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RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

Environmental News of New Mexico and West Texas

Corps of Engineers Retreats at Abiquiu

By Jay B. Sorenson

Score a victory for the environment! Add an affirmation of the Rio Grande Chapter's support for the people and culture in Northern New Mexico.

At a public meeting in Rio Arriba early in April, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers withdrew its plan to condemn thousands of acres of private land around Abiquiu Lake and raise the lake level by three feet for recreational access. Faced with strong opposition from landowners in Northern New Mexico and the Albuquerque Group and the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, Lt. Col Michael DeBow, head of the Army Corps Albuquerque District Office, announced his decision. From now on, according to DeBow, the Corps will encourage local landowners, recreational users, and environmental groups interested in the management of the area to form an advisory committee to identify and address any problems in land management at the lake.

At scoping meetings in Española, Abiquiu, Coyote, and Los Alamos, person after person, speaking in English and Spanish, protested the Corps taking of the

6,185 acres. The Ghost Ranch Conference Center, which owns much of the land in question, led the broad based coalition in the battle with the Corps.

The Sierra Club, in a prepared statement, charged the proposal to be ill-conceived, not in keeping with agreements previously struck, and not in keeping with the wishes of the local landowners, people, and culture of the area or in the protection of the environment. The quid pro quo for passage of the legislation which designated the Chama Wild and Scenic River was the bill establishing a permanent lake at Abiquiu for water storage. The justification for the Corps current proposal to raise the Abiquiu Lake, which

would be reduced to mud flats as Albuquerque drew down its San Juan-Chama water.

The coalition members agreed to a permanent lake since a dry lake bed would adversely affect fish and wildlife, aesthetics, water supply, recreation and the regional economy. However, they did not agree to the increased water storage leading to condemnation of land and raising the lake level by 3 feet.

Raising the lake level would increase the probability that water would be backed up to the Study Seg-

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Western Senators Defend Special Interests Sierra Club Continues Pursuit of Public Lands Reforms

Dismayed by the recent White House decision to strip key public lands reforms from its economic package, the Sierra Club has challenged the Clinton administration to join in the pursuit of an even more ambitious overhaul of these archaic subsidies.

"We were clearly blindsided by the sudden withdrawal of the mining, grazing and logging reforms from the package," said Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope. "We are now committed to winning stronger versions of the proposed reforms by legislative means, and we will press the White House to do its part through administrative measures."

Clinton's economic package was hailed by the Sierra Club and other environmentalists when it was unveiled in February. The president's plan to invest in the environmental infra-

Sierra Club Group News:

Albuquerque: pages 12-14
Picnic Sun, May 16, 1:30,
Nine Mile Picnic Ground

El Paso: pages 15-17
Picnic Wed, May 26, 5:30,
Chamizal Park

Santa Fe: pages 18-20
Meeting Tues, May 18, 7:30,
Unitarian Church

Southern NM:
pages 21-23

structure—mass transit and se treatment, for example—and t polluting energy sources was se good medicine after 12 years c vironmental neglect. But the gre plank of the economic package the proposal to eliminate subsidi mining, grazing and logging on p lands, which in some cases v have reversed policies dating t 19th century.

After meeting in late March Democratic senators from W states, Clinton apparently decide economic package had a better cl of succeeding if the public lan forms were dropped. One of the ators involved in the meeting was ator Jeff Bingaman of New Me

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RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

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LETTERS

Correction

Dear Ms. Schock:

The April 1993 issue of the Rio Grande Sierran included an article by you entitled "Pagan Nature Worship" in the Gila. In that article you stated that I was on the Board of the Minuteman Media. This letter is to correct the factual error in that statement. Prior to the publication of your story, I had resigned from the Minuteman board. My resignation was tendered because for several months I had not been able to attend meetings of the board nor been able to carry out my duties and obligations to assure the factual integrity of Minuteman Media's message to the public.

My initial purpose in joining Minuteman Media was to overcome the lack of coverage by traditional and non-traditional news media of the extractive industries' viewpoint on important land use and environmental issues. To overcome the deficiency, Minuteman Media sponsored the showing of balanced, factual presentations such as the U.S. Bureau of Mines' video Out of the Rock. This type of presentation fills a void in the public's knowledge of both where the necessities of modern society ultimately come and the competing policy views regarding extractive industries.

Charles E. Roybal
Executive Director
NM Mining Association
Albuquerque

People for the West

To the editor:

As environmentalists, we are not powerless to counter the cynical "wise use" movement. An old-fashioned consumer boycott of sponsoring corporations could help us begin to break up the corporate support for organizations such as People for the West.

Wise users are using boycotts and boycott threats to intimidate businesses into withdrawing support for environmental causes. A case in point was Ford Motor company and General Electric's withdrawal of support for the PBS Audubon special on grazing last year. In Oregon, the wise users have published names of local businesses supporting the Oregon Natural Resources Council, urging boycotts.

Specifically, we can boycott Chevron Oil Company, which donate thousands of dollars to the Western States Public Lands Coalition which sponsors the People for the West. Cut you credit card in half and send the remains with a letter of explanation to Chevron Oil, 225 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.

Unfortunately most of the other PFW corporate sponsors are large mining companies who are not necessarily in the consumer markets vulnerable to boycotts. Perhaps other readers can come up with more suggestions on this front.

Tom Ribe
Los Alamos

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THIRD PAGE	2 1/4" x 9 1/2"	\$45.00	\$40.50
QUARTER PAGE	3 1/4" x 4 1/4"	\$36.00	\$32.40
BUSINESS CARD	3 1/4" x 2"	\$20.00	\$18.00

NEWS SUMMARY

At a public meeting in Rio Arriba early in April, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers withdrew its plan to condemn thousands of acres of private land around Abiquiu Lake and raise the lake level by three feet for recreational access. **Page 1.**

After meeting in late March with Democratic senators from Western states, Clinton apparently decided his economic package had a better chance of succeeding if the public lands reforms were dropped. One of the senators involved in the meeting was Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico. **Page 1.**

Five strategies that together can bring New Mexico back to the forefront of green electricity policies. **Page 4.**

Is today's environmental movement overreacting to environmental problems and giving too little attention to environmental solutions? Are we threatening our economic system with needless restrictions on human use of the Earth's ecosystem? According to members of a 1988 "Multiple Use Strategy Conference" the answer is yes. **Page 6.**

After more than 800 years, roads continue to be a focal point in the Chaco region. **Page 10.**

CALENDAR

May 6: Grazing Hearing with Secretary of Interior Babbitt, Albuquerque

May 20: deadline for June Sierran

June 5-6: Chapter Conservation Committee & Executive Committee, Kingston. Ben Zerbey will lead a moderate/strenuous hike to Hillsboro Peak, starting from Emory Pass at 1 PM Fri, June 4. (For hike details, call Ben at 526-6207.)

June 20: deadline for July-August Sierran

WANTED

OLD ORIENTAL RUGS
AMERICAN INDIAN RUGS
PERUVIAN TEXTILES

Call Michael Andrews (415) 641-1937

Hearings on Public Land Grazing Secy. Babbitt to Visit Albuquerque May 6

by Marc Bedner

Last month's Sierran announced a hearing which the Department of the Interior had scheduled for Albuquerque on May 14. The hearing, featuring Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, is now scheduled for **Thursday, May 6, 10 AM to 4 PM, at the Pyramid Holiday Inn in Albuquerque.** The meeting will discuss grazing policy on both Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Land. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy is expected to be there along with Secretary Babbitt. If New Mexico's Jim Baca is confirmed as BLM Director by that point, he is also expected to be there.

Unfortunately, many readers of the Sierran will probably not receive this in time to attend the hearing. Fortunately, it is still possible to comment on the issue. A coalition of environmental groups, including the National Wildlife Federation, Gila Watch, Forest Guardians, Audubon and the Wilderness Society, along with the Sierra Club, is urging that letters in support of range reform be sent to Secretary Babbitt.

The range reform campaign has five components:

1. The goal of federal rangeland management should not be just to raise more cattle, but to maintain healthy rangeland ecosystems that support a diversity of native plants and animals.
2. Grant the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service the authority to declare especially fragile or environmentally sensitive rangelands unsuitable for grazing.
3. Ensure that the interests of wildlife and recreational users are considered in managing public lands.
4. Give the public the right to participate fully in public land management decisions, including the right to ask that certain areas be declared unsuitable for grazing.
5. Raise grazing fees to fair market rates, redirect grazing fee revenues to range restoration, and abolish grazing advisory boards.

Letters should be sent to:
Secretary Bruce Babbitt
Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

Rally for Grazing Reform
Noon, May 6
Pyramid Holiday Inn, Albuquerque

The Greening of Utilities

by Ken Hughes, Energy Chair, Rio Grande Chapter

Imagine: you want your electricity to come from renewable resources, but you are on the grid, and converting to rooftop photovoltaic panels is prohibitively expensive. Presto! Your utility just so happens to have a "green pricing" program in place, so that you can get your energy from its solar power plant as long as you are willing to pay a bit extra, as you do when you buy recycled paper towels at the grocery store.

Imagine: you get your monthly electric bill and notice it shows that you use more heat than really needed for a home your size. You call the power company, and shazam! in a few days they have a technician come by to audit your house. You are given a package of energy efficiency options from which to choose and how you can pay for them over the next three years through the same bill method, only because you are saving energy that bill will be less. And, most surprisingly, the utility saves itself money, too.

Isn't this a little farfetched for New Mexico? Not if state and federal policies now in place can be matched by a little imagination by regulators in the next few months. This article suggests five strategies that together can bring New Mexico back to the forefront of green electricity policies.

Recommendation #1

Implement Integrated Resource Planning to lower energy use and reduce costs to the individual and to the environment.

In the 1970s the nation saw spot shortages of liquid fuels, oil price shocks. Coal, a low-priced, home-grown fuel with low price, plentiful supply was king. In the 1980s natural gas was king, for the same reasons coal had been attractive ten years earlier.

Now renewable energy technologies, despite dramatic reduction in federal government support, have developed to a point where they now are cost effective in many applications. The 1980s also saw the blossoming of

independent power producers, many of them providing electricity through renewable resources. Finally, a concern for environmental costs and benefits, as reflected by society's broader concern for the environment, began to take a place in the energy policy framework.

California pioneered the concept of Integrated Resource Planning in the mid-1970s as a way to weight all energy options from a level playing field, in order to deliver the lowest cost electricity to consumers. IRP evaluates electricity-generating resources, i.e. power plants, with energy-saving resources such as energy efficiency and renewable energy. Planners then select those resources that provide reliable power at the lowest possible cost.

IRP offers many options to meet energy needs—supply-side and demand-side programs, transmission and distribution options, and electricity pricing. Dr. Eric Hirst of Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Bruce Driver of the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies, in their response to a Notice of Inquiry of the New Mexico Public Service Commission (July 31, 1992) identified the following as requirements for IRP:

- integration of supply, demand, transmission & delivery, and prices
- integration among people and departments within the utility
- active involvement of utility customers and other parties in preparation and review of the IRP plan
- explicit treatment of uncertainty
- incorporation of externalities
- implementation of the resource plan
- continuation of the planning process.

Recommendation #2

Decouple utility profits from electricity sales. Instead, provide incentives for utilities to adopt ambitious Demand Side Management programs and profit from how efficiently they serve their customers.

