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CALENDAR

- April 4-5 Regional Mining Conference, Ft. Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. Topics: environmental impacts of mining, citizen action, regulation and legislation. Contact: David Mullon, Jr., P.O. Box 2998, Durango, CO 81302.
- April 12 People for the West-sponsored "Public hearing" on Animal Damage Control program in Santa Fe National Forest. Pecos, NM. Call 986-8825 for more info.
- April 14 Las Cruces Fundraiser to benefit Southwest Environmental Center and NM Environmental Law Center. Call 525-1532 for more info.
- April 21 OLE Powerline Hearing, NM Public Service Commission Building, Santa Fe, 10-5. For more info, call Save the Jemez at (505) 268-7822.
- April 30 Deadline for submitting Sierra Club Centennial quilt squares. Call (606) 259-1922 for more info.
- June 2 New Mexico primary. Vote for the environment!
- June 13-14 Chapter Conservation/ExCom Meeting, Questa, NM.
- June 20-21 Summer Solstice Rio Grande raft trip to benefit Forest Guardians. Call (505) 988-9126 for more info.
- Sept. 11-13 Chapter Retreat/ExCom Meeting.
- Sept. 18-20 Southwest Regional Conservation Committee Meeting, Santa Fe.
- Nov. 13-15 Chapter Conservation/ExCom Meeting, Kingston.

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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS APRIL 14.

the rio grande SIERRAN

NEWS OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB • APRIL 1992 • \$1.00

Conservation in 1992 Depends on You

by Jana Oyler

Our mailboxes are overloaded with pleas for money from any number of worthy organizations. Recently you received one more — but this is one you should not ignore.

The Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, which is made up of four groups, is allowed by Sierra Club rules to mail one general fund appeal request each year, during March. The rest of the year is reserved by the national level of the Club for requests for donations to national environmental issues.

Any money you give to the Rio Grande Chapter's fund appeal is put to work right here in New Mexico and western Texas. As you can see from the article "1992 Chapter Conservation Budget Finalized" on page 4 of this issue, the Rio Grande Chapter recently approved about \$25,000 in funding for local and chapter-wide conservation projects during 1992. And even that paltry \$25,000 is utterly dependent on your generosity.

Our budget is very small compared to that

of most other environmental organizations, and is only a tiny fraction of what foreign corporations and their false front special interest groups have to spend.

I urge you to give to this year's Rio Grande Chapter fund appeal. If you donate to the Chapter's general fund, even though your contribution is not tax-deductible, you will be a part of the conservation projects approved by the Chapter. If you donate to the Sierra Club Foundation, your tax-deductible contribution will go to environmental education projects in New Mexico and western Texas.

If you did not receive our fund appeal letter or if you have misplaced it, you can still send contributions made payable to "Rio Grande Chapter of Sierra Club" or to "Sierra Club Foundation" to Jana Oyler, Route 19, Box 120-KO, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

[Jana Oyler is Secretary/Treasurer of the Rio Grande Chapter, and a member of the Santa Fe Group.]

1991 Conservation Highlights

Rio Grande Chapter

Led efforts to strengthen state hardrock mining regulation and to reform federal mining law that allows miners to gain title to public land for \$2.50/acre

Santa Fe Group

Presented its environmental slide show at schools; opposed Santa Fe Ski Area expansion, Pegasus Gold Mine, and Ojo power line; supported Jemez National Recreation Area.

Albuquerque Group

Sponsored forums on mining and overpopulation; supported city bicycle and recycling programs; opposed threats to Petroglyphs National Monument and Rio Grande water quality.

El Paso Group

Expanded its recycling and information center; spearheaded efforts to protect Franklin Mountains; supported border environmental protection.

Southern New Mexico Group

Published environmental guide to city elections; sponsored weekly nature show on local radio station; supported protection for Mexican spotted owl.

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Chapter Calls for Lujan's Resignation

The Rio Grande Chapter called for the immediate ouster of Interior Department Secretary Manuel Lujan, Jr., following his recent decision to remove predator control plans from the reach of administrative appeals.

"Lujan must go," said chairperson Gwen Wardwell. "Federal public lands haven't been managed this poorly since the era of James Watt. Lujan panders to special interest groups, undermines the Endangered Species Act, and now he's even trying to eliminate public involvement in public lands decision-making. Anyone who so flagrantly disregards the law and the American



people is unfit to serve as Secretary of the Interior Department."

The Club denounced Lujan for seizing jurisdiction of Interior Department decision-making on predator control plans, thereby blocking meaningful

public involvement in the administrative appeals process. Lujan's action means that members of the public now must sue the Department in order to challenge administrative decisions related to predator control activities on federal lands under

(continued on page 3)

Inside: Conservation Budget • Pegasus • Texas Lions • Amsterdam Declaration

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Contributions are welcomed from members and non-members. Articles should be typed, E-mailed (SIE426 on Sierra Club network; laroque on Econet), or submitted on computer disk (3.5" MS Word, Pagemaker, RTF, or ASCII format). Only very short handwritten submissions can be accepted. Deadline is the 15th of each month.

LETTERS

Where Were Green Voters?

Editor:

I found the chapter lobbyist's analysis of the disastrous legislative session most interesting, because I recently worked in a campaign for a city councilor in my home town of Santa Fe. I was working for a candidate who supported the Forest Guardians' position on the ski basin, opposed Pegasus mining, and vowed to work for environmental safety in all aspects of civil life in Santa Fe.

She received 707 votes in District 4, losing to the 1200 odd folks who had attended her opponent's enchilada dinner a few nights before the election. (Her name was well-known—Shirley Scarafioti—and I wonder if environmentalists in her district failed to vote because they held grudges from her past as Governor Anaya's chief of staff.)

I would like to point out that local politics are really the key to getting things done that stay done. If, out of the 5500 registered voters in District 4, another 700 had turned out to vote for an environmentally committed candidate, she would have won, all local candidates would have learned that the environmental vote counts, and a segment of the county Democratic party would have been sympathetic to her constituents. I wonder, though, if there are 700 environ-

mentalists among the 3000 voters who failed to exercise their privilege. That's another issue that we need to think about.

Anyway, now that district and the City of Santa Fe have a council person who used to be a Republican and is a Democrat at the moment. He is connected to the Mayor of Santa Fe who is active in the Democratic party. All those Democrats know that the environmentalists can't swing a race. So are we surprised to see the crew at the statehouse ignore the environmental program presented by the Sierra Club? Why should they worry? We won't vote often enough or clearly enough to hurt the pro-destruction "business" oriented candidates.

Do we have an environmental slate for the Santa Fe area? Could we get the precincts and county conventions to support it? Maybe "all we have is our vote and our money," as Ken Hughes says, but if we don't have a candidate to give them to, we are disenfranchised.

I'd like to work with all Santa Fe area environmentalists to gain credibility in the precinct and county political organizations so that we can recruit, support, and obtain environmentally committed candidates. Please contact me with any suggestions or requests for work in the political vineyard.

Olivia Tsosie
 Rt. 6 Box 75, Santa Fe 87501

Fundraiser to Benefit Southern New Mexico's Environment

All *Sierran* readers are invited to an evening fundraiser to support environmental education and activism in southern New Mexico, scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, at the Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn in Las Cruces. Proceeds will be divided between the Southwest Environmental Center and the New Mexico Environmental Law Center.

The event will be held from 6-9 p.m. Tickets are \$10. The price of admission includes appetizers, wine, and bluegrass music by the Any Mountain Band. There will be a silent auction and raffle for lots of great items, including a Big Bend raft trip with Far Flung Adventures, a weekend at the Black Range Lodge in Kingston, and Bushnell binoculars. Land Commissioner Jim Baca has been invited as the featured speaker.

The Southwest Environmental Center will open in Las Cruces as soon as sufficient funds

are raised and a suitable storefront location is found. The Center will serve as a clearinghouse of information on regional environmental issues, as well as provide office and meeting space to activists.

Recognizing the importance of strengthening environmental efforts in the southern half of the state, the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club recently allocated \$1300 towards getting the Center up and running.

The New Mexico Environmental Law Center, familiar to many *Sierran* readers, is a public interest law firm located in Santa Fe. The Law Center is seeking to expand its efforts in southern New Mexico, and recently provided assistance to the Concerned Citizens of Sunland Park in their effort to combat a medical waste incinerator.

For more information, contact Kevin Bixby at (505) 646-5745 (Las Cruces).

OPINION

Progress Means Living Responsibly, Voting for the Environment

by Wesley Leonard

As citizens of planet Earth, we have an awesome responsibility—greater, perhaps, than any generation before us. Why? Because for the first time in the history of the planet, a single species—*Homo sapiens*—has the means to destroy or alter all life as we know it.

The most obvious examples, of course, would be through the use of weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear, chemical or biological bombs. But weapons used in a deliberate manner are not what I'm thinking of. Rather, I'm talking about the environmental consequences of the way we live and go about making a living.

Primitive humans had few choices other than to live in harmony with nature and to be a part of it. They were very much dependent on natural laws and forces that govern the universe. Modern humans, however, have developed immense power to alter and manipulate nature — and we're paying the price for that power.

The fuels that drive our transportation systems are responsible for much of the air pollution that is choking our cities. The chemicals that contribute so greatly to our high standard of living are fouling our waters, soils and even our atmosphere. Our population explosion is wiping out habitat and causing the extinction of thousands of species of plants and animals.

By itself, no one environmental problem would have the serious consequences that I foresee. What I'm concerned about is the multiplicity of problems and the interrelationships between these problems. What can be done? Just as no one single factor is responsible for the environmental mess we're in, we must attack the problem in a variety of different ways.

Most importantly, we must not assume that others will solve the problems for us. The Bush administration, for example, is "Public Enemy Number One" when it comes to the environment. In an effort to ensure that his corporate cronies can pursue their greed without interference, Bush has subtly gone about weakening protection for everything from wetlands to old growth forests—all the while proclaiming that he is the "Environmental President." What a lie!

Since we can't count on our elected offi-

cial to do anything, we must assume personal and individual responsibility. This is not easy as we face the daily challenges in our work and homes. We tend to compromise and lose any sense of vision. We want to take the easy way out and avoid having to make difficult decisions that require change.

Let's start by setting an example in our own lives. We must examine the environmental consequences of every action we take. Improvement will occur only if we make a commitment, as individuals, to live in an environmentally responsible manner.

This means, among other things, that we must use our personal and household resources in a more efficient manner and cut down on waste: (1) combine auto trips; (2) recycle; (3) turn off lights; (4) cut-down on water waste; (5) and don't let toxic chemicals get into our wastewater systems or soils. All of these things are important and will make a difference, especially if enough people adopt such measures.

Real progress, however, will depend on our willingness to act collectively to make tough choices at the community level. Our most important tool to effect change is the ballot box. If enough people vote for environmentally-sensitive candidates and support tough measures for environmental improvement, then progress will be possible. Let's become more responsible citizens of planet Earth. Let's really think globally, but act locally.

Lujan

(Continued from front page)

the Interior Department.

"The Interior Secretary has once again shown his contempt for the American public and the democratic process," said Pat Wolff, chapter wildlife chairperson. "Subverting the appeals process is not going to make citizen concern over predator control activities go away."

The federal government and western states spend millions annually to poison, trap and gun down thousands of coyotes and other animals in order to protect livestock. Environmentalists say the program is neither cost-effective nor biologically sound, and is long overdue for reform.

Sierra Club members are encouraged to call the White House Hot line at (202)-456-1111 with their comments about Lujan.

