The Land Office manages 9 million acres of public land. Oil royalties, grazing fees, and other income from this land provide \$250 million per year to help support New Mexico's schools and other institutions. Much of this land has been damaged by oil spills, overgrazing, and other abuses. Calkin has pledged to protect the environment and to increase public access and

tourist revenues.

Four Democrats and one Republican have filed as candidates for the office. Although the other candidates collected signatures for six months, none amassed as many as Calkin. (A minimum of 8875 signatures of registered Democrats was required.)

"We clearly have the best grassroots movement for this office -- perhaps any office -- in the state," said Calkin. "I am deeply grateful to the hundreds of people who sent in petitions."

Additional volunteer help is needed in the final weeks of the primary campaign to stuff envelopes, distribute campaign literature and make phone calls. Please contact campaign headquarters in Albuquerque (268-4100) or Santa Fe (982-8916) if you can help.

Contributions are needed now to help pay for advertising, printing, and postage. Send checks to:  
"Citizens for Calkin for Land Commissioner," P.O. Box 36796, Albg. NM 87176. \*

Rio Grande Chapter  
Sierra Club  
207 San Pedro NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87108

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The Rio Grande Sierran

March / April 1986

## The Rio Grande SIERRAN



THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB



March / April 1986



Photo by Jim Fish

Illegal Woodcutting in La Leña WSA

(see Trip Report, page 6)

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- Mountain Lions: The Slaughter Continues
- Calkin Makes the Ballot
- Progress for El Paso Air
- Focus on "Cabezon Cluster" Wilderness Study Areas