Demand Side Management is a key policy change that would decouple utility sales from profits. Instead, utility profits would be based on how well they serve the customers in their territory. The utility is totally neutral as to the source of its supply or demand options, except that lower cost options are preferred if they are reliable.

To put DSM into practice, one approach to take is to initiate a rate adjustment mechanism. This mechanism, advocated by the Sierra Club, compensates a utility for lost revenues for any utility-implemented DSM action.

Recommendation #3

Start a small scale grants program to incubate efficiency products and services.

Investment in the research, development, demonstration, commercialization and marketing of energy efficiency measures is very cost effective. During the Carter Administration, the Department of Energy conducted a variety of projects to induce ideas from the brainstorm to the store shelf. This incubator service has paid off enormously. Compact fluorescent light bulbs; high-performance windows; and low-energy heat pumps, water heaters and air conditioners are all on the market today because of up-front government assistance. Just three projects receiving \$6 million in funding have already realized savings of \$5 billion, eventually realizing \$82 billion savings. This is a return on taxpayer investment of 14,000 to 1. According to Joseph Romm (Once and Future Superpower, 1992) just the \$3 million investment in high-performance windows will save as much energy as would have been drilled in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

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Greening of Utilities continued from previous page

Recommendation #4

Allow energy service companies to bid, either directly to the PSC or through utilities, on specified quantities of electricity savings.

Just as a major multi-billion dollar market is being set up to buy and sell utility emissions credits, there is also a huge potential market in "negawatts" as a commodity to bid on, capture and own the resulting electricity savings. Saved electricity can be converted to money and traded between utilities, energy service companies or between customers. And contracts for negawatts could be resold in secondary markets, as brokers are doing for air pollution rights.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) could, through the IRP process, order that a certain amount of future electricity needs be met through negawatts and set up a bidding process to obtain the savings at the lowest possible cost. Utilities would be wise to contract with energy service companies or risk losing out in the emerging market for profits from negawatts.

Recommendation #5

Require that 60% of new supply come from solar sources. Enact financial incentives for solar facilities e.g. standard offer contracts, tax exemptions. Initiate utility-scale solar demonstration projects.

New Mexico currently gets most of its electricity from coal fired power plants. But it can diversify and take advantage of equally abundant supplies of natural gas and solar. Indeed, the state is a solar Saudi Arabia: as stated in the New Mexico State Energy Policy, solar energy received on just 18 square miles of the state could supply all of our annual energy needs—an equivalent of 161,425 barrels of oil.

Re-establishing a profitable, market-driven renewable energy industry in

New Mexico will need a package of measures. One means is to require New Mexico utilities obtain a long-term set-aside of new electrical generation from renewable energy sources. Equally important, property tax exemptions and an energy tax credit for power produced/saved will help equalize the tax burden of solar power plants with fossil-fuel fired plants, as will state guarantee of purchase of power at the increment above the peak power price (reflecting externality costs) for fossil fuel generated electricity.

To implement this recommendation, which would come as new capacity demand is deemed needed by the PSC,

a utility-scale project could be ordered. One of the most cost-effective means for doing so is a manner known as "solar hybrid repowering," which converts an existing plant to solar yet preserves fossil fuel use for operation at night or on cloudy days.

Numerous power plants throughout the Southwest were surveyed by PNM in 1978 for the potential for solar repowering. The survey identified 72 plants meeting all relevant criteria, such as land availability, repowering potential and engineering considerations. Two plants included on the list

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Outing to Pecos Wilderness High Country, June 19-27

by Norma McCallan, Chapter Outings Chair

"Cool mountain weather? Dense spruce forests and icy streams? Snow capped peaks? In New Mexico?"

This is the kind of reaction we often get when we describe the Pecos Wilderness high country. This is the southern end of the Rocky Mountains, and has more in common with the mountains of Colorado than with the lower desert country farther south. Our highest peaks are over 13,000 feet, and snowpack usually lasts well into July or even August in sheltered places.

Yet this is not Colorado. Though there are some very rugged peaks, the contours of the high country are more gentle, providing superb hiking on extensive ridge systems. These treeless ridges, though above 12,000 feet, are relatively level.

In June, the ridges are covered with alpine wildflowers in full bloom. Near our camp is a flower-rich meadow more than a mile square that stretches nearly level to what we call "the Edge of the World," where an escarpment drops a vertical mile to the eastern plains.

Although the Pecos Wilderness is a popular backpacking area, our camp is in such a remote part of it that other people are seldom seen. The absence of humans attracts much wildlife to the area. The tracks most commonly seen on the trail are those of elk, not Vibram-booted hikers, and though the

elk are very wary, they are seen occasionally, sometimes in herds of well over a hundred. Bighorn sheep are also here, and are fearless enough to beg for a snack or to lick a proffered hand. Pikas, marmots, and ptarmigan are also seen.

Itinerary

Meeting place will be Bill and Dana's house in Santa Fe on Saturday, June 19. Lunch will be provided. After equipment checkout we will leave for the trailhead, spending the night in a National Forest campground. The wrangler arrives first thing Sunday morning to pack the gear while we set off with day packs. The hike in is about 12 miles, with about 2300 feet of ascent, and will probably take the whole day. The wrangler drops our gear at the camp and goes away, to return in time to pack up on the following Saturday (June 27). We plan to arrive back in Santa Fe in the late afternoon or early evening.

The Camp

Our camp will be in a glade at 11,700 feet, where a snow-fed stream gushes forth from beneath tall spruce trees. Water from the stream will be filtered. Participants will need to bring their own tents, sleeping bags, and eating utensils. Everyone pitches in with food preparation.

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Corps Retreats

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ment or even into the Scenic Reach of the Chama Wild and Scenic River.

Both Representative Bill Richardson and Senator Jeff Bingaman supported the position of the coalition. In March, they co-signed a letter to the Corps in

which they stated that the legislation "is in no way a mandate to acquire over 6,000 acres of land, nor a directive to expand the mission of the Corps to include recreational development."

Senator Pete Domenici wrote to the Corps in April, requesting that the Corps stop the EIS process "until such time as a clearer understanding can be reached of the need for recreational access and the best means to meet such needs."

The Sierra Club statement objected to the position of the Corps as the "advocate and judge" of the project. We challenged the cost-benefit of the proposed action, requesting an analysis of the impact on "the quality of the human environment", on the Ghost Ranch and other landowners at Abiquiu Reservoir, on cooperative grazing and the Ganados del Valle cooperative economic development program, the availability of winter range, on the culture of the people, and on the economy of Rio Arriba county.

At the end of the Española meeting, we had the rare and distinct privilege of having many Hispanic farmers and others come up and thank us for what was described by representatives of the Congressional delegations and others as a "powerful statement," perhaps "the knock out blow."

This victory is just the beginning. To continue our work supporting the people of Northern New Mexico, Sierra Club should be represented on the new Advisory Committee which the Corps is creating.

For information on how to volunteer, Call Jay Sorenson at 884-8314

Editor's Note: Jay Sorenson is the Chair of the Albuquerque Group and a tireless advocate for the protection of the Chama and the traditions, culture and economy of the people of the area.

"Wise Use" or Land Abuse?

by Paula Carrell (via Sierra Club National Newsfeed)

Is today's environmental movement over-reacting to environmental problems and giving too little attention to environmental solutions? Are we threatening our economic system with needless restrictions on human use of the Earth's ecosystem? According to members of a 1988 "Multiple Use Strategy Conference" the answer is yes. Sponsored by the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise, the conference brought together almost 300 leaders from a range of fields related to natural resource use.

Out of the 1988 conference came the publication of *The Wise Use Agenda*, a book promoting the so called "wise use" of public lands. The book includes several movement "mottos" such as "Man and Nature Together: A World that's Whole" and "Don't be Stingy—Share the Earth." Through newsletters, conferences, and rallies, disparate groups, ranging from farmers and loggers to miners and dirt-bikers, are organizing to promote the "wise use" movement. According to Ron Arnold of the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise, the "wise use" movement emerged from a "concern about the environment and human development." However, behind the "wise use mottos" and clever rhetoric, *The Agenda's* "top 25 goals" document a plan for environmental exploitation and industrial development.

While not all of the groups who call themselves "wise use" activists agree with every point in the *Agenda*, and local groups focus on issues of specific concern to themselves, the book is recognized as an official movement document.

A Dangerous Agenda

Some of the major points included in the "top 25 goals" are listed below:

Immediate Oil Drilling in the Arctic Refuge: "Immediate wise development of the petroleum resources of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in Alaska as a model project showing careful development with full protection of environmental values."

Clearcutting Old Growth in National Forests: "Passage of the Global Warming Prevention Act to convert in a systematic manner all decaying and oxygen-using forest growth on the National Forests into young stands of ox-

xygen producing carbon dioxide absorbing trees to help ameliorate the rate of global warming...."

Opening More Public Lands to Mining: "Creation of a National Mining System," which would open "all public lands including wilderness and national parks" to "mineral and energy production under wise use technologies in the interest of domestic economies and in the interest of national security."

Increasing commercial development in National Parks: "A major thrust should be made to properly accommodate the increased visitor load on our parks through a 20 year construction program...." This includes the development of national parks under the direction of "private firms with expertise in people-moving such as Walt Disney."

Amending the Endangered Species Act to remove protection for "non-adaptive species such as the California Condor, and endemic species lacking the biological vigor to spread in range such as the wildflower *Pipers* harebells of the Olympic Mountains."

With "Eco-sensitive" names and "grassroots" strategies, "wise use" organizations are forming a strong coalition in support of the "Wise Use" *Agenda* items mentioned. Funded by big business, these groups have extensive resources for lobbying campaigns, scientific studies, educational projects and networking. Following are brief profiles of two prominent "wise use" organizations that focus on property rights issues while working to achieve the *Agenda's* overall goals for environmental exploitation.

"Science" Discovers the Truth About Wilderness

Founded in 1986 by Grant Gerber, the Wilderness Impact Research Foundation (WIRF) may at first appear to be an environmental conservation group. The group, a non-profit umbrella organization for over 200 affiliates, promotes "wise use" based on "the pursuit of common sense solutions to environmental issues and user friendly multiple use based on sound conservation practices." However, WIRF's "sound conservation practices" include opening up wilderness

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"Wise Use" continued from previous page

designations to grazing and other commercial uses. With the financial backing of corporate America, WIRF aims to fight environmentalists by "educating the public about the damage wilderness causes society, the economy and even wildlife." A glance at the steering committee and donor list reveals the group's intent. Members include such organizations as the Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Assoc., National Forest Products Assoc., National Cattleman's Assoc., American Motorcycle Assoc., and the North West Mining Assoc.

WIRF's agenda includes wetlands, endangered species, and animal rights—"all issues that deprive people of property they have a right to own and manage and the right to prosper from that private property," according to spokesman Herb Manig. The organization hires scientists and economists to conduct "Economic Impact Studies." These studies are published in research packages that provide educational tools about multiple use, "excellent for schools, libraries, congressman, senators and other individuals," according to Grant Gerber. The packages includes TV video tapes, studies on the negative impact of wilderness designations, affidavits by individuals "negatively impacted by wilderness", and articles about hunting and the "trouble with wilderness." Each package costs 200 dollars.

However, the "wise use" movement is not limited to lobbying groups. Through groups primarily concerned with networking, such as the Environmental Conservation Organization, the movement has consolidated financial support and increased lobbying power.

"No species is as valuable as the human species."