OLE Reminder

A public hearing on the OLE powerline will be held on April 21, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the New Mexico Public Service Commission Building 224 E. Palace (near Paseo de Peralta) in Santa Fe. All concerned citizens are urged to attend this important hearing. Note: the hearing date and location are subject to change. To verify, or obtain more information, call (505) 268-7822

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1992 Chapter Conservation Budget Finalized

Executive Committee to Fund Diverse Projects

by Jana Oyler

At its meeting at the wonderful Black Range Lodge in Kingston, New Mexico, on March 7-8, 1992, the Executive Committee of the Rio Grande Chapter had to make the most difficult decision of the year: where to put the money.

The conservation budget for the chapter is tiny compared to what most environmental groups have available. The ExCom estimates that a maximum of \$25,000.00 will come into the chapter's coffers for conservation projects this year, and much of that amount depends on the success of the March fund appeal and other special fundraising.

The Chapter had asked the four groups to present proposals for specific conservation projects during 1992. After evaluating more than 30 proposals in light of chapter priorities and group recommendations, the ExCom decided to fund the following:

•Reform of the 1872 Mining Law and of New Mexico law(s) regulating hard rock mining: \$3,000.00. More money will be available if fundraising is successful.

•Increase the number of university student activists in the Sierra Club: \$2,000.00

•Establish an environmental center in Las Cruces: \$1,300.00

•Promote passage of a good BLM Wilderness bill: \$300.00

•Revise the *Wildlands* book as a promotional measure for a BLM Wilderness bill: \$400.00

•Stop the wasteful Animal Damage Control program: \$450.00

•Monitor the management of the Lincoln and Gila National Forests: \$200.00

•Monitor the management of the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests: \$2,000.00

•Promote passage of a New Mexico Environmental Protection Act: \$450.00

•Participate in grazing allotment planning and oversight: \$300.00

•Support appropriate grazing management on the Diamond Bar allotment in the Gila and

Aldo Leopold Wildernesses: \$2,000.00

•Support establishment of the Jemez National Recreation Area: \$500.00

•Prepare an educational program on the Endangered Species Act: \$1,250.00

•Develop a working relationship with Roswell District BLM: \$300.00

•Oppose the proposed Ojo Power Line Extension through the Jemez Mountains: \$1,000.00

•Change the International Boundary and Water Commission's management of the lower Rio Grande to restore natural conditions: \$250.00

•Manage the Rio Grande and Elephant Butte Irrigation District canal system for public access, wildlife habitat, and restoration of natural conditions: \$150.00

•Oppose undesirable BLM vegetative treatment programs: \$500.00

•Promote remediation action around the con-

taminated Molycorp mine site near Questa: \$1,000.00

•Promote outings to wilderness study areas: \$150.00

Once the painful task of budgeting was over, the ExCom also decided to combine its May and July 1992 meetings into one to be held June 13-14, 1992; to hold conservation workshops at future ExCom meetings so that specific conservation issues can be looked at in depth; to support changing the status of the mountain lion in Texas, where it is now considered vermin and fair game; to pursue the management of the Diamond Bar grazing allotment to demand an adequate environmental impact statement; and to protest vigorously Secretary Manuel Lujan's taking control of the appeals process on predator control programs in order to silence citizen participation.

The Chapter ExCom was happy to note that its members' pool games have improved dramatically from the January meeting (there being nowhere to go but up). Several members are seriously considering remodeling their homes to accommodate pool tables.



Chapter Executive Committee and guests at the March meeting in Kingston. Back row (left to right): Carol Morrison, George Grossman, Jana Oyler, Ted Mertig, Ben Zerby, Kevin Bixby. Front row: Pat Wolff, Patti Pagels, Gwen Wardwell, and Marc Bedner.

Pegasus Dehydrates, But Mining Threat Continues

Mining company withdraws water rights application for gold mine

by Susan Harrod

On March 13, in a victory for New Mexico's environment, Pegasus Gold Corporation withdrew its application to the State Engineer's Office for permission to use 460 acre-feet of water a year for its proposed cyanide heap leach gold mine in the Ortiz Mountains.

Friends of Santa Fe County and other local groups, along with the Sierra Club, have been engaged in a struggle regarding all aspects of this proposed mining operation, but most immediately, the question of water rights.

Unfortunately, Pegasus will not go away. The company may still have several alternatives regarding the enormous amounts of water its operation will require. It may purchase the water rights from others, it may alter the scope of its plans, or, quite possibly, it may already have secured all the water it will need.

We need to keep in mind that there are Pegasus-like threats all over the West, and at least eleven more in New Mexico alone. New Mexico still has no comprehensive hardrock regulation, nor does the federal government. The 1872 Mining Law remains in its 19th century form.

Efforts on the federal level to enact mining regulation on both public and private lands continue. A moratorium on patenting claims under the 1872 Mining Law will come up again, and could pass both houses of Congress, especially if New Mexicans put pressure on Senator Jeff Bingaman to vote for the moratorium.

Rep. Nick Rahall's 1872 reform bill is likely to come to a committee vote before April 10, the date Congress takes its Easter recess. Rahall is in the process of strengthening his bill to an uncertain degree. Environmentalists are calling for strong regulation similar to that provided by the Surface Mining Coal Reclamation Act (SMCRA). Industry, and many Western congressional representatives, are looking for an easy way out of the controversial issues.

There is a real danger that genuine mining law reform, including meaningful environmental protection, may be sidestepped in favor of "sexier" land tenure issues: patenting, royalties, and a land manager's ability to say "no" to a mining operation. Eliminating patenting, for instance, will not control environmental damage of open pit mining operations. Nor will instituting reasonable royalties.

Perhaps even more important is the issue of the land manager's authority to stop a proposed mining operation.

Under current law, BLM and Forest Service officials do not believe they have the authority to deny a mining proposal. Even if legislative reform takes away this miners "right to mine", it is not at all apparent that federal land managers will feel free, or be inclined, to stop potentially damaging mining operations.

For example, at a recent meeting regarding New Mexico's Valle Vidal, a tract of land that has been likened to Yellowstone for its beauty and diverse wildlife, Forest Service officials refused to rule out hardrock mineral development.

The Valle Vidal was donated to New Mexico in the 1980s, and is not, therefore, subject to mineral claims and development under the 1872 Mining Law. Forest Service officials made it clear, however, that they believe only an Act of Congress could protect Valle Vidal from mineral development. The experience with pumice mining in the Jemez demonstrates how difficult it is to achieve that level of protection.

The lesson is that reform must include mandatory siting and suitability criteria, so that federal land managers cannot sanction a mining operation in sensitive areas, such as in the headwaters of important water resources, riparian areas, critical habitat areas, aquifer recharge areas, and natural spring sources.

On the private lands side, work continues on the reauthorization of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Unfortunately, RCRA is a "waste" type statute, and Washington-based environmentalists have conceded that mining issues such as reclamation and siting criteria are inappropriate in the RCRA framework.

Accordingly, there will be no reclamation requirements in any package the Washington environmentalists work out on RCRA reauthorization. Nor is it likely that there will be any siting criteria. Mines would continue to operate without these critical controls on vast areas of private lands, even if the 1872 Mining Law is completely overhauled.

We in the West must continue to be vocal about what is required to protect our backyards. If we want strict natural resource protection on both public and private lands, we must dig in and insist that Congress address the damage being done by the modern high-tech gold rush. We must be vigilant in order to prevent partial reform that may only serve to sanction this damage, and pave the way for more.

The author is Mining Issues Chair for the Rio Grande Chapter.



Lone Star Chapter Petitions to Protect Mountain Lions

The Lone Star Chapter has filed a petition to force the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) to regulate and/or protect mountain lions in Texas. The Rio Grande Chapter has sent a letter in support of the effort, and may send a representative to the "Mountain Lion Roundtable" in Del Rio in early April.

In November, the *Houston Chronicle* reported three lion kills in East Texas, the latest of which was by a deer hunter on November 2. It is believed that lions are dispersing from the Trans-Pecos area where most of Texas' remaining lions are found. Mountain lions were exterminated from East Texas almost a century ago.

Of the states that are still home to mountain lions, Texas is the only state that continues to designate them as "varmints." This means that lions are not regulated or protected and can be killed anytime of the year, day or night, no matter how low their population is in a particular area.

Human sentiment for mountain lions in Texas range from total extermination to total protection. The "no lion is a good lion" supporters claim that lions are not threatened, and that the populations are in fact increasing in Texas. They also claim that if not held at bay, lions will continue to increase in numbers, and wreak economic havoc on the Texas livestock industry.

Currently available biological data is inadequate to assume that all is well with lions in Texas. "With new knowledge from additional studies," said Scott Royder, State Conservation Director for the Chapter, "we should be able to improve animal husbandry practices to reduce livestock losses while at the same time preserve lion habitat and allow the lion to establish and maintain territories in areas of the state where habitat is available."

Because of the East Texas killings in an area where lions are considered rare, and because of the lack of sound scientific lion data, on December 10, the Lone Star Chapter filed a Petition for Rulemaking with the TPWD to regulate the American Mountain Lion population in Texas. Included in the petition are proposed rules that would make the mountain lion a "protected" nongame species. This action would prohibit anyone from taking or possessing a mountain lion unless the TPWD issues a permit. Permit exception would be allowed if it is determined that a lion poses an immediate threat to human safety or welfare.

New Mexico Taxpayers

Tired of rattlesnake round-ups and coyote shoot-outs? Check the *Share with Wildlife* box on your tax return, and help support intelligent management of nongame wildlife in New Mexico.



Bipartisan Poll Reveals Strong Support for Endangered Species Act

Voters Perceive Link Between Environmental and

Economic Health

Washington, DC—A national poll conducted jointly by the bipartisan polling team of Greenberg-Lake and the Tarrance Group, indicates that two-thirds (or 66 percent) of voters in every region of the country support the Endangered Species Act. Furthermore, a surprising majority also support efforts to protect endangered species even at the expense of jobs.

The poll, commissioned by The Nature Conservancy and the National Audubon Society, was conducted in December at the height of the recession. The results indicate that voters equate environmental health with sustainable economic health and are willing to make short-term sacrifices for long-term goals. Nevertheless, those polled expressed doubts that species protection costs jobs in significant numbers.

Even in areas of the West traditionally most sensitive to the "jobs versus the environment" argument, majority support for the Endangered Species Act remains. Nationwide, partisan identification is scarcely relevant with 66 percent of Democrats and 65 percent of both Republicans and Independents saying they support the Act. Additionally, 73 percent say a candidate's stand for protecting endangered species is an important reason to support him or her. Only 13 percent say it is a reason to oppose a candidate.

"The rhetoric of the Endangered Species Act leading to economic doom is not supported by evidence and voters know it," commented John C. Sawhill, President of The Nature Conservancy. "On the contrary, the public recognizes that long-term economic health requires a healthy natural environment."

"Voters are concerned about the health of the planet, and they extended that concern to wildlife," says Celinda Lake, Vice President of Greenberg-Lake. "They want to pro-

tect species and are willing to sacrifice some jobs, but they don't really believe saving wildlife necessarily costs jobs. In the end, voters want a healthy environment that can sustain natural resources and the economy, rather than a short term view."

Those who have heard the most about the Act are the most supportive of it. Seventy-seven percent of those who have heard a lot about the Act support it, 73 percent of those who have heard a little, 57 percent of those who have not heard much, and 32 percent of those who have heard nothing support the Act. Men, middle-aged voters, and those living in affected areas are most likely to be aware of the Act.

