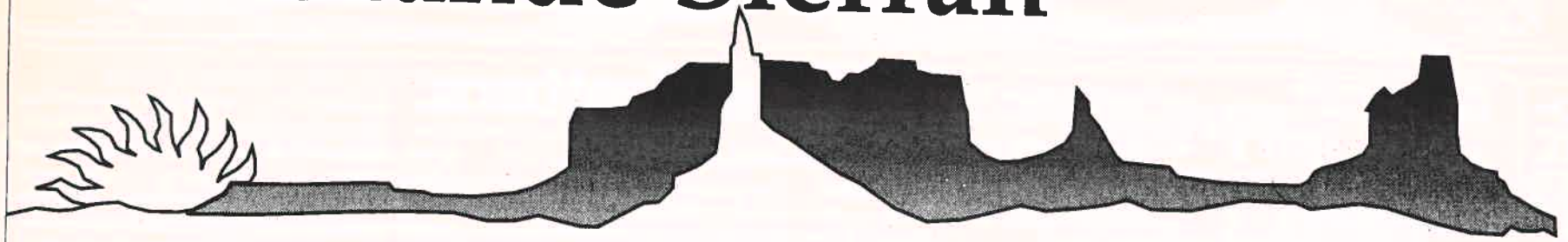


Rio Grande Sierran



News of the Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club
January/February 1997

Petroglyph National Monument:

Urban Park or Sacred Landscape?

by Ike Eastvold, Campaign Leader

The National Park Service's final General Management Plan (GMP) for Petroglyph National Monument was unveiled at the November 15th meeting of the Monument's Advisory Commission and immediately provoked a barrage of criticism. Commissioner Ray Powell, Jr., of the State Land Office, called it "arrogance" on the part of the Park Service. "We give advice and it is totally ignored," Powell said in frustration.

The Commission's two major points of advice, eliminating recreational trails and staffing entrances to control access, were overruled by the Park Service. The GMP allows 11 miles of recreation trails to dominate the vast mesatop heart of the Monument, and leaves the door open for speedily adding another five miles later. And up to 11 largely unstaffed "neighborhood access" or "parking" entrances may be allowed after the NPS meets privately with adjacent neighborhoods.

Addressing the neighborhood access issue, Commission anthropologist Dr. Harvard Ayers said, "This is a nightmare for the manager of a park. You wind

up with uncontrolled access points."

Speaking to the Native Americans' long-standing opposition to using this sacred area for mountain bikes and horses, Commissioner Bill Weahkee, representing area Pueblos, said, "For centuries that area has been used as sacred sites for prayer, just like any church. . . I don't know how much more clear the Indians in the tribes are going to have to be."

Responding to this firestorm of criticism from her Advisory Commission, Monument Superintendent Judith Cordova defended the GMP by observing, "You can't please everyone. We are not in a rural area. We are in an urban area."

Superintendent Cordova seemed to be echoing Senator Pete Domenici, who called the Monument "an urban Park," implying that this is a special type of park unit which would allow urban intrusions like roads and recreational trails. Needless to say, no such designation exists. And both the Superintendent and the Senator seem to have forgotten the clear language of the Establishment Act findings that, "[There exists]. . . an urgent need to protect the



cultural and natural resources of the area from urbanization and vandalism."

As the ultimate urban intrusion, the Park Service GMP also allows the four-lane major arterial, Unser Boulevard, to be constructed through the Monument, although it does oppose the six-lane freeway-type road, Paseo del Norte.

However, Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez and Senator Domenici were working together in Washington

(con't on page 16)

FWS Agrees to Release Wolf

by Martin Heinrich, Chapter Wildlife Co-chair

After all these years they finally did it! The Fish & Wildlife Service released their plan to release Mexican grey wolves back into the wilds of New Mexico. The service plans to release several family pairs each year, until there are 100 wolves roaming the Southwest. Here's the kicker: The preferred release site is . . . the whole Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area. That means the Apache and Gila National Forests. Within a year, Sierra Club members will be able to backpack in wolf country!

Congratulations and a hearty thanks to all the activists who have worked for years to make this a reality. Now for the LAST push. This is the moment we've worked for since it all began. There is only one thing standing between us and the wolves: Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt. He can approve, change or stop the whole project at this point, so we have to bug the crap out of him for the next 30 days!

PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE! Call Babbitt at 202-208-7351 (fax at 202-208-6956) and tell him to approve the plan to reintroduce the Mexican Wolf. It is important to call him rather than write him because individual issue letters frequently get routed to field offices. If we storm his office with phone calls, we have a much better chance of getting noticed.

If we can clear this final hurdle, we will accomplish one of the greatest conservation victories of the century! Call your friends and neighbors. Get them to phone as well. We cannot afford to let up now as we are on the verge of a victory that will last many lifetimes. Now go phone the Secretary.

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The *Rio Grande Sierran* is published by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club as a benefit for Sierra Club members living in New Mexico and West Texas. (Make address changes by calling Membership Services at (415) 977-5649.)

Non-member subscriptions at \$10 per year are available from the Treasurer, Blair Brown. Send checks to 2226B Wyoming NE #272, Albuquerque, NM 87112. Please allow 8 weeks for processing.

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Contributions are welcomed from members and non-members. Send to **Rio Grande Sierran, B. Johnson, 1 Encantado Loop, Santa Fe, NM 87505** or by E-mail to **barbara.johnson@sierraclub.org**. Articles should be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Preferred format is via modem or on Macintosh disc as Microsoft Word file. Other formats may be compatible--check with the Production Manager. Letters and articles are subject to abridgement.

Printed on 100% post-consumer waste newsprint by PrintWorld in El Paso.

We Get Letters...

Logging Ban--Club Credibility

Dear Editor:

As a casual reader of the *Rio Grande Sierran*, I feel compelled to echo the feelings of Courtney White in regard to the Sierra Club's recent national stance against commercial logging on public lands. How could an organization with such an honored history of conservationism have arrived at such a misbegotten and misguided position? Perhaps part of the answer lies in the nature of the citizenry polled on the question. I would hazard to say that the "average" Sierra Club member lives near a populated urban area on the east or west coast, where I too hail from. When my sole recreational outlet on public lands was several hours' drive to the national forests of Vermont and New Hampshire, I probably would have agreed that tree cutting in those few precious acres was intolerable. Those of us who are now fortunate enough to live in northern New Mexico, however, are able to witness first-hand the results of Forest Service management practices and their impact (both beneficial and harmful) on the economies and cultures of forest communities. We are far more likely to be aware of both the history of forest use and the importance of timber cutting and grazing in the cultures of modern-day Truchas and Penasco.

We need to put an end to the destructive forestry of the 1980s and earlier decades, but that can be achieved without putting a stake in the heart of the timber industry. We can (and must) encourage the development and use of techniques that can be truthfully called "management." The problem with the Sierra Club's resolution is its assumption that forest ecology cannot withstand even the small-scale cutting of, for example, material for vigas in Santa Fe's booming construction market. I question whether Carl Pope and Adam Werbach can wholly appreciate the fact that in the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests, commercial logging and firewood collection go hand in hand through the utilization of slash. While large-scale clear-cuts are in no way a part of the indigenous cultures of our area, small-scale uses are centuries old.

In my view, a total ban on commercial logging is both ill-considered and wildly unrealistic in today's political climate. The blind pursuit of this goal will eventually erode the Sierra Club's credibility as an active participant in the improvement of public lands management. Rio Grande Chapter members should urge the Sierra Club leadership to re-examine this crucial issue and adopt a position that better reflects the views of members as citizens of a multi-faceted community of voices on public forests.

Sincerely,

*Bernard Foy, current president
Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society
72 Verano Loop
Santa Fe, NM 87505*

RAC

Dear Editor:

I was glad to see Gary Simpson's article in the recent *Rio Grande Sierran* regarding the New Mexico Resource Advisory Board (RAC). Gary attended a recent RAC meeting in Albuquerque and spoke on behalf of the environment and endangered species, something that infrequently occurs in the public comment period at these meetings.

I was appointed to the RAC in September 1995 after being sponsored by the Chihuahuan Desert Conservation Alliance. As a RAC member, this whole process has been frustrating much of the time and I feel that all members feel this to varying degrees, regardless of which grazing position they support.

One thing that has been especially disheartening has been the lack of speakers from the environmental community during the public comment sessions. Since September 1995, there have been a total of six meetings. At each of those meetings there has been a public comment period which is open to anyone to express their concerns on public lands issues and not just on grazing. I can recall only three occasions where someone from the environmental community

spoke; once each in Las Cruces, Carlsbad, and Albuquerque.