Environmental Conservation Organization (ECO), a private property rights advocacy group based in Illinois, was founded as an umbrella organization by the Land Improvement Contractors of America in 1990. A lobbying organization with a 1991 budget of about \$300,000, ECO "recognizes the need to protect our human resources, including our free enterprise economy which is built upon the principle of private ownership." ECO provides information to their "ECO-network" membership

through the publication of their monthly newsletter, *ECO-Logic*. Membership includes: WIRF, National Rifle Association, American Farm Bureau Federation, Pacific Legal Foundation, Mountain States Legal Foundation, Blue Ribbon Coalition, National Inholders Association/Multiple Use Land Coalition, People for the West!, National Cattleman's Association, Our Land Society, and numerous other groups.

ECO's agenda focuses on wetlands, the Endangered Species Act and "all legislation that diminishes the entrepreneurial creativity of individuals who participate in the free enterprise system or infringes upon rights of those individuals to own and use their property at its most productive capacity." According to Lamb two key laws infringing on personal property rights are the Clean Water Act, specifically section 404 dealing with wetlands, and the Endangered Species Act. While ECO claims to promote the "responsible protection of our natural resources and the U.S. constitution," the organization deals with Endangered Species legislation from the perspective that "No species is as valuable as the human species."

Besides providing an information network, ECO is active politically. A national "posting for support" program encourages members to "post" their property as a way to inform the public that over regulation is economically unbearable for private landowners. In addition, ECO influences political decisions through a networking system called PART, Political Action Response Team. Through PART, ECO advises its members on special initiatives and urges them to respond by pressuring critical representatives before votes are cast. ECO focuses on voting, coalition building, and campaign work. Clearly, these organizations are attempting to use traditional grassroots strategies and "green" rhetoric to further their agendas for land exploitation and corporate development. By promoting "responsible protection" of the environment and the economy, "wise use" groups have elicited support from a wide range of individuals. In response, we need to keep our members well informed and prepared to counter the movement's land abuse policies. Most of all we need to keep our grassroots alive and growing.

Advertise in this Space

If you have a business, why not help the Sierra Club by advertising in the *Rio Grande Sierran*? Business card rate is just \$20, with discounts for multiple insertions. Display rates are also available: see page 2, or contact the editor.

You can also help by asking neighborhood businesses to advertise. A rate sheet is available on request.

Utilities

continued from page 5

are the Reeves station, owned by PNM and an idle gas-fired plant at Algodones, owned by the Plains Electric Company. The Algodones plant, which serves 160,000 New Mexicans between Albuquerque and Santa Fe via local rural electric coops, is viewed as having particularly good repowering potential by Sandia Labs.

New Mexico can take a cue from voters in Sacramento, California, who voted in 1989 to close down a nuclear power plant operated by its municipal utility. Since then, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District has moved to embrace a variety of efficiency measures and solar electric options, allowing it to stabilize rates, incorporate alternatives into their mix and forego nuclear and coal. The utility has a 2 megawatt photovoltaic installation, the largest in the world, on the grounds of the shut down nuclear facility. It has planted 30,000 deciduous shade trees on the south side of buildings and painted flat roofs white, to cut cooling demand during the summer. It gives its customers up to \$250 for purchase of energy efficient appliances. And it has fired up cogeneration plants fueled by natural gas.

Western Senators Defend Special Interests *continued from first page*

The White House insisted this represented a tactical, not a policy, shift, and said it is still committed to pursuing these reforms through legislative and administrative channels.

In a letter sent out April 8, the Forest Guardians, a Santa Fe based environmental group, emphasized the \$1 billion saving to taxpayers that would have resulted from the Administration's plan to end special-interest subsidies to logging, mining and ranching interests. They estimated that mining, logging, and ranching combined account for less than 6% of New Mexico's economy.

Senator Bingaman Defends His Position

In a letter to constituents dated April 13, Senator Bingaman denied that he was trying to pressure the Clinton Administration.

"It has been reported," Sen. Bingaman wrote, "that I, along with other Western Democratic Senators, demanded the removal of provisions that would have increased grazing fees and established a royalty on mining. This is not true."

But in denying environmentalists' accusations, Sen. Bingaman still refused to commit himself to oppose special-interest subsidies.

"I did not demand or even ask that the White House remove the grazing and mining measures from the budget resolution," Sen. Bingaman's letter continued. "But when that happened, it became the Senate Energy Committee's and the Department of the Interior's responsibility to develop meaningful reform that gives the American people fair compensation for the use of public lands, and also allows miners and ranchers to remain economically viable."

The apparently conciliatory language is similar to the positions Sen. Bingaman has taken regarding the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. In response to numerous letters demanding that oil drilling be banned from the refuge, Sen. Bingaman claimed that he was trying to protect the refuge in bills before the Senate Energy Committee. But when the Energy Committee passed a bill promoting oil drilling, Sen. Bingaman supported it in the

Senate. On a close vote, the bill failed, despite Sen. Bingaman's support.

Continuing Effort to End Special-Interest Subsidies

Legislation to completely overhaul the 1872 Mining Law has already been introduced in both the House and Senate, and Rep. Mike Synar (D-Okla.) recently introduced grazing reform legislation. Timber reforms are expected to be addressed during the budget appropriations process.

"Eliminating subsidies for mining, grazing and timber on our public lands has been a Sierra Club priority for years," Pope said. "Now, working with the administration and Congress, we will run a full-court press on these issues."

Dropping public lands reforms left the remainder of Clinton's economic package with far less for environmentalists to support. The proposed energy tax has been weakened by amendments offering breaks for ethanol, methanol and home heating oil. And the future of the stimulus package—containing investments in environmental infrastructure—is in doubt after Senate Republicans successfully filibustered the bill before the April recess.

"When the president presented his economic package to Congress in February, he warned that his careful balancing act would topple if special interests were allowed to pick away at its individual components," Pope said. "No one counted on the White House pulling the chair out from under itself."

In another indication of the environmental character of the Clinton administration, the White House has released its 1994 budget, containing what the Sierra Club called a mixed bag of proposals for environmental and natural resource programs.

"The Clinton budget contains important increases in funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy sources," said Pope. "But important public lands programs and the Environmental Protection Agency will suffer again next year."

The boost for environmental energy programs was welcomed by environ-

mentalists. "The United States has lost the lead in emerging technologies such as renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, and this administration clearly intends to put us back in first place," said Melanie Griffin, director of the Sierra Club's Economic Program in Washington, D.C. Griffin also said the administration was "moving in the right direction on nuclear power, but they still want to throw another \$22 million at an unsafe and unnecessary advanced reactor program."

Under Clinton's budget, the EPA's operating budget for 1994 would be roughly equal to 1993 levels. "The EPA is still suffering from the abuse it endured during the 1980s," said Pope. "It's time to move the agency into the 1990s. The American public is sick and tired of environmental protection and public health taking a back seat to pork-barrel politics."

During last fall's election campaign, Clinton promised to "expand our efforts to acquire new park lands and recreation sites." But the Land and Water Conservation Fund—the federal government's principal means of buying lands for conservation—would actually have its funding cut by \$77 million under the proposed budget.

"Without full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, our wild lands will not be adequately protected from development," said Pope.

For more information: Contact Melanie Griffin, director of the Sierra Club's Economic Program in Washington, D.C., (202) 547-1141.

To take action:

Contact Senator Jeff Bingaman, 110 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. Urge him to take a clear stand for raising grazing fees on public land, and to support the Mining Law Reform Act, S.257.

Urge your representative to co-sponsor the Rep. Mike Synar's (D-Okla.) grazing reform legislation, H.R. 643 and the Mining Law Reform Act H.R.322.

Urge Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, (202) 720-3631, to go forward with phasing out below-cost timber sales.

1993 Chapter Fund Appeal: Initial Results and Thanks

by Jana Oyler

Our chapter's financial picture has been so bleak the past several months that we give truly heartfelt thanks to the following members and friends who have responded through mid-April to our 1993 fund appeal:

Gifts to general chapter account:

Alameda Limited Partnership, Santa Fe
Josefina Alvarez, Las Cruces
Tom Angelos, El Paso
Ed Barengo, Albuquerque
Richard Barish, Albuquerque
Willard H. Beattie, Las Cruces
Julia Belles, Santa Fe
Judy C. & Garland D. Bills, Albuquerque
Sallie Bingham, Santa Fe
Nancy Cella, Albuquerque
Mrs. Billie E. Clinton, Los Alamos
Doris L. Drow, Santa Teresa
Don Durack, Las Cruces
Fred C. Durham, Tesuque
Deanna Dyke, Albuquerque
W. Eligur, Albuquerque
M. L. Ennis, Albuquerque
Eliza Frank, Albuquerque
R. M. Hager, Albuquerque
Carol A. Haller, Santa Fe
Sheryl Haslett, Albuquerque
Lois C. Herrmann, Santa Fe
H. E. Hettmansperger, Albuquerque
Ken Hughes, Santa Fe
Carolyn & Arnold Keskulla, Santa Fe
Sandra Koenig, Albuquerque
Bob Langsenkamp, Santa Fe
Robert W. Leeds, Albuquerque
Tanya Leherissey, Llano
Arthur Loy, Albuquerque
William McClellan, Albuquerque
Michael Nakamura, Gallup
J. V. Naugle, Roswell
Christian Ohland, Albuquerque
Arlie G. Oman, Santa Fe
Jana Oyler, Santa Fe
Harvey J. Pommer, Albuquerque
Arthur D. Reynolds, Columbus
Margaret & Ford Robbins, Santa Fe
T. Rusciollelli, Clovis
Susan Schauer, Los Alamos
Robert R. Schneider, Santa Fe
Dorothy Shubart, Santa Fe
Grant C. Sipp, Albuquerque
Russell T. Souders, Española
Roger Steeb, Las Cruces
Cookie Stephan, Las Cruces
Arturo C. Torres, Alamogordo
Paul P. Torrez, Albuquerque
Philip F. Voegelin, Santa Fe
Sydney Walter & Kathleen O'Rourke, Santa Fe

Michael Ward, El Paso
Miriam White, Santa Fe
Edward Wilder, Santa Fe
Verna Z. Wilmeth, Española
Mary B. Woodbridge, Santa Fe
Ben Zerbey, Mesilla

Gifts to Sierra Club Foundation:

Jane E. Arp, Santa Fe
Evelyn Burns, Gallup
Don Durack, Las Cruces
Victor Ferkiss, Corrales
Beverly Granger, Las Cruces
Dave Grusin & Nan Newton, Santa Fe
Bill & Mary Lou Falion, Santa Fe
Laureen McHugh, El Paso
James C. Meem, Santa Fe
Wayne & Marilyn Meinke, Albuquerque
Victoria T. Murphy, Santa Fe
Evan & Diane Noveroske, Los Alamos
Carl F. J. Overhage, Santa Fe
Thomas E. Pratt, Albuquerque
Mally K. Ribe, Santa Fe
Margaret & Ford Robbins, Santa Fe
George Shute, Albuquerque
Janet Simon, Albuquerque
Arthur Soloman, Santa Fe

In addition, 53 generous members have contributed a total to date of \$2,045.00, but have asked that their contributions not be publicly acknowledged.