Income is the only significant indicator of support. Lower-income voters are slightly less likely to say they support the Act than upper- and middle-income voters. However, even among voters earning under \$10,000 a year, a majority (52 percent) support the Endangered Species Act.

Two messages are often used to persuade voters to support the Endangered Species Act — that we need a sustainable environment and economy, and that we cannot afford the extinction of a species for short term gains. Voters are much more receptive to the sustainability argument. Those voters who heard this argument (half the sample) moved 11 points overall in support of wildlife over jobs to a strong majority position. Support for wildlife increased by only 3 percentage points overall when voters thought about the extinction argument.

The survey reached 1000 adults, 18 years or older who are registered to vote. Respondents were selected using a Random Digit Dial method. Each state was represented in the same proportion to its contribution to the 1988 general election vote. The margin of error for this survey when analyzing results from the entire 1000 respondent sample is plus or minus 3.1 points.

Environmentalists Call on Forest Service to Document Predator Control Need, Impacts

by Susan Harrod and Pat Wolff

In early March, a coalition of ten citizen groups, including the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, called on the U.S. Forest Service to conduct Environmental Impact Statements prior to allowing any further killing of predators.

No environmental analysis has ever been conducted by the Forest Service in connection with its predator control program. Coyotes, mountain lions, bears, and other predators are routinely shot, trapped and poisoned in national forests and federal wilderness areas, pursuant to an antiquated law providing for domestic livestock protection. The program, administered by the Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is called Animal Damage Control (ADC). It has been operating essentially unchanged and unsupervised since 1931.

We have been shut down, misled and kept in the dark at every turn. It's as if the government and the ranchers know how dirty this little secret is, and definitely do not want the public to be let in on it.

As the killing continues, questions such as the current numbers of predators remaining in forests, as well as the impacts on other species and the health of the forest, remain unstudied and unknown. The ADC program affects more than 125 different threatened or endangered species in its activities, as well as numerous species that are not yet listed as threatened.

Although the Forest Service has suspended its own cooperative ADC activities due to lack of environmental analysis, predator control continues unabated on national forests with the assistance of ADC in cooperation with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF).

Because no cooperative plan for predator control exists on the forest, ADC is reluctant to openly pull the trigger on any animal. However, by using Game and Fish depredation permits, federal authorities have found a way around the problem. After receiving a request from a rancher, ADC personnel and NMDGF wildlife officers contact private hunters, set traps or snares, and provide critical information such as location of the predator. Then, together, ADC personnel and Game

and Fish officers aid the private hunters in the kill or wait until the animal is caught in the trap or snare. If it is, it is killed.

The official Forest Service and ADC story on these kills is that they are not ADC activities, despite the close critical role played by federal and state personnel. ADC does not maintain official statistics of predator deaths on the Santa Fe National Forest, although ADC and state wildlife personnel have collaborated in the killing of numerous predators on and near the forest for many years.

No matter what they choose to call it, or who they find to do their killing, the fact is, the United States Government spends \$30 million to eliminate predators and other animals from public and private land every year, and the state of New Mexico spends almost one million dollars to do the same. And they do it all without any idea of the consequences.

ADC is authorized to kill or arrange for the deaths of predators whenever ranchers report that they have experienced livestock losses. Livestock losses are rarely verified. Given the lack of information about the extent and causes of livestock depredations, it makes little sense to automatically subsidize ranchers for predator control.

In addition, thousands of animals, particularly coyotes, are simply killed for "preventive purposes," even when no immediate problem exists. This population control activity is usually accomplished by placement of baited cyanide bombs, steel traps or simply shooting any animal on sight.

Non-lethal alternatives to livestock predation exist in the form of the presence of cowboys, guard animals and other husbandry alternatives. However, non-lethal alternatives are simply not considered by federal agencies or the livestock industry. It is not in the psyche of the trapper to trap alive and relocate an animal. Ranchers look for the quickest, cheapest and easiest solution available.

The coalition is also concerned about the cloak of secrecy and complexity regarding the predator control program on public lands, as well as the apparent bias of the Forest Service toward the interests of the livestock industry.

Environmentalists have begun to build a relatively open working relationship with the Forest Service on other issues such as timber and mining, but predator control is a different story. We have been shut down, misled and kept in the dark at every turn. It's as if the government and the ranchers know how dirty this little secret is, and definitely do not want the public to be let in on it.

Partial List of Animals Reported Taken by ADC in NM (1990)*

Coyotes	7174
Dogs	81
Gray foxes	182
Kit foxes	122
Red foxes	10
Swift foxes	7
Jack rabbits	57
Badgers	143
Bobcats	13
Mt. lions	6
Porcupines	169
Prairie dogs	483
Pronghorns	5
Woodpeckers	5
Ducks	9

*Including animals caught and released. Most animals taken were killed. Source: NM ADC Annual Report, FY 1990.

Note: People for the West has called a "public" hearing on Animal Damage Control in the Santa Fe National Forest for April 12, in Pecos, NM. Concerned readers are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Susan Harrod at (505) 986-8825.

Population is a Fundamental Environmental Problem

by Steve Hill and Elizabeth Hernandez

It is possible in New Mexico to forget that rapid population growth is the most fundamental environmental problem.

Every three years the population of the world increases by more than the total population of the U.S. Each of the world's 5.4 billion people needs food, energy, housing, clothes. Each generates waste and heat. Each contributes to global warming.

As is becoming increasingly clear, the natural resources necessary for human life are more difficult to obtain. An estimated 500 million people are malnourished. Twenty million per year die of malnutrition-related diseases. And yet the world's population is increasing at 90 million per year.

Think of any environmental problem, and then consider how an expanding human population exacerbates that problem. How are we to prevent more and more rainforests from being cut, more and more species from becoming extinct, more prime agricultural land from being covered or lost to erosion?

What will be left for future generations? What will be their quality of life? What is our responsibility to them?

Amazingly, we have not taken one of the easiest and most effective steps towards addressing world population growth: providing birth control to everybody in the world who wants it.

A John Hopkins School of Public Health study estimates that an additional 100 million couples worldwide would use contraceptives or sterilization if they had access to them. Even if nothing more were done than to provide family assistance information and services to these 100 million couples, the annual world increase in population would decline significantly.

We are not talking here of convincing people who want more children to have fewer—that is a more difficult problem.



NASA

We are not talking of coercing people who have religious or other reasons for not desiring to control their family size. We are talking about providing services to those who already desire them.

The number of couples lacking access to contraceptives and sterilization could be reduced greatly if the U.S. funded international family planning at \$650 million per year instead of at \$330 million as was funded last year.

Please write to your representatives. Inform them of the significance of adequate funding for international family assistance. Urge them to sign the Beilenson-Kostmayer letter. Follow your letter with a call. Bug them until you get results.

You are not alone. A recent poll (commissioned by the Population Crisis Committee) found that 40 percent of Americans are less likely to back a candidate who opposes U.S. support for international family-planning programs.

The time for implementing the Amsterdam Declaration and stabilizing world population has come. Let's all take the first step by lobbying in behalf of the Beilenson-Kostmayer letter.

[The authors are Las Cruces-based population activists.]

The Amsterdam Declaration

A Blueprint for Controlling World Population Growth

from the Sierra Club's National Population Committee

If world population doubles or triples in the coming century, as current predictions indicate, the sheer magnitude of human numbers, along with the increasing per capita use of natural resources, may overwhelm the Earth's ecological capacity to cope.

Current increases in human population have no historical precedent. World population, currently at 5.5 billion, could approach stabilization at about 9 to 10 billion if immediate worldwide attention is given to the problem. But, if current trends continue, population could nearly triple to between 14 to 15 billion, with the environmental consequences unknown. Action in the 1990s will determine whether the world eventually faces a human population that has doubled or one that has tripled.

In November 1989, the United Nations sponsored a major conference in Amsterdam attended by 79 countries including the United States. These governments issued the Amsterdam Declaration, a practical blueprint for stabilizing world population as soon as possible by providing access to family planning for all couples on the planet.

Recent studies indicate that if quality family planning information and services were readily available, about 75 percent of reproductive-age couples in most countries would use them, compared to about 50 percent today. At this level of contraceptive use, couples tend to have an average of just over two children, or "replacement level fertility". The Sierra Club and other national environmental groups have set a deadline of achieving this goal by the year 2000.

Global replacement level fertility is expected to cost \$10.5 billion annually by the year 2000 for all developing countries. Current expenditures total \$3.2 billion. The year 2000 requirement of \$10.5 billion can be met by immediately increasing current allocations to \$6.5 billion. Annual appropriations should then be gradually escalated to phase-in family planning programs to realize the final goal of the Amsterdam Declaration: full access to family planning and the resultant 75 percent contraceptive coverage.

(continued on next page)

Amsterdam Declaration

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Worldwide demand for modern family planning is now increasing much faster than supply. In addition, while the 1980s brought some progress on the other determinants of fertility such as the social, economic and legal

Action in the 1990s will determine whether the world eventually faces a human population that has doubled or one that has tripled.

status of women, 18 million new couples are entering reproductive age each year. Yearly appropriations increases proportional to these growing demands will assure achievement of the Amsterdam goal.

The basic plan of the Amsterdam Declaration can be achieved if all industrialized countries dedicate just 4 percent of their foreign aid to population assistance. Only Norway now funds at this level.

In FY 1991, the U.S. provided about 2.2 percent, or \$330 million, of its foreign aid budget for international population assistance. The Sierra Club believes the U.S. should implement the Amsterdam Declaration by providing \$650 million in international population assistance in FY 1993, and commit itself to proportional annual increases through the year 2000.

Congress to Consider Increased Funding for Family Planning

The House of Representatives will be deciding in the next few weeks the level at which international family planning will be funded in the upcoming year

Representatives Beilenson, Kostmayer, and Porter are circulating a letter which supports the increase to \$650 million. They plan to give the letter to Rep. Obey (Chairman of the powerful Foreign Operations Subcommittee of House Appropriations) this May.

Now is the time to write or call your representative and ask them to sign the letter urging Chairman Obey to fund the full \$650 million for international population assistance in Fiscal Year 1993. You may wish to note. The \$650 million was called for by the Amsterdam Declaration in 1989 which was signed by President Bush.

Developing Green Consensus

By Blair Brown and Susan Gorman

Take a moment to guess how many environmental groups are active in New Mexico?

We know of at least 70, and we've probably missed a few. Some are large national organizations like Sierra Club while others are small and local, formed to protect a local last best place or forestall another polluting development.

The people in these groups are the grassroots environmentalists, the dedicated people who are deeply concerned, who believe mitigation of harm is possible and who work hard as activists for the issues they believe in. If this dedicated community can work together in a coordinated way, they, (you, we), can become empowered to slow the impact and reverse the damage. As members of this community, we need to speak with one voice to be heard.

But there is no power structure within the environmental community to develop this voice. Our challenge is to find the ways to retain the spirit of grassroots activism and local emphasis which brought the people in each group together and at the same time develop shared principles among all of the people in each group on which to construct a united program.

There are examples of this unity and the power which can be generated, such as the Vallecitos Unit timber sales agreement. Conversely there are other examples where a lack of cooperation caused a battle to be lost.

Our legislators say they don't understand what the environmental community wants. For example, a member of the Governor's staff stated that the environmental community was 'fractured' on the mining issue and told us of a meeting he attended where six people from the environmental community came and expressed five different opinions.