There's still time to contribute! Please send a check payable to "Rio Grande Chapter of Sierra Club" (not tax-deductible; funds the Chapter's conservation projects) or to "Sierra Club Foundation" (tax-deductible to extent allowed by law; used for environmental education) to Jana Oyler, Treasurer, Route 19, Box 120-KO, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

The Chapter Fundraising Committee is ably headed by Ford Robbins, with members Rich Adam, Tom Brasfield, Sue McIntosh, and Jana Oyler. Print World in El Paso did a great job locating recycled paper products and printing and mailing fund appeal letters.

Donations of paper, envelopes, stamps, labels, and the use of a computer, printer, and copier were provided by Jana Oyler and by Jurgens, Tallmadge & With, P.A., of Santa Fe.

Pecos *continued from page 5*

The Food

The food on this trip will be a special treat. Bill Donahue, our chef, has established a reputation as a health-conscious gourmet vegetarian camp cook. He has been a vegetarian for 20 years. All meals are strictly vegetarian, meatless and eggless, designed to offer dairily optionally.

Activities

Hiking plans for the five full days at the high camp will depend upon the weather and participants' interests and skills and conditioning. Two days during the week, weather permitting, we will lead more ambitious hikes for those who feel strong and have shown their capability. *Because of lightning danger, safety on the longer ridge hikes demands the ability to drop down off the ridge tops quickly and confidently.* Those who want to do these hikes must demonstrate this ability beforehand.

If you have difficulty with rough and steep terrain, there will still be plenty to do, although the longer hikes will not be available. There are many shorter, easier walks, and much exploring to be done in the area near camp. Further, we offer training in wilderness skills and in map reading and the use of a compass for those who are interested. USGS topo maps will be provided to all participants at no charge.

Conditioning Required

Remember, the hike in has to be done in one day. This will be no problem for an experienced hiker, but if you have limited experience, a conditioning program would be in order. We ask that you include in your conditioning program a couple of 12-mile hikes. A long uphill and a long downhill hike are advisable to simulate our walk in and walk out.

Leader

For details, contact Bill Donahue at 983-3675. While Co-Director and Dean of Instruction at the New School of Santa Fe, Bill organized and directed new Mexico's most extensive school outdoor program, which included mountaineering, rock climbing, white water kayaking, cross country skiing, and wilderness survival techniques. He is a certified Wilderness First Responder.

Park Service Plan will Change Access Roads to Preserve Ruins Roads a Major Issue at Chaco Monument

by Frank Hays, National Park Service

"At present, the roads approaching the Monument, both from Gallup on the south and Farmington on the north, are in a deplorable condition.... Only ardent enthusiasts will travel these roads to the monument.... The Government is without authority to control roads, traffic, or roadside construction."

The above excerpts from a 1929 report to the Director of the National Park Service (NPS) could just as easily describe the current situation at Chaco Culture National Historical Park. Access to the park has been limited to those adventurous enough to turn off the paved road and follow a dirt road to the park's remote location in Northwestern New Mexico.

The existing park access road (State Route 57) is a dirt road which begins at State Route 44, entering the park from the north. Continuing through the park, it exits at the southern border, ending at Seven Lakes Trading Post on Navajo Route 9 (a paved road).

The road runs adjacent to several of the Park's major ruins. Seismic studies show that the ruins are actually being shaken by vehicle vibrations. In addition, since SR 57 is a through road which cannot be closed at night, the archaeological sites are exposed to vandalism and unauthorized uses.

Finding a solution to the road problem is a difficult task. The area surrounding the park has a high density of archaeological sites, complex "checkerboard" land ownership patterns, various local transportation needs, and a variety of topographical features.

To resolve the existing road problems, consultations were held with local Navajo Chapter Houses, San Juan County officials, local communities and other interested groups.

Due to the constraints discussed above, NPS has identified as the only practical solution to the road problem a plan that makes use of an existing east-west road network which connects with north-south

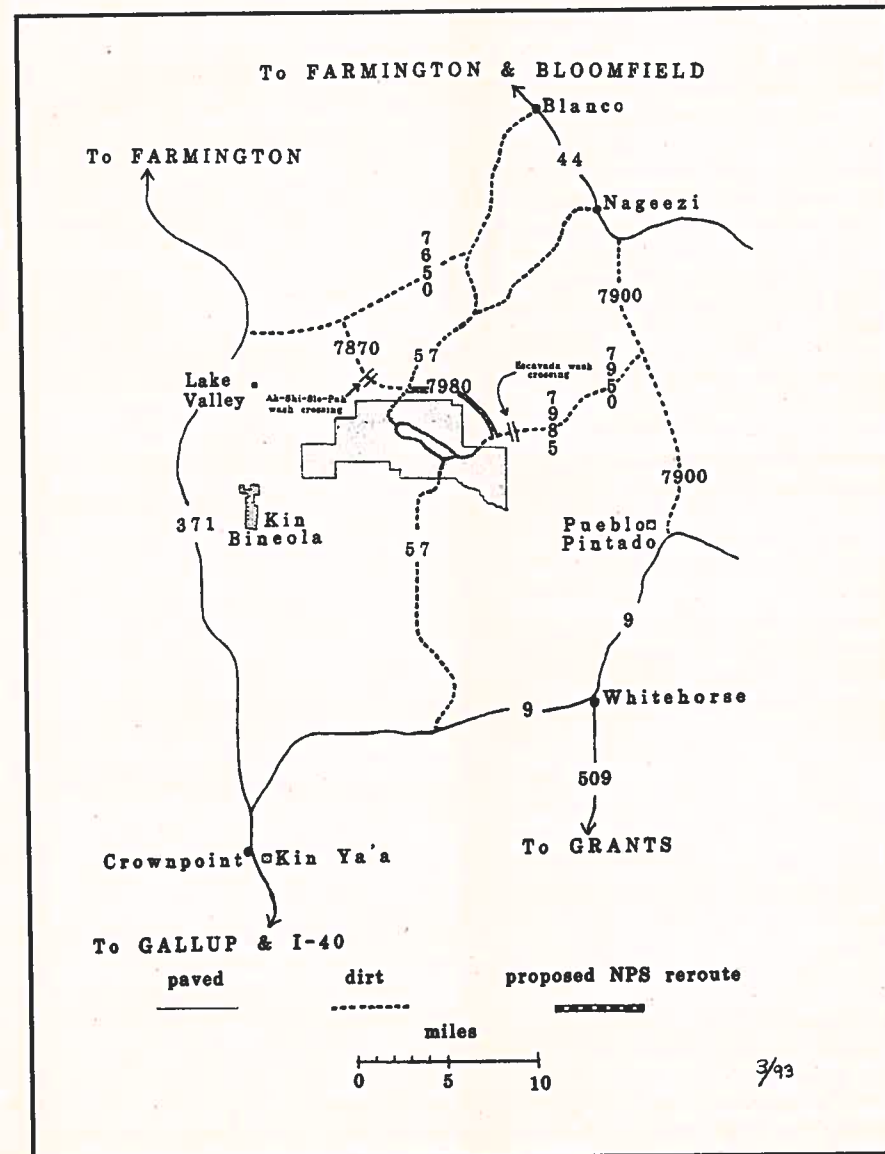
highways (SR 371 and SR 44/509). The plan calls for the closure of the park's north entrance and the rerouting of traffic to the Gallo Wash entrance at the eastern end of the park.

Most visitors would still access the park from SR 44 by way of Blanco or Nageezi, however, the NPS and San Juan County propose to reroute SR 57 just north of where it currently enters the park. The reroute would mostly follow existing dirt roads around the eastern leg of the park. The visitor would then enter the park at the Gallo Wash entrance, skirting the campground area and coming upon the vis-

itor center, prior to turning onto the ruins loop road.

A short stretch of this reroute (approximately 1.5 miles of San Juan County Road 7980) crosses a Navajo Tribal Allotment. A part-owner of the allotment does not want this segment of road opened to the public. Rather than pursue the use of the existing right-of-way, local tribal and other government officials decided to have the NPS complete the necessary environmental and cultural compliance

continued on next page



map provided by Chaco Culture National Historical Park, NPS

Chaco, from previous page

for, and construct a bypass of, the allotment.

The proposed bypass roadway would be dirt, with no plans for paving, and would be approximately 1.8 miles long and 24 feet wide. Minimal cut and fill would be required to open the bypass. Five culverts would be installed to provide drainage in low areas.

Upon completion of the bypass, the park's north entrance would be closed and rehabilitated, and traffic would be rerouted to the Gallo Wash entrance.

Ultimately, the NPS would also like to close the existing south entrance to the park. This would eliminate the possibility of having through traffic in the park. No ac-

tion will be taken on this closure until an evaluation of the new route is completed.

Another unrelated road study has confused this already complex situation. The New Mexico State Highway Commission has authorized the State Highway Department to complete the State Route 509 (SR 509) Pueblo Pintado North Study. According to Joanne English of Gannett Fleming West, the engineering firm conducting the study, the study will recommend the route for a paved extension of SR 509 from Pueblo Pintado to SR 44. The extension would run approximately 15 miles east of Chaco.

The study will also recommend the route for a proposed all-weather gravel surface spur road from SR 509 to Chaco's eastern entrance. English further

states that the route for the proposed gravel road would probably follow existing dirt roads.

Concerns related to access, resource preservation, and economic development will play a major role in determining the outcome of this road proposal.

Interestingly, roads have always been important issues at Chaco. Recent studies have identified hundreds of miles of prehistoric roads in and around Chaco Canyon. These ancient roads are symbols of the engineering skills and organizational power possessed by their builders.

After more than 800 years, roads continue to be a focal point in the Chaco region.



Vista Along New Access Road to Chaco: photo by Tom McCallan

ALBUQUERQUE GROUP

May Meeting: Annual Picnic!

Instead of the May general meeting, we will be having a picnic on **Sunday, May 16**. (The next general meeting will be June 21 at the UNM Law School, 7:30 PM.) It will be held at the **Nine Mile Picnic Ground**, 9 miles up the road to Sandia Crest from the Rt. 14 intersection, on the east side of the Sandias. Festivities will begin at around 1:30 PM, cooking will commence at about 3:30, and eating will begin around 4:00. Activities include a hike into the Cibola National Forest, leaving at about 2 PM, frisbee, volleyball, horseshoes, and a live fiddler.

Please **bring a main dish, salad, or desert to feed 6-8**, and any meats or other items you wish to barbecue. The club will supply charcoal. Also bring your own cups (no glass, please), plates, utensils, and folding chairs. We are trying to keep the use of disposable items to a minimum. The club will provide soft drinks, ice, charcoal, cooking utensils, and condiments. Call Terri if you can bring any of the following: coolers, coleman stoves to keep food warm, and sports equipment (volleyball & net, horseshoes). For more information, call Terri at 265-8274. See you there!

Albuquerque Driving Nightmare: Fact or Fiction? by Stefan Verchinski

The year is 2010. The City of Albuquerque has not met its transportation goal of 10% per capita energy use reduction. Instead, due to models and policies guiding land use 20 years ago, urban sprawl to outlying areas has occurred. Per person miles driven has increased 11%. Average city road speeds have dropped 10%. The number of vehicles on the road has doubled. During peak hours, all major roads in the Northeast, Southeast, Downtown, North Valley, Corrales, and Rio Rancho are at better than 90% capacity. Commuting to Santa Fe takes an hour and a half each way. Property taxes have increased to pay for continuing shortfalls in road rehabilitation and construction. The Sandia Mountains disappear during the summer afternoon smog.