The lesson here is that when we allow non-sympathetic folks to say environmentalists don't agree, we hand them a powerful argument to do nothing or to continue business as usual. To counter this, it is essential that we work to form a consensus among ourselves on each issue and develop a common statement of principle supported by all.

To illustrate the problem, let's consider the effort in the 1992 legislative session to pass legislation to regulate hardrock mining in New Mexico. At our urging, Gary King introduced a bill to regulate hardrock mining. During Committee review, amendments were

added by both the mining industry and the environmental community. By the time this process was complete, no one knew what the bill really said and it was tabled (and died). The alternative plan, a moratorium on opening of new mine sites was then introduced, but also failed. The result: no law and no protection.

We propose an action plan to work to develop and utilize a Green Consensus:

- Identify the high priority issues. A survey is currently being circulated among the environmental groups to identify and prioritize Federal issues.
- Form an inter-group task force for each issue. Each issue task force will develop a consensus position statement.
- Develop a communication plan. Use the consensus positions to communicate with legislators, regulatory agencies and the public.

On many issues, consensus building will be hard work. There will be conflicts, and compromise will be necessary. Some of you will ask 'Why bother? This has been tried before and it didn't work.' But we must persevere remembering that we must deliver the strongest possible position on each issue. The greater the consensus we can attain, the bigger and more powerful voice will we have in the decision making process.



John Muir's Birthday is April 21

New Mexico's Forests Threatened by Senate Bill

from a Sierra Club News Release

A timber industry bill introduced by Senator Bob Packwood (R-OR) would greatly accelerate the clearcutting of New Mexico's 9.3 million acres of national forests. The bill, S. 1156, is scheduled for a vote before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, of which New Mexico senators Pete Domenici (R) and Jeff Bingaman (D) are members.

"This bill should be called the National Forest Exploitation Act," said Jim Blomquist, Sierra Club's Public Lands Director. "Under the guise of ancient forest protection for the Pacific Northwest, the Packwood bill would gut environmental protection laws and enshrine the timber corporations as king of New Mexico's public forests. The Forest Service would be forced to level the state's biologically rich forests, no matter how severe the carnage."

The Sierra Club reported that, if passed, the Packwood Bill would:

- establish minimum logging levels on every national forest in the country that would have to be met irrespective of existing laws such as the National Forest Management Act and the Endangered Species Act. This means that biologically unique communities of plants and animals could be intentionally wiped out to meet an artificially high logging level. Erosion in the state's high elevation forests would intensify, destroying water quality and fisheries in streams and rivers.
- require the U.S. Forest Service to certify that every activity carried out on the forest contributes to, or at least does not prevent, meeting the logging targets. The concept of multiple use would take a back seat to timber harvesting and other commodity-driven activities such as mining and grazing.
- prevent the public from questioning management of their national forests by barring citizens from challenging forest plans, individual timber sales or minimum logging levels unless they actively participated in the original decision-making process and raised the same issue(s) at that time.

"The Packwood bill would take control of the forests away from the people of New Mexico and hand it straight to the corporate timber barons," said Rob Smith, Southwest Field Director for Sierra Club. "We are counting on senators Domenici and Bingaman to protect our national forests by voting against this bill."

The Packwood bill would also be a disaster for the ancient forests in Washington, Oregon and California. The bill would set up a bogus ancient forest protection regime that would allow timber cutting in virtually all of the remaining ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest.

The Sierra Club supports the Pacific Northwest Forest Community Recovery and Ecosystem Conservation Act, S. 1536, that would protect the remaining ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest while providing economic assistance for timber communities and regulating export of logs overseas.

Prospects for California Desert Protection Act Best Ever

by Vicky Hoover

Progress on the California Desert Protection Act has been slow since it was first introduced by Senator Alan Cranston in 1986, mainly because of the opposition of the state's junior senator — first Pete Wilson, now John Seymour.

Last fall, however, the bill took a giant leap forward: the House of Representatives passed a nearly identical version of this important preservation legislation—by an overwhelming veto-proof margin of 297-136. The House victory has spurred a vigorous campaign to work for Senate passage this year.

The California Desert, which covers fully one quarter of the state's 10 million acres, is an area of tremendous scenic and biological variety that is home to more than 760 species of wildlife, 90 mountain ranges, dramatic canyons, and more than 100,000 archaeological sites.

The desert bill proposes to designate as wilderness 4.5 million acres in 77 relatively small and widely scattered areas — mostly remote mountain ranges — whose rugged terrain has staved off roadbuilding and development. The bill would expand Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Monuments and upgrade them both as national parks.

In addition it would establish an entirely new 1.5 million-acre Mojave National Park in the BLM-administered area now called the East Mojave National Scenic Area. For many activists, the Mojave, now only minimally protected, is truly the scenic and biological heart of the California Desert.

Altogether, more than 7 million acres would receive protection by wilderness or park designation — the largest land preservation measure ever proposed in Congress outside of Alaska.

Due to its visionary scope, it has aroused some opposition, particularly from the special interest groups — miners, cattle grazers, off-road enthusiasts — whose ability to exploit the desert's unique resources would be restricted.

What You Can Do

The bill already has 17 Senate cosponsors, but for it to pass this year, more Senators must cosponsor now. Senator Bingaman is likely to support the bill if he hears from enough of his constituents. Your help is needed!

Please write Senator Jeff Bingaman a short letter. Urge him to cosponsor S. 21, the California Desert Protection Act, now and to vote for it when the bill comes before the Senate later this year.

Senator Domenici should hear your concerns for the desert too; if you can fire off a second letter—why not send him the same message? Please write today! Our wonderful desert can't wait much longer!

[The author is Chair of the Sierra Club's CA Desert Task Force.]

Addresses

To write your senators:
The Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

To write your representative:
The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

ALBUQUERQUE GROUP

Conservation Report

by David Bouquin, Chairman

Our Albuquerque Group activists are busy on a number of issues and I want to alert you, as concerned environmental citizens, that some of these issues require support now.

Albuquerque City Budget Hearings - The city council will be conducting hearings for agency funding in late April. In order to protect jobs in the city's environmental health department, in a tight budget year, the city councilors need to hear from their constituents. Call the city council office at 768-3100 and let them know how critical programs are for air quality, ground water protection and hazardous materials management in protecting our high quality of life.

Environmental Review Ordinance - The Albuquerque city planning department with other city agencies, are in the final stage of preparing a report for an environmental review ordinance for Albuquerque. Currently, most city funded projects have only limited review on their environmental effects. This ordinance could change this and force city departments to take a much harder look at their planning consequences.

High Desert Development - Our group is active in giving input to the Albuquerque Academy Land Development in the Sandia Foothills. This is the largest private tract of open space in the eastern part of Albuquerque. Important issues are to preserve as much open space for wildlife and public access for recreation.

Other issues that activists are giving input on include: Albuquerque Groundwater Protection Study, Three Gun Springs Canyon, Edgewood Hills powerline in the Sandias, Bike lanes along I-40, Petroglyph National Monument Planning, among others. If you want to get involved give me a call. The most important criteria is a willingness to learn and passion to protect our environment.

Three Gun Springs Canyon Reaches Critical Stage

Three Gun Springs Canyon is a beautiful, broad canyon in the southern part of the Sandia Mountains. The canyon contains a great diversity of bird life, including nesting Scott's Orioles, a diversity of plant life, including several state endangered cactii, and artifacts dating back to 1150 A.D. Golden Eagles nesting on the cliffs above rely on the canyon. Hawkwatch International accesses its spring hawk migration observation site through the canyon.

However, the entire canyon below the wilderness boundary fence is privately owned. The owners plan to subdivide and develop the property. To prevent the destruction of this treasure, the Sierra Club and others are working to secure federal funding for the purchase of this property. The Trust for Public Lands, a national organization devoted to facilitating the public acquisition of such properties, has adopted Three Gun Springs as a project. They have secured an option to purchase the property and are actively lobbying in Washington to obtain funding for the purchase.

The funds available to purchase such properties are very limited, and competition for these funds is intense. The support of our congressional delegation is essential if funding is to be obtained. However, our congressmen have not heard from us on this issue and thus have not yet used their influence in this matter. **LETTERS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED!!!** Please write to Senators Domenici and Bingaman (U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C., 20510) and Representative Schiff (U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., 20515) and urge them to actively support the purchase of the Three Gun Springs Parcel.

For more information, contact Richard Barish, 247-8079.

April Meeting Moves

We are holding our April public meeting on April 21 (not the usual 3rd Monday of the month) to commemorate John Muir's birthday. To celebrate this gala event, we are going to have a birthday party of sorts. There will be slides, readings, etc. in the spirit of John Muir; call Ralph Wrons before March 31 if you'd like to participate. We will have two homemade cakes (enough to feed about 60 people), coffee and punch. As always, to reduce the amount of trash, please bring your own drinking cup, plate, utensils and napkins.

The meeting place is the same: room 2401 of the UNM Law School, SW corner of Stanford and Constitution. The party starts about 7:30 P.M. Not to put a damper on it, but please be prepared to buy a \$1 parking permit, unless you park on the street. We haven't yet been able to convince the UNM police to give us a waiver.

Non-Sierra Club Activities in Albuquerque

The Council of Albuquerque Garden Clubs is holding the Cactus Show and Sale on Sunday, April 12, 10-4; the Garden Fair and Plant Sale on Sat., April 25th, from 9-4; and a class on Vegetable Gardening in Albuquerque, on Tues, April 28, 7-9 pm (\$5). All of these events are at the Albuquerque Garden Center. Please call Diana Day, 296-6020, 9:30-2:30 M-F, for more information about these and other programs.

The Rio Grande Nature Center has a Spring Program for Adults and Families. In April alone, this includes a course on Raptor Identification, a celebration for Earth Day, hands-on exploration for preschoolers and events for children, and birding trips around Albuquerque. Contact 344-7240 for more information.

The New Mexico Museum of Natural History has a show on the Wildlife of Antarctica now through September 6.



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Think Globally, Act Locally:
Part 3: Slowing Down the Mining of Groundwater
 by Ralph Wrons

Most of us are probably aware that approximately 3/4 of the planet is covered with water, but did you know that only 0.3 % of that water is fit for human consumption? While billions of us flush potable water down the drain, more than a billion people have no access to safe drinking water.

Until recently, we have been fortunate to tap a naturally clean source of drinking water; however, groundwater pollution in Bernalillo County is significant: 20 public wells and 450 private wells have been impacted and we have one Superfund site in the South Valley.

In the West, Albuquerque no exception, we depend almost exclusively upon groundwater for our drinking water. We are mining it faster than it can be recharged, which here in the Rio Grande valley is principally by rainfall. One local source estimates we have about 40-50 years of economically retrievable water at our present rate of consumption (about 51 million gallons per day). Our average per capita consumption has increased more than 200% in the last 50 years, most of it needlessly.

There are many ways to cut down on water use around your home:

1) **Buy water efficient appliances** - spending an hour or two at your local library studying the pertinent issues of Consumer Reports (I think it's the best one) will save water, energy and of course money. Wash full loads only.

2) **Adopt a low flow attitude** when it comes to showers, toilet use, dishwashing, teeth-brushing, etc. Be creative, it doesn't always require a device. Be selective, there's good and bad stuff on the market; once again, I'll recommend Consumer Reports or Home Energy. Catch that water that you run when waiting for hot water. Fix those leaky faucets and hose bibs (guilty of that myself); a constant drop from a faucet can waste up to 2400 gallons per year or enough to run 160 loads in a conventional automatic washing machine. It's not for everybody, but there are occasional uses for "graywater", seek those out.