This data is not fictitious; it is in current city reports. Without significant changes in our transportation and land use policies to increase walking, bicycling, and mass transit, it will be our reality.

On May 12th at the Albuquerque Convention Center, from 7 AM to 12:30 PM, some of the country's best planners will be meeting to discuss the **High Capacity Corridor Possibilities for Albuquerque**. Proposals include increased transit usage and light rail corridors. Portland, Oregon's master land use, transportation, and air quality planner will be a featured guest speaker. Call Stefan Verchinski at 888-1370 if you would like to attend.

Stefan is also working to promote the I-40 Bikeway, the 2-cent per gallon local option gas tax, and currently has a group formulating a model code for bike racks, storage lockers, and shower facilities. He could use your help to distribute petitions, participate in upcoming public meetings, make phone calls, or simply take notes at forums that other members cannot attend. We are hoping to be able to inform the community of the urgency of having our public officials act now. We could use someone familiar with making brochures and would like to develop some for the above project.

Foothills Loses Open Space

The City/County Comprehensive Plan has identified a 165 acre tract of land known as "The Bite" or "The Highlands" between Sandia Heights South and Glenwood Hills North and southwest of Simms Park as being part of the citywide Open Space Preservation System. On April 14, Land Use Planning and Zoning Committee (LUPZ) members Armijo, Hughes, Lattimore, Kline, and Griego voted unanimously to change the designation to Semi-Urban. This allows 165 homes, as part of the larger development, to be 1-1/4 miles east of Tramway, in an area that is still publically identified as Open Space.

High Desert Development has countered that the city will already gain a great deal of open space, but it fails to mention that much of this land is unsuitable for development and is mandated by the planning process. High Desert is getting nearly the highest housing density allowed for the gross acreage, including over 2500 dwelling units and a conference center.

The Sierra Club had asked for acquisition of "The Bite" as part of the annexation process and recommended to Ellie Mitchell of the Open Space Advisory Board and LUPZ to use a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) instead of direct purchase. This allows development to be transferred from ecologically sensitive areas, or areas having major public value (such as open space) to more suitable sites.

Considering that LUPZ could have limited the number of homes to 1300, the High Desert Corp. stands to gain enhancements worth \$200 million on the 987 acres. This amount is far in excess of the direct purchase cost of "The Bite". We feel that the city has been swayed by the \$1 million in enhanced service revenues it stands to gain by approving the annexation. We call it a sellout of the community and the Comprehensive Plan. Call your city Councillor and ask him to vote down this annexation until an appropriate concession is made. Ask that TDR be used to acquire "The Bite." Ask them what their vote will be and tell either Jay Sorenson 884-4314 or Stefan Verchinski.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comments from the Chair

You've heard this before. We need your help to keep this Group in the forefront of urban ecology and public lands advocacy in Albuquerque. Many issues are not being covered due to the lack of warm bodies to help out. Major local issues are just barely being covered by current activists, and sometimes testimony is not able to be delivered, or an article for the newspaper or media is not written. If you care about the City and the surrounding quality of life, you must be able to give more than just your dues. Your most valuable resource is time, and for a volunteer group it is vital. So please call me, Jay Sorenson 884-4314, or Ron Grobeck 296-0944 and let us know of your talents and time availability. Thank you.

Population-Environment Network Meeting

The next monthly meeting of the Population Environment Network will be Wednesday, May 12 at 7PM at the Bernalillo County Health Dept. at 1111 Standord Sr. NE, just south of the UNM Law School. Free parking is available in the lot, and the door on the south side of the building will be open. Members include population activists from the Sierra Club, Audubon, and Planned Parenthood as well as individuals. Recent projects include co-sponsoring the Jean-Michel Costeau speech at UNM on April 17. Everyone is welcome at the meeting. Call Michelle Meaders at 266-8823 or 846-0487 for more information.

Note: We are looking for people who know about popular music production and distribution for a new project. Call Michelle for details.

Outings Photography Contest

Rules: All photos submitted become part of (property of) the Outings Photo Album. No limit on the number of photos submitted. Maximum size of photographs is 8x10. Deadline is **April 1, 1994**. Photos submitted before deadline will be displayed in Outings Photo Album. Entries must be of an Albuquerque Group, Sierra Club Outing. Photos will be judged by two professional photographers. Submitted photos must have name, phone number, location/ trip name, date, and trip leader's name written on the back. This is for fun, we will not be (held) responsible for anything. **Prizes:** First Place receives \$50 gift certificate from **Camera & Dark-room**, 2931 Monte Vista NE. Second place receives dinner for two at **Adam's Table-Vegetarian Restaurant**, 3617 Copper NE. Best Wilderness Study Area and Service Project photos, each receives a bottle of wine from **Las Nutrias Vineyard and Winery**, 4627 Corrales Rd.

Upcoming Outings: NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Saturday, June 5

Pino Service Project

This is a joint venture with the Albuquerque Open Space Division, several Boy Scout troops, the USFS, and others. Some tools provided, but bring shovels, picks and rakes. We will be doing trail maintenance, a

1993 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Office Telephone: 265-5506

Group Chair	Jay Sorenson	884-4314
Vice Chair	Blair Brown	265-3231
Treasurer	Richard Barish	247-8079
Secretary	David Bouquin	265-7853
Conservation	Ron Grobeck	296-0944
	Bob Cornish	255-6037
	Tom Leck	857-0765
	Nick Nicolaus	884-5433
	Stefan Verchinski	888-1370

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	(vacant)	
City Trails	Dan Feller	266-1922
Energy	Ralph Wrons	275-0856
Las Huertas	Marion Davidson	867-5178
Mailings	Doreen Kahl	345-7919
Mexican Wolf	Susan Larsen	897-2527
Mining Issues	Blair Brown	265-3231
Newsletter	Dorothy Brethauer	275-6113
	Larry Compton	899-0679
Outings	David Morrison	344-8693
	Stan Kauchak	292-9138
Petroglyphs/Westside	Ike Eastvold	255-7679
Population	Bruce Ferguson	765-5757
	Michelle Meaders	266-8823
Programs	Susan Gorman	265-3231
Public Lands	Hubert Davis	299-6904
Solid Waste	David Bouquin	265-7853
Water Quality	Chris Strobe	836-6304
Wildlife	Marc Bedner	299-2004

trail reroute, and rehabilitation of a dirt road. **8:30AM** until early afternoon. Meet at **Elena Gallegos Picnic Ground**. Take Tramway, two miles north past Montgomery and turn east at the picnic ground sign. No fee to enter picnic ground for service volunteers. Ice cold soda provided. For information call Barbara 344-8605, David 344-8693, Stan 292-9138.

National Trails Day Fair

At San Gabriel Park, sponsored by the Albuquerque National Trails Day Coalition (Sierra Club). To get there, turn west off of Rio Grande on to Mountain Rd, follow Mountain until it enters the park. 12:00PM - 5:00PM. Come Out and Join the Fun! Speakers, Booths, Food, Entertainment, Music. For more information call Alb. Nat'l Trails Coalition 344-7240 or David 344-8693.

CALENDAR

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

May 6: Public Land Grazing Hearing with Secy. of Interior Babbitt, Holiday Inn Pyramid, 10 AM-4 PM

May 6: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.

May 10: Executive Committee Meeting, 7PM.

May 12: High Capacity Corridor conference, 7AM-12:30PM. See page 1.

May 12: Population-Environment Network, 7PM. County Health Dept., 1111 Stanford, NE. See article above.

May 15: 12 noon. **Deadline** for articles for June group newsletter.

Macintosh disk preferred. Call Larry if supplying hardcopy only. May 16:

Annual Picnic, Nine Mile Picnic Ground, Sandia Crest area. See article on page 1. (No general meeting for May.)

May 24: Conservation Committee meeting, 7:30 PM.

OUTINGS

Abbreviations: WSA- Wilderness Study Area NM- National Monument SC- Sierra Club SW- Sandia Wilderness Outings may be cancelled or changed due to weather or other reasons, please call leader before outing

Wed May 5 Leisure Car: 0 Miles: 3
Embudo Trail Hike, SW
This is an attempt to start some evening hikes. Full moon, but we will walk in daylight. Slow ramble, but some elevation gain. Sierra Club's adopted trail. Meet at 6:00 at Embudo trailhead. Leader: David 344-8693

Sat May 8 Leisure Miles: 2 Car: 5
Rinconada Canyon Hike, Petroglyph NM
We have had an estimate that we removed 30 tons of trash from this area back in April. We had a great turnout for this very windy day. Thousands of petroglyphs. RSVP Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sat-Sun May 8-9 Moderate Miles: 12-15 Car: 110
Bandelier NM Backpack
We will come in from the south side above Cochiti and do a few of many options including Capulin Canyon, Painted Cave, and St. Peters Dome within the Dome Wilderness. Call for meeting place and time. Leader: Nick Nickolaus 884-5433

Sun May 9 Leisure Moderate Miles: 2 Car: 225
El Morro NM Hike
Located about an hour South of Grants, Inscription Rock stands as a written tribute to those People that shaped New Mexico and the American West. Get Mom out of the house and into the outdoors to see petroglyphs, names, and notations carved into the sandstone walls of El Morro by those early People. Bring a picnic lunch, sturdy shoes, a camera, and the family (Supervised children please). Expect to leave Albuquerque around 10:00 AM. Leader: Stan for details 292-9138

Sun May 16 Leisure Miles: 2 Car: 3
Geological Windows Hike, Petroglyph NM
Take a short hike before the annual picnic and view several of the thousand petroglyphs in the area. Area contains Anasazi irrigation structures. Bring binoculars, camera, and sturdy shoes. RSVP. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun May 16
Annual Albuquerque Group Picnic We might try a hike, some compass navigation, wildflower identification, or? See group news or call Terri Moyers 265-8274 for more information.

Sat May 22 Moderate- Exploratory Miles: 4 Car: 130

Sierra de las Canas WSA Hike
We are trying to time this for the red blooms on the ocotilla cactus. We will hike the badlands and attempt some of the steeper terrain. Bring lunch, water. Leader: Ralph Genter 867-0714

Sat May 22 Leisure to Strenuous Miles: 1-2 Car: 120
Pueblo Blanco Ruins Service Project and Training
This pueblo ruin near Gallisteo is one of the three largest pueblo ruins in the state of New Mexico. Originally excavated in 1912, this pueblo contains 1400 rooms and a sandstone wall of petroglyphs. An arroyo has been washing out a burial site and the ruins. The NM State Land Office will provide training, which will qualify us for their new volunteer program. A staff archaeologist will provide interpretation. Soda provided. Bring lunch, sturdy shoes, and gloves. Meet at 8:00AM at Winchell's, San Mateo and Academy. Leader: Barbara Stone 344-8605, 277-0407

Sun May 23 Moderate Miles: 4 Car: 200
Tsankawi Ruins Hike, Bandelier NM
Tsankawi ruins were closed to the public until about a year and a half ago. Features include stairs that have been worn into the rock by Indians and tourists, cliff dwellings, and an unexcavated pueblo. Bring lunch. Meet at 8:00 AM. Dinner at a restaurant afterwards. Leader: Terri 265-8274

Sun May 23 Leisure Miles: 2-3 Car:40
Rio Grande Bioregion Series III: Native Plants Tour
Ted Hodoba of Desert Moon Nursery will talk and show us the variety of plants from wildflowers to shrubs and trees along the different life zones. Ted will also provide an environmental view of some of the current impacts on native vegetation. Bring lunch, water. Meet at Rio Grande Nature Center at 2901 Candelaria Rd NW at 10:00AM. For information call David 344-8693.