3) **Plant native plants**, called Xeriscaping. The latest newsletter from the La Montanita Co-op has a good article, as do past issues of the Southwest Organic News (available at the Living Batch Book Store). Try water harvesting-- collecting and distributing rain water. Install a drip watering system -- it will save time and water and is far more effective. Water your lawn deeply once per week, rather than briefly watering 2-3 times per week. Don't water at midday or when it's windy. Mulch your tree wells and garden -- make your own by renting a chipper to reduce your tree prunings to a pile of useful matter instead of hauling it to the dump.

4) **Don't water your driveway, patio or sidewalk - push a broom instead.** Use a spray nozzle or turn off the water when you're washing the car. By the way, a pollution source of growing concern is that which carries oils, pesticides, and anti-freezes.

5) **Follow the progress of the Groundwater Protection Policy and Action Plan**, being prepared by the City and County Environmental Health Departments and a Citizen's advisory committee. The second draft was recently released and public comment periods will be forthcoming. Our group WaterQuality chair can elaborate.

6) **Stay tuned to the developments of the State Engineer's office.** Apparently Eluid Martinez wants input to establish New Mexico water policy and it sounds like he is definitely open to the concerns of environmentalists and wildlife habitat activists.

Water, quantity and quality - we must conserve and protect it if we want to guarantee good living conditions for the future.

Thanks for your efforts. Next month: Buy Organic

1992 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Group Chair	Stefan Verchinski	888-1370
Vice-Chair	Ralph Wrons	275-0856
Secretary	Heidi Fleischmann	260-1217
Treasurer	Richard Barish	247-8079
Chapter	Stefan Verchinski	888-1370
At-Large	Bob Cornish	255-6037
At-Large	Blair Brown	265-3231
At-Large	Teresa Johnson	265-5506
At-Large	David Bouquin	265-7853

The Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club depends entirely on the efforts of volunteers. To help our efforts, call the following issue coordinators:

Air Quality	Heidi Fleischmann	260-1217
Books/Calendars	Rich Adam	266-4657
Bosque	Richard Barish	247-8079
City Planning	David Bouquin	265-7853
City Trails	vacant position	
Conservation	David Bouquin	265-7853
Energy	Ralph Wrons	275-0856
Las Huertas	Marion Davidson	867-5178
Mailings	Doreen Kahl	
Mexican Wolf	Susan Larsen	897-2527
Newsletter	Dorothy Brethauer	275-6113
	Jessica Bailey	857-0286
Outings	David Morrison	344-8693
Petroglyphs/Westside	Ike Eastvold	255-7679
Population	Bruce Ferguson	765-5757
	Michelle Meaders	266-8823
Public Lands	Hubert Davis	299-6904
Solid Waste	David Bouquin	265-7853
Water Quality	Leslie Amrhein	298-2081
Wildlife	Marc Bedner	299-2004

ALBUQUERQUE GROUP - page 3

Sun Day, 1992

The Albuquerque Group has signed on as a participant in Sun Day 1992, being organized by Public Citizen. Sun Day 1992 kicks off on April 22 (not coincidentally, Earth Day), with the goal of continuing to raise public awareness of the energy crisis (yes, it still exists) and of the benign solutions that abound. We have also endorsed the Sun Day statement of Principles and Goals.

As part of our participation, we propose to meet with representatives of as many local and regional Environmental and Public Interest groups as we can contact. Our action plan includes a tour of solar "energized" homes and energy efficient homes, and two workshops: one for selection and application of compact fluorescents and the other for building a solar oven. Please check the outings page for a listing of those events.

This campaign doesn't end on Earth Day. It must continue throughout this year and beyond, until the majority believe that our only responsible course of action is a transition to a Sustainable Energy Economy, one that is based upon reliance on non-polluting energy resources and conservation of non-renewable energy and mineral resources.

We'll have information on the Sun Day 1992 campaign and an update of our planned activities at the April 21 public meeting. See you there.

Sierra Club Outings

Sat Apr 11 Callabicitto Arroyo, Rio Grande Bosque Hike Meet at 9:00 AM, Burrito Company at the NE corner of Coors and Alameda. Leisure, 2to 3 hours. David Morrison 344-8693.

Sun Apr 12 Bosque del Apache NWR Hike We will hike the north loop of the refuge for viewing the springtime residents such as turtles, pheasants, roadrunners, coyotes, Ten miles, flat, easy terrain. Bring sunscreen, lunch, plenty of water, and binoculars. Meet at Sierra Club office, 207 San Pedro NE, 7:00 AM. Dan Feller 266-1922.

Sat Apr 18 Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge Tour This rarity, originally protected by the Nature Conservancy, is closed to the general public. Refuge manager Ted Stans will give us a guided tour of the area's geological features, research projects, and wildlife. If you have a 4 wheel drive vehicle bring it, we will need to use 2 of them. Limit 12 people, RSVP only. Bring lunch, water, binoculars. Meet at the Sierra Club office. David Morrison 344-8693.

Tue Apr 21 Premeeting Dinner, Ron's Camino Real Good Mexican food. We will be signing a thank you card to Bill Richardson for recently cosponsoring the Utah Wilderness Bill, HR 1500. Utah Wilderness designation is one of the top 5 national environmental priorities. RSVP, 6:00 PM. David Morrison 344-8693.

Sat Apr 25 Ojito Wilderness Study Area Hike Dinosaur bones, cuestas, hot pots, and Anasazi ruins, multicolored badlands, an endangered cacti, and much more. This proposed Wilderness lies to the southwest of San Ysidro. Meet at Sierra Club office, 207 San Pedro NE, 9:00am. 4-5 miles, moderate. Lunch, water, camera. Bob Cornish 255-6037.

Sat Apr 25 Pegasus Gold Mine Tour See March issue of Rio Grande Sierran. Meet at Sierra Club office, 207 San Pedro NE. David Morrison 344-8693.

Sun Apr 26 Grazing Issues at the San Luis Wilderness Study Area We will visit a grazing enclosure of a spring sheep. Jays, raptors, and other birds in this riparian area make for good birdwatching. This area of varied shaped sedimentary rock outcropped mesas is proposed for Wilderness design-

Outings, cont'd

nation. Bring binoculars, water, lunch, hat. Moderate, 4 miles. Meet at 8:30 AM, Burrito Company, NE corner of Coors and Alameda. Yvonne Chauvin 344- 6138.

Sun Apr 26 Boca Negra Arroyo Hike, Petroglyph National Monument View thousands and thousands of petroglyphs as Ike tells us if the proposed resort plans are dead or will again reappear. Bring sturdy shoes, camera, binoculars. RSVP. Ike Eastvold 255-7679.

Sat-Sun May 2-3 Chaco Canyon and Bisti Wilderness Car Camp We will drive 200 miles into northwestern New Mexico. The first stop is the Bisti badlands, well known for a variety of dinosaur fossils, weirdly shaped rock including my favorite the mushroom rocks. As if this wasn't enough, we then head to the archaeological wonder Chaco Canyon, where we will camp overnight and explore the ruins. On Sunday, if we still feel ambitious, we can roam the De-Nan- Zin Wilderness. Bring plenty of water, your own food, and the family. Meet at Winchell's at Academy and San Mateo at 7:00 AM. RSVP. David Morrison 344-8693.

Sun May 3 Sierra Ladrone Wilderness Study Area Hike This island in the sky has a rich history of outlaws, expansive views, rugged terrain, and mixed vegetation from cactus to aspen. The ascent to the peak is a memory to be treasured. Moderate- strenuous exploratory, 4 to 5 miles. Meet at 7:00 AM at the Sierra Club office, 207 San Pedro NE. Stefan Verchinski 888-1370.

Sat May 9 El Malpais West Tour/Hike Ice caves, lava tubes, the Chain of Craters Wilderness Study Area, and gnarled trees are characteristics of this area. Various management decisions will be affecting the El Malpais (see March Rio Grande Sierran article). Overgrazing and the deletion of the Chain of Craters from the BLM Wilderness proposal are other problems facing this area. Bring sturdy shoes, lunch. Meet at Silo, 2551 Coors NW, 9:00 AM. John Wright 877- 5259.

Sun May 10 Geological Windows Hike, Petroglyph National Monument Come out to see the ancient Indian irrigation structures and the unique geological features in addition to the many different rock art drawings. RSVP. Sturdy shoes, camera, binoculars. Ike Eastvold 255- 7679.

Sat May 16 Rinconada Canyon Hike, Petroglyph National Monument Hike among petroglyphs near the threatening proposed expansion of Paseo del Norte. Sturdy shoes, binoculars, camera. RSVP. Ike Eastvold 255- 7679.

Sat May 16 Embudito Trail Project, Sandia Mountains Wilderness This is the BIG ONE! We will be rerouting the lower section of the trail. Starts at 9:00 AM. Mark your calendars now. More details next month. Glen Keplar 296- 0402.

Sun May 17 Penteca Pinta Wilderness Study Area Hike This is bad (exquisite, out of this world, groovy, fantastic) badlands. One of last year's top hikes. Definite exploratory. Moderate, 4- 5 miles. Bring lunch, water. Meet at Sierra Club office, 207 San Pedro NE, 9:00 AM. Ralph Genter 881-3147.

CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, meetings take place at the Club office at 207 San Pedro NE.

- Apr 2: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.
- Apr 4: Petroglyph National Monument Cleanup, 9am-3pm.
- Apr 5: Antelope WSA Hike; Moderate Level: David Morrison, 344-8693.
- Apr 11: Callisteo Arroyo Rio Grande Bosque Hike: David Morrison, 344-8693.
- Apr 10: Deadline for all articles for combo Wildline/Sierran on disk. Dorothy Brethauer (275-6113) is editor.
- Apr 13 Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM.
- Apr 21: John Muir's Birthday Party and Sierra Club General Meeting, UNM Law School, rm. 2401, 7:30 PM
- Apr 22: Earth Day
- Apr 29: Compact fluorescents workshop, as part of the Sun Day campaign. Ralph Wrons, 275-0856, for more info.

the LORAX

Sierra Club
El Paso Regional Group

NORTH FRANKLIN EYED FOR NEW COMMUNICATION TOWER

In June, 1990, El Pasoans approved a \$13.4 million bond issue for a new public safety communication system. The City is moving forward with planning for this system, and, as Sierrans who attended the Club's January 29 meeting learned, it's a process with potentially serious implications for the Franklin Mountains.

The City recently released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for installation of the new system. The RFP seeks bids for two alternatives: 1) a tower on North Franklin Peak, plus one-to-three towers at low elevation sites away from the Franklins; and 2) six towers, all at low elevation sites.

No decisions have been made yet, but at the January Sierra Club meeting, Police Department representatives made it clear their eyes are focused firmly on North Franklin. They portrayed the possible North Franklin tower as a minor, inconspicuous facility and suggested repeatedly that the alternative that avoids North Franklin could be unacceptably expensive.