Fri- Mon May 28-31 Moderate Miles: ? Car: 700
Canyonlands, Arches, La Sal Mountains; Moab, UT Car Camp
We have expanded the dates. The price of lodging increased, so we are going to switch this to a car camp. We will camp in a new area each night. Some camps might be dry, we will have some extra water. We can hike, bike, into several areas. There is a possibility of some advanced skiing, call

beforehand if interested. Some of the nearby WSA's can provide some other options. Bring your own food. Call for details. Leader: Stefan Verchinski 888-1370

Sat May 29 Moderate Miles:5 Car:70
White Mesa Hot Pots Hike
Geothermal features near San Ysidro. Meet 8:00AM Winchell's, San Mateo and Academy. Exploratory. Bring lunch. Leader: David 344-8693

Sun May 30 Leisure Miles:3 Car:2
Rio Grande Bosque Hike
Three hours. Meet 9:00AM at Burrito Company, Coors and Alameda Leader: David 344-8693

Fri- Sun June 4-6 Moderate Miles: ? Car: 400
Cabezon, De-Na-Zin Car Camp
We will stop at the Jemez Hot Springs bathhouse on the way back. Lots of exploratory off trail hiking. Cabezon provides some interesting rocks and a great climb. De-na-Zin has fossils, hoodoos, and lots of badlands. Dry camps, bring water. Bring your own food. Call for details. Leader: Stefan Verchinski 888-1370

Sat June 5 Leisure to Strenuous Miles: 2 Car:0
National Trails Day Pino Trail, SW Service Project
See Albuquerque Group news

Sun June 6 Leisure- Moderate
Indian Ruins of the Jemez Hike
These ruins lie east of the small town of Ponderosa. We will hike into three sites. One site contains petroglyphs. Bring lunch. Meet at Winchell's at the San Mateo and Academy. **Date may change.** For information call David 344-8693. Leader: David Kelton

Sat- Sun June 12-13 Moderate Miles: 8-12 Car: 200
Rio Grande Bioregion Series IV Astronomy Car Camp, Magdalena Mountains
Up Water Canyon near the one of the peaks, we will do some amateur star gazing by telescope in a nice meadow. Hikes on Saturday. Very Large Array self tour on Sunday. Leader: Tom Leck 857-0765

Thanks Steve Miller for catching one of David's many editing mistakes regarding the Pecos Wilderness (Susan Larsen did not write the editorial) and for denoting the strength of an outing's description. Our letter to the editor did not appear.

the LORAX

Sierra Club
El Paso Regional Group

MAY MEETING IN PARK

The fun at annual Sierra Club picnic will start at 5:30 on Wednesday, May 26, 1993. We'll all meet on the east side of the Visitor's Center in Chamizal Park.

Not only is this a great opportunity to meet more Sierrans, but you'll have another opportunity to win another raffle. At the March meeting a small camping lantern was won, so you, too, could be a lucky winner. This is a great time of year to enjoy the Park and good company.

Bring your favorite salad, dessert, or veggies, and the Club will furnish the hamburgers, hot dogs and condiments. Soft drinks will be \$.50 and beer \$1. Admission is \$2 per person.

Bring your loved ones and have a great time!



The
Environmental
Center

A BIG THANKS!!! to Phyllis Caves for all her dedication and work over the past four months. She improved the efficiency of the Center's operations and increased the visibility of our organization in the community.

A Special Thank You to Vic Ward, Bettie Pagel, Carol Fashing and Jane Fowler who have been regular volunteers at the Center over recent months. We appreciate your time.

Won't You Volunteer to Help the Center? Please consider volunteering one day a week to keep the Center open. Without you, the Center just won't work. Contact John Sproul, 545-5157 or 532-9645, for more information.

EDITOR'S NOTES

I would like to send another big **THANK YOU** to the Excom and members of the El Paso Group of the Sierra Club and the national Sierra Club for supporting my attendance to a workshop for newsletter editors. In mid-April, I spent a wonderful weekend at the Bamberger Ranch, just north of San Antonio. In the midst of the Hill Country, the setting was ideal for a working conference for folks who love the outdoors. Thirty-eight editors from as far away as Alaska and as near as Austin learned about the nuts, bolts and art of putting a quality newsletter together. Our days were filled with sessions ranging from how to design layouts and edit to dealing with printers.

I have to admit that the sessions were so interesting that it hardly seemed like "work" to me. The creativity, experience and dedication of both the participants and the presenters were inspiring. Although there were only four of us who were group editors, very little was discussed that didn't apply to our situations as well.

The location for the conference was just as inspiring as the conference itself. J. David Bamberger bought the ranch over 20 years ago when it was overgrazed, with no running water and an abundance of problems common to

GROUP DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		
Chairman/Public Lands	Ted Mertig	852-3011
Vice Chairman/Franklin Mtns	John Sproul	545-5157
Secretary	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655
Treasurer	Kathy Sunday	584-9301
Member/Outings	Mike Episcopo	833-3770
Member/ICO	Richard Rheder	544-5659
Member/Programs	Betsy Julian	544-5741
CONSERVATION		
Environmental Quality	Tom Brasfield	584-8739
Political Action	Jim Bell	581-8864
Population	open	
ADMINISTRATION		
Environmental Center		
Group/LORAX Mail	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Hospitality	Barbara Mertig	852-3011
Membership	Carolina Greenfield	594-7342
Office Rep.	Neil O'Hara	565-4735
Publicity	Todd Daugherty	584-2730
LORAX Editor/SIERRAN	Wyona Turner	585-0251

Sierra Club Environmental Center

800 S. Piedras

532-9645, 532-4876

Please send any changes or corrections in membership to

Carolina Greenfield, Membership Roll

1510 Dale Douglas, 79936

Send LORAX information to

Wyona Turner, Editor, 331 Vista del Rey, 79912

CALENDAR

May 5	EXCOM (800 So. Piedras)
May 14	Deadline for El Paso newsletter information (send to 331 Vista del Rey, 79912)
May 26	General Meeting (7000 Edgemere)
June 9	EXCOM (800 So. Piedras)

you with timely information. Above all, keep you informed about environmental issues, both local and otherwise, so that you can decide the best avenue for you to help keep our environment clean and healthy.

Wyona Turner

OUTINGS

MONTICELLO BOX, VERY LARGE ARRAY CARCAMP

DATE: May 8-9, 1993
 CLASS: Easy, fun and educational
 LIMIT: 20, reservations required
 LEADER: Harold Naylor, 592-1266

We leave Saturday morning and carcamp just outside the Monticello Box Canyon near the abandoned Warm Spring Apache Reservation north of Winston, NM. Located here are the ruins of Fort Harmony which was the center of the Ojo Caliente Reservation in the 1870's. Several short exploratory dayhikes are planned in the area on Saturday. Sunday morning we take a short drive north to the Very Large Array (National Radio Astronomy Observatory) Visitor Center. Here we can take the self-guided tour of the facility with its many interesting displays and visit one of the huge radio telescopes before heading home. Call Harold early for additional details and reservations.

BEGINNER'S BACKPACK**Aldo Leopold Wilderness**

DATE: May 8-9, 1993
 CLASS: Easy
 LIMIT: 12, reservations required
 LEADERS: 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 hike (about 2.5 miles) over a fairly easy, but beautiful streamside trail. You will get a feel of what it is like to shoulder a pack and be self-sufficient and safe in the wilderness. We will do some planning for this trip at the Backpacking Workshop on April 24.

GILA WILDERNESS FAMILY BACKPACK

DATE: May 14-16, 1993
 CLASS: Moderate
 LIMIT: 5 families, reservations required
 LEADER: Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042

We will leave El Paso Friday evening and drive to a carcamp spot near Copperas Vista. Saturday morning we will drive to our trailhead at T.J. Corral and hike Trail 729 to Little Bear Canyon and the Middle Fork of the Gila. Our campsite will be at the edge of a beautiful meadow along the Middle Fork.

This trip is limited to five families, each of which should have at least one child age 7-14. The child or children must be familiar with hiking 4 or 5 miles and be able to carry his or her own backpack. The parent(s) should be experienced backpackers willing to help carry the child's equipment, if necessary. Here is a chance to share a beautiful part of the Gila with your children and other families. Roundtrip distance is about nine miles. Elevation gain is less than 500'. Call Rollin early for reservations and details.

**FORT STANTON CAVE DAYHIKE**

DATE: May 22, 1993
 CLASS: Moderate, with several tight squeezes
 LIMIT: 8, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Mike Episcopo, 833-3770

Fort Stanton Cave provides a unique opportunity to hike a cave third in size in New Mexico to Carlsbad and Lechugilla Caves. We will leave early Saturday morning and meet our two cave guides and interpreters at the cave entrance. No fee is required, but there are certain equipment requirements. Call Mike early for details and reservations.

NEW CAVE DAYHIKE

DATE: May 23, 1993
 CLASS: Moderate
 LIMIT: 25, reservations required by May 18, 1993
 LEADER: Carol Morrison, 545-1701

Bring your flashlight or headlamp, a \$6 entrance fee (\$3 for 6-15 year-olds), water and food, and ankle-high footwear with water-resistant soles...and experience a flashlight-guided tour of an undeveloped cave at Carlsbad! We will leave very early Sunday morning to arrive at the cave entrance by 10 AM where we will meet our Park Service guides. There is a steep half-mile hike to the cave entrance. Reservations by May 18 and proper footwear are required for this unusual peek at nature underneath.

MEMORIAL DAY GILA WILDERNESS KEY EXCHANGE BACKPACK

DATE: May 28-31, 1993
 CLASS: Moderate +
 LIMIT: 24 (12 in each group)
 LEADER: Wesley Leonard, 747-6649 (wk)
 Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042 (hm)

We will leave Friday afternoon and drive to Willow Creek Campground to carcamp. The Eastbound group starts from Willow Creek and follows Trail 151 to Turkeyfeather Pass. The route follows Trail 164 over the fabled Jerky Mountains, then Trails 165 and 30 to Trotter Cabin and Trail 705 to Loco Mountain. The Westbound group starts at Loco Mountain and follows the route in the opposite direction.

Both trailheads are just below 8,000'. Both routes involve elevation gain and loss of 1,000', with the highpoint of the route being at 9,000' and the low point being just below 7,000. Distances are moderate totalling 20+ miles, but the eastbound group hikes 10 miles the first day. Experience some of the more remote sections of the Gila Wilderness. As always, the described route is subject to change due to weather and natural considerations. Call Wesley or Rollin early for details and reservations.

OUTINGS, continued

TRANS-GILA WILDERNESS BACKPACK

DATE: June 4-13, 1993
 CLASS: Strenuous
 LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Jim Owen, 598-9332

While this outing is directed towards the more experienced, well-equipped hiker, each individual day will be of a moderate nature focused on enjoying the wilderness experience. After driving up on Friday evening, we will spend a week trekking the Gila's grandeur from east to west.

RABB PARK-CURETON CANYON DAYHIKE

DATE: June 5, 1993
 CLASS: Moderate
 LIMIT: 12, reservations required
 LEADER: Carl Horkowitz, 755-3968 (hm), 755-9344 (wk)

This trip will depart the city early Saturday morning for the three-hour drive to the trailhead right off NM Highway 90. Our trail will take us over the foothills on the backside of the Black Range and down into Rabb Park, a wide and unusual collection of smoothly and intricately worn boulders and rock formations interspersed with conifers. Along the way we may take the time to duck into the steep and narrow Rabb Canyon where the only walkway is the streambed itself.