According to Lockard & White, the city's telecommunications consultants for the new system, a tower on North Franklin would be anything but minor. Or inexpensive. It would be some 80 feet tall, include two microwave dishes and have running lights for visibility at night. A 10-foot by 20-foot building would house ancillary equipment. A power line to the summit would be needed, as would an all-weather road to enable emergency servicing of the tower under all conditions.

continued on 2nd El Paso page

APRIL GENERAL MEETING

The April general meeting of the El Paso Regional Group of the Sierra Club will feature Dave Parker, the park ranger at Hueco Tanks State Park, who will show slides of the Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area, the newest addition to the Texas Parks system. This natural area is located just west of Big Bend National Park and contains a wide variety of natural and cultural features. Big Bend Ranch was acquired by the Texas Parks Department in 1988, doubling the size of the state parks system. The Parks Department is now developing a management plan for the Ranch. Come learn about this unique area.

The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 9, at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (two blocks east of Airway). Join us for an informative meeting on a Texas treasure. For more information, contact Ted Mertig, 852-3011.

Beginner's Backpack Series

The last of a highly successful Beginner's Backpack Mini-series will be held at 6:30 p.m. prior to our April Meeting.

This session will feature (1) personal health and safety; (2) rules of etiquette for the trail; and (3) specific guidelines and reminders for low impact camping on El Paso Sierra Club backpack events.

Our first two sessions have highlighted hints on effective selection, packing and use of equipment, food and clothing.

continued on 2nd El Paso page

GROUP DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Chairman:	Ted Mertig	852-3011
Vice Chairman:	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655
Secretary:	Fernando Dubove	544-5973
Treasurer:	Kathy Sunday	584-9301
Members:	Todd Daugherty	584-2730
	Carolina Greenfield	593-2838
	Betsy Julian	544-5741

CONSERVATION:

Environmental Quality:	Tom Brasfield	584-8739
Franklin Mtns:	John Sproul	545-5157
Political Action:	Jim Bell	581-8864
Population:	Patty Pagels	592-7485
Public Lands:	Ted Mertig	852-3011

Sierra Club/Environmental Center
800 S. Piedras
532-9645, 532-4876

ADMINISTRATION:

Environmental Center	Linda Mahlow	532-9645
		532-4876
Group:	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Hospitality:	Barbara Mertig	852-3011
ICO:	Jeanne French	592-1660
SIERRAN Editor	Wyona Turner	585-0251
LORAX Mail:	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Membership:	Carolina Greenfield	593-2838
Office Rep.:	Neil O'Hara	565-4735
Outings:	Carol Morrison	585-9077
Programs:	Betsy Julian	544-5741
Publicity:	Todd Daugherty	584-2730

Please send any changes or corrections in membership to
Carolina Greenfield, Membership Roll,
1510 Dale Douglas, 79936

NORTH FRANKLIN TOWER, *Continued*

Sound hard to believe? If we don't make our views known, it will happen. And more will likely follow.

Lockard & White says the alternative that best meets the City's needs is the one that uses multiple low-elevation sites and avoids the Franklins. But the lure of being on the highest peak around apparently remains irresistible to some folks within the City.

Once again, citizen action will be crucial to steering the City away from a bad idea. Please contact Police Chief John Scagno (El Paso Police Department, 911 N. Raynor, El Paso, TX 79905), Mayor Bill Tilney (2 Civic Center Plaza, El Paso, TX 79999) and your city representative (Gene Finke, Jesus Terrazas, Tony Ponce, Stan Roberts, Joe Pickett or Jay Armes; same address as the mayor), and tell them North Franklin Peak should not be a tower site for the new public safety communication system. Emphasize that technically, environmentally and economically superior alternatives exist.

John Sproul

OUTINGS

ROBLEDO PEAK CARCAMP

DATE: April 4-5, 1992
PLACE: Robledo Mountains, NM
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 20, reservations required
LEADER: Ted Mertig, 852-3011

We will leave Jewel-Osco on the west side at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, drive to Radium Springs, and take the side road to Robledo Peak. We'll carcamp, climb Robledo Peak, and have a great time. Call Ted to get your name on the list!

NORTH FRANKLIN PEAK DAYHIKE (ISSUE OUTING)

DATE: Sunday, April 12, 1992
PLACE: Franklin Mountains State Park
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 24, reservations and leader approval required
LEADER: Chuck Turner, 585-0251

Beginning early Sunday morning at Tom Mays Park, we will hike up to the 7,192' summit of North Franklin Peak. Roundtrip is about 8 miles, with approximately 3,000' elevation gain. We will have a rest break on top, so bring a snack (early lunch), water, and warm clothing to keep you comfortable as you soak in the view!

The view from the top will become more meaningful as you have the opportunity to learn about the proposed development of yet another of our beautiful mountain peaks. This hike will include a commentary on proposed city plans to put another communication tower of dubious need on our skyline.

Become informed so that you can be a part of the solution.

EASTER GILA BACKPACK TO THE MEADOWS

DATE: April 16-19, 1992
PLACE: Gila Wilderness, NM
CLASS: Moderate +
LIMIT: 12, reservations and leader approval required
LEADER: Carol Morrison, 585-9077

Come celebrate Easter in the beauty of the Gila Wilderness. We will leave El Paso Thursday evening and drive to the vicinity of the Gila Cliff Dwellings for a carcamp at Military Road campsite. The hike will involve no more than 2,000' of elevation and is about 9 miles each way. We'll camp on the river, with campfires permitted, and have a luxurious layover day to explore and play. Call Carol for reservations and details.

EARTH DAY AT UTEP

Take a hike to UTEP on Saturday, April 18, to celebrate Earth Day. This event is sponsored by Earth El Paso, and will be on the courtyard at the Student Union from 9 to 5. The Sierra Club will have a table from noon till 5 p.m. to provide information

BACKPACK SERIES, *Continued*

This last session will place it all in perspective with the "facts of life" for a successful backpack experience in the wilderness. If you missed one or both of our other sessions, call Carol at 585-9077 for handouts and a summary of either session. And remember, you're still welcome at this last important session. A beginner's backpack is scheduled for May 16-17, with leader Betty Fisbeck. Flip to the Outings page to learn details. If necessary, we will schedule a joint or second trip to accommodate all Sierrans who want to become comfortable on the backpack trail!

MAY 2 JOHN MUIR BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION DINNER

Make plans now to attend this annual celebration of our founder and 100 years of Sierra Club history on Saturday, May 2. Come early to the Indian Cliffs Ranch, Fabens, Texas, for volleyball and horseshoes. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. sharp. You will be treated to a non-meat, chicken or beef dinner; birthday cake; and a surprise guest speaker. If weather permits, we'll close the evening with a campfire and marshmallows.

Watch for your reservation form in the LORAX. Reservations required. Carolina Greenfield (593-2838) if you have a question.

on environmental issues and Sierra Club memberships. T-shirts and cacti will be offered for sale. If you're willing to share your time to help educate fellow El Pasoans on environmental responsibility, contact Betsy Julian, 544-5741, and volunteer to help out at our table.

MIDDLE FORK OF THE GILA BACKPACK

DATE: April 24-26, 1992
 PLACE: Gila Wilderness
 CLASS: Moderate
 LIMIT: 12, reservations and leader approval required
 LEADER: Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042

We will depart El Paso Friday night and drive to our campsite near the Gila River. On Saturday morning, we will drive the remaining distance to the trailhead at T.J. Corral. The hike follows Trail #729 north to the Middle Fork where we will change to wading shoes and cross the river about 4 times to our campsite. On Sunday, we will retrace our steps to the cars. Participants should be prepared for changeable weather conditions - in mid-April, 1988, we were snowed on in the Gila. A side trip to Jordan Hot Springs is possible. Roundtrip trail mileage is about 10 miles with elevation gain less than 800'. Come see the beautiful part of the Gila before the crowds of summer arrive.

Call Rollin for reservations and details.

May 2: "Hike" out to the Indian Cliffs Ranch in Fabens to join in the John Muir and Sierra Club birthday celebration.

NORTH FRANKLIN PEAK DAYHIKE (ISSUE OUTING)

DATE: Sunday, May 3, 1992
 PLACE: Franklin Mountains State Park
 CLASS: Moderate
 LIMIT: 24, reservations and leader approval required
 LEADER: John Sproul, 545-5157

This is a special repeat of our April 12 hike in celebration of John Muir's birthday and our commitment to guard the Franklins against additional unnecessary development.

We will follow the details of the route listed for the April 12 hike, to include a commentary as we take in the view from the summit. If you want to be a part of this special weekend hike in tribute to John Muir, call for a reservation.

LITTLE SAN NICHOLS CANYON DAYHIKE

DATE: Saturday, May 9, 1992
 PLACE: White Sands Missile Range
 CLASS: Moderate
 LIMIT: 12
 LEADER: Gary Williams, 544-8484

This is an authorized hike onto military lands. Call Gary Williams for details about this limited access hike.

BEGINNER BACKPACK

DATE: May 16-17, 1992
 PLACE: Railroad Canyon, Aldo Leopold Wilderness
 CLASS: Easy
 LIMIT: 12, reservations and leader approval required
 LEADER: Betty and Weldon Fisbeck, 581-0174

This is a trip designed especially for those who would like to try backpacking for the first time. It is a short trip (approximately 2 miles) over a fairly easy, but beautiful, streamside trail. You will get a feel of what it's like to shoulder a pack and be self-sufficient, safe, and ecologically responsible in the wilderness. Hopefully, aspiring backpackers will attend the Beginner's Backpack series being offered by the Club. If necessary, we will have a planning meeting, contingent on the needs and wishes of the participants. Please call early for reservations.

MOGOLLON RANGE KEY EXCHANGE BACKPACK

DATE: May 22-25, 1992, Memorial Day Weekend
 PLACE: Gila Wilderness
 CLASS: Moderately Strenuous
 LIMIT: 24 (12 in each direction), reservations and leader approval required

LEADERS: Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042 (home) and Wesley Leonard, 747-5494 (work)

We will leave El Paso Friday night and drive to our respective trailheads. The "downhill" group will leave from Sandy Point and the "uphill" group will leave from Little Dry Creek trailhead.

Each group will spend two nights in the backcountry with water nearby. Total trail mileage is approximately 19 miles. This route passes through some of the highest and most beautiful sections of the Gila Wilderness and follows the upper Golden Link Trail that the Club has never hiked before. Days will be warm; nights will be chilly. Be prepared for changeable weather conditions. After last year, we can count on walking through some snow drifts.

Call Rollin or Wesley early for reservations and details. (NOTE: An alternative Gila trip is available if snow prohibits this particular route.)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 1	EXCOM
April 11	Outing Leaders' Workshop
April 29	General Meeting
May 2	John Muir Birthday Dinner
May 16-17	San Mateos Carcamp
May 31	Hillsboro Peak Dayhike
June 6-7	Spring Cabin Backpack
June 22-29	Gila 8-Day Backpack
June 28-29	Kiddie Backpack

SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - TUESDAY, APRIL 21

An unusual treat is in store for the April General Meeting. As most of you know, some of the most beautiful scenery in southern Utah and northern Arizona was drowned by Lake Powell with the building of the Glen Canyon Dam. A slide program of pictures taken of the breathtaking and pristine Glen Canyon before it disappeared beneath the water will be shown. The collection of slides was willed to the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club by the late Alexander Brownlee. Arnold and Carolyn Keskulla have edited the slides and will present the commentary.

Also, Conservation Committee Chair Sue Harrod will lead a presentation and discussion of Animal Damage Control (ADC) developments in the Southwest.

The general meeting is free and open to the public and will be held at the Unitarian Church on Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo, Tuesday, April 21, at 7:30 PM.

IN BRIEF:

New Executive Comm Member: Coby Muckelroy has been appointed to the ExCom to replace Janie Dohrmann who regrets she will be unable to continue on the committee.