OUTINGS REPORTS

Hospital Canyon Day Hike and Pictograph Hunt, 3/13/93

We departed early on Saturday for the drive north to White Sands Missile Range. We met Jim Eckles, Col. Deas, the range archeologist, and friends at the WSMR Public Affairs office. After a long drive north past inquisitive Oryx, we turned off increasingly poor roads and finally approached legendary Hospital Canyon. According to Eckles, one of Doc Noss's cronies allegedly found an Indian pictograph drawn on a rock wall with several gold bars underneath, somewhere in Hospital Canyon. Our mission was to find this legendary pictograph. After hiking up one canyon, we stopped for lunch, and in reading the map, we realized we were in the wrong canyon. After crossing a high ridge, we descended steeply into the real Hospital Canyon. While some participants visited an old mine up canyon, others headed down the canyon. We eventually met at the ruins of an old cabin before hiking back to the cars. While we never found the pictograph, we enjoyed a fine outing to a beautiful canyon. Sharing in this adventure were Sandy Anderson, Alice Chornesky, Jim Shore, Toby Kerch, Annie and Ray Zimmerman, Steve Englander, Harold Naylor, Mary Gowan, Bill Sparks, Kevin Von Finger, Rafeala Schuller and leader Rollin Wickenden.

**Big Bend Outer Mountain Loop****Big Bend National Park, 3/19-21/93**

Spectacular, rugged, wild, challenging, rewarding and unforgettable!!! The sixth annual Big Bend Outer Loop Dodson Trail hike started Friday when Laurence Gibson, Carolina Greenfield, Maria and Mike Episcopo, Kathy and Rollin Wickenden, Mary Haynes, Gary Williams and leader Bill Phillips met at Panther Junction in the Park, along with our sag wagon drivers, Harold Naylor, Bill Brown and rider John Bielawski. After obtaining our permits we drove to the Basin where the hike started up the Pinnacles Trail to Boot Spring and down the rugged, but impressive Juniper Canyon. All managed to straggle into camp around 4:30 where we were delighted to find our drivers and suitable refreshments. Twelve-mile days make for early bedtimes and we all turned in by 8.

Saturday found us on the dreaded Dodson Trail—dreaded because it is 11 miles in the desert under a blistering sun. We were pleasantly surprised to find the last couple of miles, notorious for steep, rocky trails, had been reworked and it was much easier. That night we elected to camp at Cottonwood, an improved campground with trees, grass and water, instead of roughing it at our usual spot in the desert.

Sunday, after a splendid breakfast at Study Butte, some drove home with Harold. Carolina, Laurence, Maria, Mike and leader Bill completed the Blue Creek Trail of the Loop, up 2,700', through Laguna Meadows back to the Basin and home with Bill Brown.

Fort Hancock Carcamp, 4/3-4/93

Alamo Canyon offered us warm, sunny days and a cool starry night. Visiting two of 10 rock art sites were Annie and Ray Zimmerman, Mary Gowan, Steve Englander and Jim Schorr (our dayhikers), with Harold Naylor, Julie Schmidt, Toni and Amanda Beatic (our Australian friends) and leader Don Middleton.

We located the Plumed Serpent and other magnificent petroglyphs and pictographs after a mild scramble through the bouldering escarpment. Following a quick lunch, we travelled across the canyon floor and located the Storyteller Woman panel, Mermaid, Burden Bearer and Deer Hunt Storyteller rock art. Bill Sparks, unable to join us earlier that morning due to car problems, located us and provided the group with detailed and illustrated hand-out material. Many, many thanks to Bill. The rest of our group remained and explored several other major rock art sites, with Harold's help, before returning to El Paso.

Ranger Peak Dayhike, 4/10/93

Saturday, Rita and Andrea Schmidt, Jeff and Daniel Brannon, Barbara Richardson, Françoise Turner, and leader Mike Episcopo made their way up to Ranger Peak in the Franklin Mountains. Visitor Wesley Leonard joined the group just past Comanche Peak and continued the trek toward Ranger Peak with us. At the summit we discussed current issues facing the Franklins while getting an unwelcome eyeful of the Jobe rock quarry eating away at the mountain. The good exercise, conversation, and overall scenery made for an enjoyable outing.

SANTA FE

SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 1993

**NEW MEXICO RAPTORS
BIRDS OF PREY, i.e. HAWKS, OWLS, EAGLES**



Time after time these birds fall victim to human inventions such as cars, power lines and guns. The Wildlife Center Inc.'s director of education, Pat Insley, will be joining us, along with at least four feathered friends, to tell us about these New Mexico raptors, their vulnerability to injury and their rehabilitation.

This is a great opportunity to bring the entire family to a Sierra Club meeting and learn about some of the "big birds" of the skies.

The general membership meeting is **FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** and will be held at **The Unitarian Church on Barcelona (between Don Gaspar and Galisteo)**, on Tuesday, May 18, at 7:30 PM.

If you need more information about the meeting, please call Helen Moser (438-3365)

MEETING SCHEDULE

The Executive Committee of the Santa Fe Group is now meeting at noon on the first Tuesday of each month at Jurgens, Tallmadge & With, 322 Montezuma. The next two meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, May 4, and Tuesday, June 1, 1993. All members are welcome to attend and bring your lunch.

The Conservation Committee of the Santa Fe Group is again meeting at 7:00 PM on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the group office, 440 Cerrillos Road. All conservation matters to be brought before the Executive Committee should be presented at the Conservation Committee meetings for discussion and recommendation first. The Next meeting is Tuesday, May 25, at 7:00 PM.

>> SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<

Chair — Jana Oyler*	984-2020	Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson	982-3926
Vice-Chair — Coby Muckelroy*	983-5453	Phone Tree — Martha Anne Freeman	438-0697
Secretary/Treasurer — Lionel Soracco*	983-6715	Membership — Pat Stevens	982-5051
Conservation — Van Perkins*	983-8801	Kids' Sierra Club — Justine Freeman	988-9126
Chapter Representative-Sue McIntosh*	982-4146	Education/Recycling/Office —	
Publicity & Programs — Helen Moser*	438-3365	Carolyn Keskulla	982-9570
Outings — Norma McCallan*	471-0005	Fundraising —	
Political Committee — Ken Hughes*	988-9297	Mark Mortier*	983-5870

* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee

Terms expire 12/93: McCallan/Mortier/Muckelroy/Oyler/Soracco
12/94: Hughes/McIntosh/Moser/Perkins

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

Sat	Sun	May
1		Norrine Sanders (984-0386) <u>Strenuous Hike</u> to Stone Lions from upper campground, Bandelier National Monument. 13 miles roundtrip. Leave 8 AM.
1		Jeff Jones (984-2389) <u>Easy Family Walk</u> [leader is bringing his 3-year-old] along the railroad tracks east of town. Meet 9:30 AM at the Main (2nd) entrance to Eldorado.
2		Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) <u>Easy/Moderate Climb</u> up Atalaya Peak. Leave 9 AM.
8		Doug Altshuler (471-1183) <u>Moderate/Strenuous Hike</u> to St. Peters Dome. 12 miles roundtrip. Leave 8 AM. Make reservations with leader.
9		Steven Janus (988-4137) <u>Strenuous Hike</u> to Lake Katherine. Leave 8 AM.
9		Victor Atyas (471-7545) <u>Easy Hike</u> Frey Trail, campground-Ceremonial Cave, Bandelier. Lve 9 AM.
Three day weekend		
		Bob McKee (1-672-3426) <u>Moderate/Strenuous Backpack</u> in Bandelier National Monument. Middle day will be a layover day; campsite probably in Capulin Canyon. Call for reservations. Trip will be either Fri-Sat-Sun (May 7-8-9) or Sat-Sun-Mon (8-9-10).
15		Gordon Winkler (986-0858) <u>Easy Hike</u> to Kitchen Mesa, near Ghost Ranch. Leave 9:30 AM.
16		Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) <u>Easy Hike</u> to Cañada de Los Alamos. Leave 9 AM.
22		Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) <u>Easy/Moderate Hike</u> to Penstemon Ridge. Leave 9 AM.
23		John Jasper (982-8572) <u>Moderate Hike</u> to Rancho Viejo. Leave 8 AM. 8 miles roundtrip, may be patches of snow. Creek crossings.
22	23	Brian Johnson (983-5672) <u>Moderate Backpack</u> in Dome Wilderness area, via Cochiti. Meet Saturday at 8 AM. Call for reservations.
29		Joe Whelan (984-0746) <u>Moderate Hike</u> to Hermit's Peak, near Las Vegas. Leave 8 AM.
30		John McClure (473-1916) <u>Moderate Hike</u> to Rancho Viejo. Leave 8 AM. 8 miles roundtrip, may be patches of snow. Creek crossings.
Four day weekend Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon (May 28-29-30-31)		
		Norma McCallan (471-0005) <u>Exploratory Trip</u> to San Rafael Swell (potential BLM Wilderness area), south-central Utah. Car camp and <u>Moderate Day Hikes</u> . Dogs allowed. Call for reservations and information.

★ ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE HIKE FOR MAY ★

Memorial Day, Monday, May 31

Bill Donahue (983-3675) Moderate Hike to the area of the Jones Mine in the Pecos, a controversial re-opening of an old mine in a sensitive area. Leave 8 AM.

Outings Notes -- All outings, unless otherwise specified, leave from the PERA parking lot at the corner of Paseo de Peralta and Old Santa Fe Trail (across the street from the 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.

SANTA FE WATER

The Rio Grande Chapter has made water a top priority for this year, for it is indeed one of our most precious resources. On May 18 Santa Fe voters will get an opportunity not available since 1880: to decide whether to have a public water utility. Here are some reasons why you should vote "yes":

- Citizens would have a chance to control water rates at levels that reflect water's value, not a reflection of corporate profit desires. The City will not charge a profit; a private company will charge a profit of up to 15%. Current rates are the highest in the state and among the highest in the country. It's far better to plow back funds into good stewardship, a primary goal of public ownership.
- Control of water availability. By owning the watershed, Two Mile Reservoir and wells in and near the City, the City would ensure the underpinnings of prudent water policy.
- Where water goes. Decisions on extending water service beyond city limits, and thus making fundamental decisions on growth management, would revert to the hands of Santa Feans, not private companies or the state Public Service Commission.

Ken Hughes

Sat Sun May

- 5 **Bob McKee** (672-3426) **Strenuous Hike** Guaje Canyon-Guaje Ridge Loop (near Los Alamos) 15 miles roundtrip. Call leader for time and meeting place & carpooling info from Santa Fe.
- 5 **Victor Atyas** (471-7545) **Easy Hike** on Chamisa Trail. Leave 9:30 AM. Call to confirm - leader may be out of town - or call Norma 471-0005 for status.
- 6 **Norbert Sperlich** (983-1962) **Strenuous Hike** in the Jemez. Call for information and reservations.
- 5 6 **Brian Johnson** (983-5672) **Moderate Backpack** on the Continental Divide Trail near the Rio Chama, west of Ghost Ranch. Dogs allowed. Call for reservations.
- 12 **Steven Janus** (988-4137) **Strenuous, Exciting Hike** in the Sangre de Cristos. Call for information and reservations.
- 13 **Louise Leopold** (988-4592) **Easy Hike** up Atalaya Peak. Dogs allowed. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 12 13 **Norma McCallan** (471-0005) **Car camp and Easy to Moderate Hikes** at Rio Grande National Wild & Scenic Rivers Recreation Area near Questa. Suitable for children. Dogs allowed. Leave Friday after work. Call for reservations or information.
- 19 **Arnold Keskulla** (982-9570) **Easy Hike** up Aspen Vista Road. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 19 **Caroline Glick** (984-3184) **Strenuous Hike** in the Pecos Wilderness. Call for information and reservations.

★ ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE HIKE FOR JUNE ★

- 20 **Ken Hughes** (988-9297) **Bike Ride** up Aspen Vista Road to look at areas affected in proposed Ski Basin expansion. **Exertive, but beginners can do.** Need mountain bikes and helmets. Possible carpooling so those who wish can ride back down Ski Basin Road. Leave 8 AM.
- 20 **Art Judd** (982-3212) **Moderate Hike** in the high country. Leave 8 AM.
- 26 **Joe Whelan** (984-0746) **Moderate Hike** to Stewart Lake. Leave 8 AM.
- 27 **Jeff Jones** (984-2389) **Strenuous Hike** to Santa Fe Baldy. Leave 8 AM.
- 27 **Doug Altschuler** (471-1183) **Easy Hike** on Bear Wallow Trail. Leave 8 AM. Back by lunchtime.
- 19 thru 26 **Bill Donahue** (983-3675) **Weeklong trip** into Pecos Wilderness high country. 12 miles in and out to remote base camp at 11,700'. All gear and equipment carried in by wranglers. **Varying levels of Day Hikes** out of base camp, depending on participants' abilities and weather. Gourmet meals provided by leader, a health-conscious vegetarian camp cook. Call for trip brochure, cost, and more information.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A HOME!

The Santa Fe Group would like to move from its airless, windowless basement office to a more pleasant space. We need room for a conference table and chairs for meetings of up to 20 people, a desk and several file cabinets, plus a bit of storage space, in a central Santa Fe location with adequate parking (at least we're not asking for an east-side adobe with a view for under \$100,000). Our rental funds are limited. If you know of a place that might suit us, please leave a message on our office phone, 983-2703.



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

DAY AT THE FLEA MARKET PLANNED

It's spring cleaning time, and also time to begin setting aside items for our fundraising day at the flea market. We plan to take a space at the flea market in Santa Fe in June or July, so you have a few weeks to sort through your closets and garages. Unfortunately, clothing does not sell well, but all other items will be welcome. Look for details in an upcoming newsletter.

SUMMER SOLSTICE PICNIC JUNE 19

Our annual Summer Solstice Potluck Picnic has been set for Saturday, June 19, 1993 -- mark your calendars! The June newsletter will give details of meeting place and time. Do make plans to join us for an evening of relaxation and good conversation (and delicious food).

THE LOG

Southern New Mexico Group

Well folks the summer is upon us and things are slowing down. Hikes will be on shorter notice, so just call the outings chair to find out what is going on.

Upcoming Events

- May 8:** Students will take off to Hillsboro Peak. We will leave from the north Pan Am parking lot as usual. Call Steve for more information at 382-8419.
- June 5:** Jack Zirkir will lead a hike into Willie White Canyon in the Sacramento Mountains. Call Steve for more information at 382-8419.
- May 7:** Ex-Comm. will be having a party to ring in the summer and bid farewell to those who leave. We'll start at 6:00 pm at Marianne's house, and have a pot luck. If you need directions call Marianne at 522-3421. We hope you will all be there, it should be a lot of fun. All are invited!

From the Desk of the Population Chair:

Last month I wrote that important habitat regions in the Southwest are threatened by the expanding human population. This month I am presenting a specific case. Central Texas is above the Edwards Aquifer. This aquifer feeds the Comal and San Marcos Springs which provide habitat for plants, fish and salamanders which are currently on the federal endangered species list. Water from the springs flows into the Blanco and Guadalupe rivers and in turn to the coastal estuary ecosystem. All of this is threatened by the amount of water currently being pumped from the Edwards aquifer. One and a half million people (including the citizens of San Antonio) pump all of their water from the aquifer, and few are ready to accept pumping restrictions. Farmers who rely on the aquifer for irrigation appear unable or unwilling to reduce their use. Luana Buckner, general manager of the Medina County Underground Water Conservation District, was quoted in the Christian Science Monitor as saying, "excuse me for sounding so sarcastic, but we're out here

fighting for our lives against a salamander that has the federal government on it's side." While 1.5 million people rely on Edwards aquifer today, San Antonio's population is projected to rise to 2.4 million by 2040, and the population of Texas will double to 35 million people. Helen Day, a Texas legislative aid working on the aquifer issue stated, "In Texas, population is going to be our biggest environmental challenge." Water is a finite resource without a substitute. It is already in tight supply in many parts of the Southwest, including Texas. If it is scarce now, what will it be in 2040 if the human population doubles? Even if we succeed in saving species that depend on the Comal and San Marcos springs today, how will the salamander fare in a fight that pits it against 2.4 million people? Southwesterners must find the political will to curb population growth in this part of the country. Economic health and development in the Southwest cannot continue to include population growth.

Libby Hernandez, Population Chair

New Habitat Studies May Lead to Better Wildlife Management

By Kris Paulsen

The Gap Analysis Project (GAP) through the Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Research Unit is the newest inventory and analysis of habitat for vertebrate species. Regional and national implementation will create management models that could widen the focus of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) from species management to habitat oriented management.

GAP represents the "gap between areas of high potential biodiversity and their degree of protection", said Patrick Crist, assistant coordinator of the group. GAP is nationally funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

New Mexico is the 11th Western state to take part in the project. Using satellite images, vegetation maps, elevation, climate and development they are able to devise habitat maps for each of the vertebrate species in New Mexico. Species that will be covered include birds, reptiles, fur bearers, bats and ungulates.

Dr. Bruce Thompson of the NMSU Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Research Unit is leading the effort based on a similar model previously devised for the "Fur Bearers of New Mexico" project. GAP will include approximately 96 vegetation categories, compared to 16 used by the Fur Bearers Project, making it the most detailed vegetation map ever created for New Mexico. In addition, a Geographic Information System (GIS) will provide a visual spread sheet of information to aide in predicting species distribution throughout New Mexico.

The project combines efforts by the Nature Conservancy, state and federal agencies, NMSU Geography Department, some NMSU students, and information specialists at the University of New Mexico. "The idea is to focus holistically on habitat type" and use the "best of each type" for species and habitat preservation, said Crist. Each region will send their completed findings to Utah, where they will create a national habitat map, and according to biologists and agencies, the project findings will be money well spent.

News Nuggets!

- As reported in *Science* (March 1992) a stand of old Douglas fir trees was recently discovered in the lava fields of El Malpais National Monument near Grants New Mexico. One of the 9-meter tall trees is believed to date back to 1062 AD, perhaps the oldest known tree on record. The tree was discovered when Henri Grissino-Mayer of the University of Arizona Tree-ring Laboratory, was taking core samples to study environmental information such as fire history in the area. Sierra Club's own Andrew Hands was fortunate to assist Mr. Grissino-Mayer in gathering data on fire scared trees while employed by the monument as a Park ranger.

- The new National Biological Survey (NBS) announced last month by Interior Secretary Babbitt could do for wildlife biology what the USGS did for mineral science. The NBS working under the auspices of the US Fish and Wildlife Service will produce an up-to-the-minute computerized survey of biological diversity that will reflect changes in ecological make-up and in land use. Babbitt hopes the system will allow land managers to recognize problems in time to keep species from becoming endangered and to avoid economic conflicts.

Wilderness Society, April 1993

- Success! The US Fish and Wildlife Service published the final ruling on the Mexican spotted owl on March 16, 1993. It is now listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The listing took place on April 16, 1993. The rules and regulations are located in the Federal Register volume 58, number 49.

- The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is sponsoring a new program "Watchable Wildlife" to help fund wildlife management and research projects. The non-game program is offering a Wildlife Conservation Stamp which you can purchase at sporting good stores for only \$10.50. In addition you will receive a handsome decal and poster. I urge you to support this program.

Southern New Mexico Conservation Tree:

- At the most recent meeting of the Southern New Mexico Sierra Club Conservation Committee discussion commenced on communication between ranchers and environmentalists. **Environmentalists and ranchers use a different lingo** and often fail to understand what the other is really saying. In addition, a lack of knowledge about non-game species and their importance in ecosystems leads to fear of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) especially in regards to private property. Few ranchers have been exposed to the concept of "ecosystem management." It is this lack of knowledge that starts the sparks flying, and ends in the war between worlds.

- There was general agreement that **mutual fear of development** could be the link bringing ethi-thinkers and ranchers together. Sandia Wilderness, ringed by housing is a prime example of problematic development, along with farmers selling part of their land for sub-divisions. Where does the public land rancher fit in? Stewardship of non-game species was mentioned. If we want ranchers and non-environmentalists to understand our views, education and communication are the first step.

- Luna and Reserve reported that the **Bearwallow Mountain Bull Pasture Timber Sale (TS) has been withdrawn**. A VICTORY!! There are eight contiguous TSs being proposed on Bearwallow Mountain in the Gila National Forest (GNF). The GNF has issued a non-appealable correction #3 to it's ten year timber plan; a plan amendment could have been appealed.

- Cloudcroft reported that the **Hay timber sale in the Lincoln National Forest (LNF) is being cut**. Appeals failed. The losers are the many campers and hikers who used the area. The major problems in Hay-Hubbell Canyon include: cows sitting and standing in the stream bed, manure everywhere, including camping areas, and evidence of previous TSs (stumps).

- Marianne attended the Forest Service (FS) Ecosystem Management Symposium at Silver City, where two FS ex-

amples of ecosystem management were presented. Jon Burnstead of the LNF, Smokey Bear District, presented their sub-watershed approach to riparian area repair. The project is based on detailed mapping of the sub-watershed and riparian restoration. The second presentation on the Negrito Project in the GNF emphasizes management for cows and elk based on carrying capacity rather than numbers. This project is a joint effort by representatives from the NM Game and Fish Department, Stone Container (saw mill), Friends of the Gila River, GNF and rancher Don Cullom.

- Susan McIntosh of the Chapter Mining Committee has been commenting on the **proposed Gold Express Copper Mine and expansion of the closed Quintana Mine**, planned for the area just off the road heading towards Hillsboro. The pit is on private land, while the tailings are on BLM land. Thanks, Susan, for your help!

- Fort Bliss is proposing the use of **McGregor Range for an expanded "mock" war**. The area is one of the last great places for black gramma grass, and the Texas horned lizard (class II) and endangered aplomado falcon have both been sited in the area.

- David McLurg attended hearings in Carlsbad on **proposed legislation to withdraw mineral rights** from Yates Drilling Co. at Lechuguilla Cave. Representative Skeen testified on behalf of Yates Drilling in Washington. Other legislation would place Lechuguilla within Carlsbad National Park boundaries.

- Last but not least, the Southern New Mexico group is working with the Native Plant Society to achieve **better protection for San Andres Canyon** in the Caballo Resource Area, BLM. It was identified by the Nature Conservancy as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) with an abundance of endangered native plants.

Keep networking everyone!!

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