Recycling: We are delighted with the response to community recycling programs and urge our members to continue in this small but important chore. For those who wish to go that extra step and benefit the Sierra SF Group, gather up your recyclables and take them to either Capital Recycling or Environmental Control (both are just off Siler Road) and have them credited to Sierra. ♥

Sierra Conservation Slide Show: The Education Comm presented the slides to three fifth and sixth grades at Larragoite School in March. If you know any classes this slide show slide show can be presented to, call, Carolyn Keskulla, 982-9570

ELK ERADICATION ALERT

The NM Dept of Game & Fish has plans to eradicate every elk from the Glorietta/Rowe Mesa. A special hunt is scheduled for fall or early winter and will aim to kill every single elk in the herd: bulls, cows and calves.

The elk herd on the mesa numbers 40-100 animals. There are no allotted elk units on the mesa under current management plans. Altho no conflict currently exists and no complaints have been made, Game & Fish has decided the elk may compete with cattle sometime in the future and therefore should be eliminated.

This is one more instance of Game & Fish managing for hunters and stockmen instead of the overall health of the wildlife population. The mesa was the site of the most recent ADC action when, in response to a single livestock kill, ADC, Game & Fish, and private hunters killed a 180 lb. male mountain lion, with no proof this was the offending animal.

For more detailed information, contact either Pat Wolff, 988-9126. or Sue Harrod, 986-8825.

>> SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<

April Chair — Randy Freeman*	982-5520	Publicity — Jana Oyler*	988-1858
Vice-Chair — Norma McCallan*	471-0005	Outings — Norma McCallan*	471-0005
Secretary — Jana Oyler*	988-1858	Arnold Keskulla	982-9570
Treasurer — Lionel Soracco*	983-6715	Publications — Betsy Fuller	983-8870
Conservation — Sue Harrod	986-8825	Education/Recycling/Office — Carolyn Keskulla*	982-9570
Chapter Representative — Sue Harrod	986-8825	Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson	982-3926
Legislation — Ken Hughes	988-9297	Phone Tree — Martha Anne Freeman	438-0697
Membership — Pat Stevens	982-5051		
Fund Raising — Web Kitchell*	471-7539	John McClure*	473-1916
* Member of the Santa Fe Group Executive Committee		Coby Muckelroy*	983-5453
Terms expire 12/92: Freeman/Keskulla/Kitchell/McClure		Lani Moore*	989-7711
12/93: McCallan/Moore/Muckelroy/Oyler/Soracco			

>>>>>>>>> SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS <<<<<<<<<<<

Sat Sun April

- 4 John McClure (473-1916) Moderate/Strenuous Hike in Bandelier. Leave 8 AM.
- 5 Charles Crooks (471-0005) Easy Walk with dogs & friends. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 12 Stephen Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Hike on La Luz trail to Sandia Crest and return via La Cueva Canyon. Leave 7:30 AM.
- 18 Brian Johnson (438-2087) Moderate Hike Leave 7:30 AM.
- 19 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Hike to sunrise on Aspen Vista Road. Conditions permitting (call leader first). Leave 5:30 AM.
- 19 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Moderate/Strenuous Hike Leave 8 AM.
- 25 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate Hike in Ojo Caliente. Leave 8 AM.

★ ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE HIKE FOR MARCH ★

- 25 Norma McCallan (SF coordinator 471-0005) Tour of proposed Pegasus Gold Mine in the Ortiz Mountains.
- 26 Victor Atyas (471-7545) Easy Hike in Bandelier to Rio. Leave 9:15 AM.

April May

- 25 - 3 Peter Kiefer (662-6092) Week-long trip to Grand Canyon, including a 4-day Backpack into Havasupai Canyon. Leave Saturday, April 25. Call soon as possible for reservations and more information.

Sat Sun May

- 2 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Hike in Bandelier. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 3 Victor Atyas (471-7545) Easy Hike on Frey Trail in Bandelier (campground to Ceremonial Cave). Leave 9 AM.
- 2 3 Paul Miller (473-3107) Car Camp to Great Sand Dunes Nat'l Monument. Easy/Medium Hike up Medrano Creek Trail Sat. Moderate Hike to Mosca Pass Sun. Call for details/reservations. If you don't want to hike, play in the sand dunes!
- 9 Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Moderate Hike to Bayo Canyon near Los Alamos. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 10 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike to Glorieta Baldy. Leave 8 AM.
- 10 Charles Crooks (471-0005) Easy Hike Ghost Hotel. Leave 9:30 AM. Dogs allowed.
- 16 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate Hike Leave 8 AM. Call for more info.
- 17 Steven Janus (988-4137) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Penitente Ridge and Doctor Lake Overlook via Windsor Trail. Leave 8 AM.

★ ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE HIKE FOR MAY ★

- 16 17 Sue Harrod (986-8825) Car Camp in Raton area. Tour the York Canyon Coal Mine and explore a new and different area of the state.
- 23 Gordon Winkler (986-0858) Easy/Moderate Hike to Kitchen Mesa near Ghost Ranch. One rock scramble. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 24 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Strenuous Hike to Shaggy Peak & Deer Peak. *Must call leader for reservations!*

Thur Mon

- 21 - 24 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Memorial Day Weekend Car Camp/Day Hikes Capitol Reef Nat'l Monument, Utah. Call for reservations/information after April 5.
- 30 John McClure (473-1916) Moderate/Strenuous Hike. Leave 8 AM.
- 31 Louise Leopold (988-4592) Easy Hike, dogs allowed. Leave 9:30 AM.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING FOR APRIL

- 5 John Turnbull (982-9329) ADVANCED (!) Beginner/Intermediate Ski Tour Destination to be determined - *definitely call John first*. Leave 8:15 AM, return probably 7:30 PM.
- 11 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Cross Country Ski Tour or Hike depending on conditions. Leave 8:30 AM.

SKI TOUR NOTES: If you don't have your own cross country ski equipment, you can rent skis from a shop for about \$9.00.
 Call leader for details and reservations before all tours - most important!
 For all-day tours, bring **big lunch**, snacks and water.
Proper clothing is essential - the weather can turn suddenly.

Outings Notes - All outings, unless otherwise specified, leave from the PERA parking lot at the corner of Paseo de Peralta and Old SF Trail (across street from State Capitol and Patis Corbae). Carpooling will be arranged at the parking lot, and each hiker should come prepared to pay 5 cents a mile to the driver of the car in which hiker rides. Hikers should bring a lunch, water, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, and clothing suitable for the weather - leader reserves the right to turn away anyone whose equipment or experience appears unsuitable. Leader has the right to alter destination of hike or cancel the trip due to weather, unfavorable conditions, or insufficient numbers of participants. Unaccompanied minors must have written permission from parents or guardians to participate; permission forms are available at the Sierra Club office. Dogs are not permitted on hikes unless noted otherwise. Telephone leader for details of the individual hike.

SIERRA CLUB -- Santa Fe Group
 440 Cerrillos Road
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
 Telephone 505/983-2703

>>>>>> MEETINGS - MEETINGS - MEETINGS <<<<<<<
 All members are invited to all meetings

Membership Meeting **	Conservation Committee *	Executive Committee *
Tuesday, April 21, 7:30	Tuesday, April 28, 7 PM	Tuesday, May 5, 7 PM

* Held at the Sierra Club office at 440 Cerrillos Road
 ** Held at the Unitarian Church (on Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo)

The Deadline for Submission to the May Newsletter is Friday, 5 PM, April 10.

RANGELAND SUBJECT OF CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

The April 28 Conservation Committee meeting will focus on how to improve the quality of New Mexico rangeland. Pete Tatchel, the Range manager from the Santa Fe Forest, Pecos Ranger District, will discuss alternate range management methodologies, share his experiences in the Santa Fe Forest and answer any questions we might have.

Sierra Club and other New Mexico conservation groups will be working with Pete and several of the Pecos allottees to try to find some common ground so that we may begin to work toward mutual goals on the ground improvement in range and forest conditions.

A helpful step toward range improvement is to know as much about range management as possible. Pete has extensive experience and an open mind to positive new ideas, and we should learn much from him, as well as he from us.

We plan to have other range management specialists in to discuss the issues throughout the spring and summer months. Stay tuned and get involved!

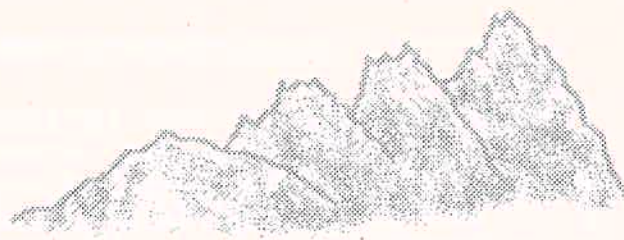
Sue Harrod Conservation Committee Chair
 (986-8825)

Conservation Committee
 Tuesday, April 28, 7 PM, SF Group office

THE

LOG

Southern New Mexico Group



BLM REPORT CARD

By Storm Sermay

On February 20, Larry Woodard, the Bureau of Land Management Director for New Mexico, held a meeting in Las Cruces with representatives of the environmental community. I believe that these yearly meetings are an important opportunity for us to be able to voice concerns about the management of our public lands.

There were eleven topics on the agenda. Much of the discussion centered on topics related to the Mimbres Area Re-source Management Plan (RMP). This plan covers management of BLM lands in the southwest corner of the state (Dona Ana, Luna, Grant and Hidalgo counties) and is of great concern to the individuals living in Las Cruces. As part of the plan, BLM contracted with the Nature Conservancy to prepare a biological inventory on proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The report summarized all available scientific information on each area and made recommendations on their designation and boundaries. According to BLM, many reviewers (read ranchers) objected to the use of the Nature Conservancy to provide this information. BLM has decided to request an independent review of the report's findings and recommendations.

This "independent" review will be

performed by the Range Improvement Task Force (RITF) at NMSU. The RITF acts as a troubleshooter between the live-stock industry and Federal agencies and does research for the livestock industry. A more biased organization would be hard to find.

Another concern is that of 30 possible ACEC's proposed under the preferred alternative of the RMP, only 4 areas would be withdrawn from hardrock mining. It was difficult for us to see how either biological or cultural resources of an ACEC could be preserved when mining would still be allowed.

BLM is still embroiled in the land exchange on the Rio Bonito in Lincoln County. Mr. Woodard said that although the local residents are generally for the exchange, two of the County Commissioners are still opposed. BLM wants to acquire 5,000 acres along the Rio Bonito, although the initial acquisition would be 1400 acres. This would protect the in-stream flow and the riparian area. Those living in Lincoln County who are interested in preserving this area should contact the County Commission and BLM

and express their support for BLM for this endeavor.

Land exchanges with the State of New Mexico were also discussed. The environmental community expressed concern mostly about land exchanges within Wilderness Study Area (WSA) boundaries. Many WSA's have state lands either within or on the boundary. In order for an area to be designated as Wilderness by Congress, the land must be Federal land. We would like to see these land exchanges take place so that there would be no State inholdings which might be a problem when a Wilderness Bill is finally written. Mr. Woodard said that he expected to see progress with the land exchanges within the next six months due to a new state Attorney General opinion which will allow them to proceed.

There were other discussions and comments relating to the 1872 Mining Law, animal damage control (ADC) and gravel pit operations. As a whole it was clear that the environmental community was not happy with BLM management. The director of the Las Cruces District of BLM, expressed the sentiment that BLM must be doing something right if both sides are angry. Is it possible instead, that BLM is doing nothing right?

Lincoln Timber Analysis
Feasibility Report

By Karen Fuller

A number of comments have been made concerning issues, alternatives and evaluation criteria presented in the Draft Feasibility Report which was mailed to interested parties on October 30, 1991. Of the 130 comments, 13 related to the local economy issue, 7 related to below-cost timber sales, 8 related to insects and disease or wildfire risk, 2 related to visual quality or recreation, 17 related to wildlife habitat or biodiversity, 10 related to special areas, 8 related to soil and air quality, 19 related to threatened and endangered species and 11 related to the balance of resource uses on the Lincoln. Many other respondents indicated an alternative which they prefer, and the likes and dislikes of others. Suggested recommendations were considered. Those that were not already covered were adopted if within the scope of this analysis.

Changes made as a result of public comment include the addition of Alternative 8 and threshold old-growth as an analysis criterion. A modification was made to existing issue 5 to include activity effects on unique biological areas and an analysis criterion was added under biodiversity. The analysis will also discuss the effects on inter-stand and intra-stand diversity. Issue 1 was clarified to point out some of the specific impacts to the local economy. Alternative 4 was modified to have no timber treatments in roadless or undeveloped areas.

Further, the Chief of the Forest Service has "proposed" changes to the agency's commercial timber sale program in a draft policy statement. Changes would allow commercial timber sales only on national forests where program revenues exceed costs or where long-term benefits of the timber sale program outweigh costs. The Lincoln's timber sale program has not produced revenues higher than costs since implementation of the Lincoln Forest Plan in October, 1986. However, under the Chief's "proposed" policy, the Lincoln's timber sale program would be required to consistently generate revenue exceeding cost for future activities. The proposed policy may affect whether, how, and where timber is harvested on the Forest. The Chief's proposed policy may not be finalized for this process, but costs and revenues will be tracked by the analysis.

A number of comments about resource management on the Lincoln will not be addressed through the timber supply analysis, but will be addressed during Forest Plan revision or be handled in a separate analysis. These include requests for improvements in recreation facilities, wilderness and range management and our day-to-day operations. Although not addressed specifically in this analysis, these concerns have been noted and passed on to the appropriate managers.

If you would like a copy of the final feasibility report, contact Ron Hannan, Forest Planner; Federal Building, 1101 New York Avenue, Alamogordo, NM 88310. Those interested in information about the scoping process may request a copy of the scoping report which was developed as a separate document.

Sierra Club
Outings

APRIL 12: Lucero Canyon. This is an Issue Outing regarding petroglyphs within the area. Easy walk approximately 1.5 miles. Meet 9:30 a.m., North parking lot, Pan Am Center.

MAY 2: Florida Mountains. Day Hike. This is an Issue Outing regarding Wilderness. Rated moderate, elevation gain 1000 ft. Hike to the heart of this Wilderness Study Area. This beautiful mountain range is not recommended by BLM as wilderness although the Sierra Club is recommending it. Call Storm Sermay, 382-3348 for reservations and information.

Glad
Bag-A-Thon To
Take Place

By Susan Worley

Community Pride of Las Cruces and Dona Ana County is sponsoring the Glad Bag-a-thon. The event will begin on Saturday, March 28 at Peter Piper Pizza on South Main Street from 11am-4pm. Many activities will take place during the week, including newspaper recycling at all McDonald's, Burger King and Sonic Drive-ins in Las Cruces.

April 4 is the big pickup day, when all organizations, schools and individuals are encouraged to go out around the county and pickup garbage and recyclable products. T-shirts will be given to participants. This begins at 9am through noon.

(continued next page)

Bag-A-Thon -- (continued)

Immediately following the cleanup, the "Thank You" celebration at Young Park will consist of a luncheon, festivities and drawings for prizes. If you want to help cleanup our community and recycle, contact Susan Worley at 646-5522 for information and registration.

FYI -- MORE on The Border And Free Trade

The following is excerpted from a statement made by Lynda Taylor, Director, Radiation, Toxics and Health Project of the Southwest Research and Information Center (SRIC); P.O. Box 4524, Albuquerque, NM 87106; (505) 262-1862. The statement was presented on March 9, 1992 before the Border Environment Conference: Planning for the Nineties and Beyond.

Before I delve into the specific air quality problems we in New Mexico are faced with along the border, I think it is important to provide the larger picture about the difficulty in addressing these issues in light of international trade discussions between the United States and Mexico which usually focus on economic gains and not on potential environmental problems that could result from free trade agreements.

First of all, SRIC supports border development efforts and the economic benefits that can be derived by citizens of both the US

and Mexico under the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), but of course not if it is at the expense of the environment or public health in border areas. I don't believe you can have a good economic program without protecting the environment because environmental problems at some point become economic problems so it is important that the environment is now being discussed as part of the FTA process.

The lesson of modern, industrialized society is that environmental problems do not remain neatly in one place, but migrate through our natural resources by many means. We have learned that the impact of dumping toxic chemicals, of clearcutting individual forests, of burning hazardous wastes, of large industrial process, rarely if ever remains localized as we might wish.

Protecting and managing a resource requires regional and international cooperation. Ecosystems often cross state and international borders, and unless we work together, the efforts of any one area can be rendered ineffective by the actions of others that share the resource. To assure the necessary cooperation, and to give all that share the resource a voice in its protection and management, states and countries are turning to various agreements and treaties to establish protocols for mutual aid. No where does this type of cooperation need to happen more urgently than in the case of industrial development along the border of the United States and Mexico, particularly prior to or simultaneously with the passage of any Free Trade Agreement.

Poorly designed, a free-trade agreement could allow polluters to escape tougher environmental laws and regulations in the US. This should not happen, and there are several steps that need to be in-

corporated into any FTA to ensure the environment and affected populations on both sides of the border are protected. These steps must be accomplished quickly and before a Free Trade Agreement is approved. "Fast-track" approval procedures prevent Congress from engaging in a thorough review of environmental impacts of trade agreements.

There are several actions which must be taken first, by both countries (Binational Agreements) before we are in a position to effectively deal with the inherent environmental problems:

1. *Commitments are needed on the part of Mexico and the US to enter into binding agreements to deal seriously with projected environmental problems before passage of the FTA, including a review of the FTA under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).*

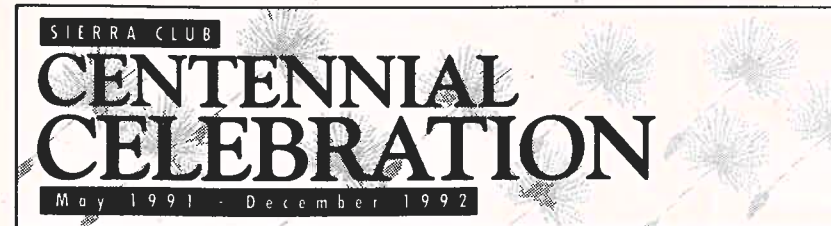
2. *Funding must be committed for any binational programs to address existing and future environmental problems.*

3. *There is a need for parity between environmental standards and enforcement as well as stronger border regulatory presence in Mexico and the US.*

This excerpt is from a 16 page, well thought out and researched presentation. It is well worth reading in its entirety.

What to do? Call, write, Demand! NOW! That your Federal and State delegations provide for: Planning, Funding and Protection BEFORE any Free Trade Agreement is accepted. Also, let the New Mexico Environment Department know of your concerns:

Judith M. Espinosa, Secretary
NM Environment Department
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502



Centennial Bicycle Tours

In September 1867, John Muir quit his factory job in Indianapolis to embark on a "grand sabbath day three years long." Departing Louisville, Kentucky, on foot, the 29-year old naturalist-to-be headed south on a trip that would be a turning point in his life—and in American conservation history.

By tracing all or part of his thousand-mile walk, late twentieth-century adventurers can celebrate the centennial of the Sierra Club that Muir later founded.

Four consecutive week-long bicycle trips (September 20-October 17), led by experienced Sierra Club tour leaders, will follow the route that Muir took—from Louisville to Mammoth Cave, into the Cumberland Mountains and across Tennessee, through Georgian plantation and Civil War country to Savannah, and then across Florida from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico.

Each trip will consist of 6-7 days of cycling for about 250 miles. Participants will camp each night, help with cooking duties on one day, and eat in the quantities and style typical of Sierra Club bicycle tours.

Opportunities for learning about natural and cultural history along the route, as well as contemporary environmental issues, will be plentiful.

For more information, contact individual trip leaders or the Sierra Club Outing Department, 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA 94109 (415) 923-5522. Individual trip leaders are as follows:

•Kentucky Forests and Caves:
Alice Honeywell, (608) 233-4534.

•Crossing the Cumberlands:
Mark Lidd, (703) 503-9668.

•River Country of Georgia:
Charles Hardy, (415) 759-8816.

•Florida's Swamps/Forests:
Glenn Gillis, (703) 430-0568.

Quilt to Commemorate Sierra Club Centennial

One-hundred years ago, there was a tradition of friends and family gathering together to create quilts in celebration of special events such as weddings, births, anniversaries.

Following in that tradition, a small group of folks in the Midwest has joined together to organize the creation of a special quilt commemorating the 100th birthday of the Sierra Club.

Squares are being sought that show the special places around the United States and Canada where, over the last 100 years, Sierra Club members have followed our mission to "Explore, Enjoy and Protect". Everyone can participate. The result will be a quilt that represents the beauty and grandeur of North America from the Everglades to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The quilt will be presented at the November, 1992 Annual Meeting and displayed at the Sierra Club headquarters in San Francisco.

The deadline for submitting quilt squares will be Thursday, April 30. A jury will then select the squares that will become a part of the Centennial quilt. Contributors are asked to donate \$20 with the submission of each square to help pay for the assembly of the quilt.

Additional contributions are also being sought to help pay for the display, long-term care and insurance protection of the quilt.

Donations (payable to Sierra Club Centennial Quilt) and requests for quilt instructions and guidelines can be mailed to: Elaine Faithful, 825 Meadow Lane, Lexington, Kentucky 40505 (606) 259-1922; or Terese Pierskalla, 2200 Richmond Road, Apt. 236, Lexington, Kentucky 40502, (606) 268-8056.



Albuquerque Group Celebrates Centennial

by Laura Jenkins

One hundred and ninety trees along the banks of the Rio Grande are a living memorial to the Sierra Club's founding, and it's hundred years of accomplishments.

The cottonwood and black willow were planted by 23 members on March 14, in cooperation with the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division, which manages the Rio Grande Valley State Park, a narrow strip of bosque extending from Sandia to Isleta Pueblo. The trees are old, and are not reseeded. The group's planting restored an area that had been cleared, possibly for planting crops.

A plaque, presented by Open Space, hangs on a tree. It says: *Sierra Club: 100 Years and Growing.*

THE THOUGHTS OF FREEWAY DEVELOPMENT for Ike Eastvold & The Friends of the Petroglyphs

it hadn't occurred to me 2 days ago when we found the dead owl under that ledge near the petroglyphs of the 3 dancing men and the fresh bones of a magpie and a rabbit amongst all the colors of broken glass and scattered debris on the West Mesa

until i finished reading Rudolpho Anaya's BLESS ME, ULTIMA yesterday

that this owl, still so warm his large eyes closed, claws clenched, feathers so soft and breathtakingly beautiful

was, the soul of the West Mesa dying before advancing Albuquerque

just like the curandera's owl familiar in Anaya's great book.

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mark weber
albuquerque