To counter this dismal turnout have been people speaking on the other side of these issues: From bankers, we heard that if our Standards and Guidelines (S&G) are too tough, we will destroy the economies of rural communities. From ranchers, we have heard that the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will destroy ranching in the West. From politicians, we have heard a whole litany of results if we don't reach the "right" decisions. From a variety of people, we have heard about the "secret agenda" that this is all about. It must be a well-kept secret because I don't know what our secret agenda is supposed to be.

Many of these people attend meeting after meeting. That is fine, but why can't the environmental community do the same thing?

It has sometimes been overwhelming and the people on the council who are deeply concerned about these issues need to hear from the environmental community and learn of their support for tougher standards. I know how the environmental community feels on these issues as I feel all other RAC members do. But we aren't hearing from these people! So, when a RAC member tries to get stronger language in support of ESA in the S&G we are told by other RAC members and the public that the support isn't there. I know the support is there and I know why it is difficult to attend these meetings.

But rather than depending on the fall back guidelines as Gary proposes, the environmental community needs to get involved and participate in these meetings. During public comment periods we need to write. We need to speak. We need to contact our local BLM offices and the state BLM Director with letters and phone calls and express our concerns. And most of all, we need to hear from more of you at the public comment period of the meeting. The meeting occurs on a Thursday-Friday and the comment period is generally on Thursday afternoon. By showing up, by speaking and by showing your concerns, you will aid the RAC members who are pushing for the same things in which you believe.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9-10 January in Albuquerque.

Sincerely,
*Steve West
Carlsbad, NM*

Glen Canyon Dam--Club Credibility

Dear Editor:

I joined the Sierra Club 20 years ago, but allowed my membership to lapse because I became disillusioned with national mega-organization. A couple of years ago, I decided to join several environmental groups, including the Sierra Club as a pro-environment and anti-Gingrich statement. Since that time, I have come to appreciate the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club as the most effective environmental organization in the state of New Mexico.

I am very concerned about the recent precipitous action by the national Sierra Club board calling for the elimination of Glen Canyon Dam. The key issue here is not whether or not Lake Powell is drained: what the national board is really doing is calling for a revolution. Since we are clearly not going to have a revolution of this type in this country, the national board is merely being goofy at the expense of Sierra Club credibility. Furthermore, the national board is being dishonest to those it claims to represent—I mean, if I had wanted to join Earth First!, I would have joined Earth First!

These are critical times. We cannot afford goofiness from our elected representatives. We are faced with major, global threats such as global warming and the destruction of the ozone layer. In this greater context, Glen Canyon Dam becomes a trivial (and exceedingly divisive) side issue.

The action of the Sierra Club national board highlights several fundamental flaws in representative government: relatively few people bother to vote in the first place; the people who vote are seldom given enough information to make an intelligent decision; and the elec

(con't on page 13)

Upon President Clinton's reelection in November an audible sigh of relief could be heard rippling through the environmental community. Despite some misgivings about Clinton, which culminated in a painful endorsement process, environmental leaders knew they could breathe a little easier for the next four years, even with the Republicans in charge of Congress. No one expects a reprise of the unprecedented assault on national environmental legislation that occurred two years ago. Everyone, including us, seems chastened by that experience.

During this lull (the bad guys, after all, haven't packed their bags and left town), while the air is full of talk about cooperation, consensus, and achievement, sincere or not, it will be worthwhile to ponder the lessons learned from this period of high anxiety and then act. It is a critical moment; the public, stirred to action and paying attention to the environment as never before, awaits leadership. The goal-line stand was successful; now the ball is in our possession.

Where do we go from here? Do we march down the field to the same tune that put us in such a precarious position in the first place, or are we going to reach out to middle America and say "Your concerns are our concerns too?" Are we going to put the human back into our movement, as I believe the public is asking us to do, or are going to keep pushing people away with misanthropic policies? We sit, nervously, at an important crossroads.

People-Free Wilderness

Our movement is out of between ecological concerns and human needs, but is not. A century ago, the conservation movement was driven by human desires--solitude, spiritual refreshment, a rejection of modern industrial life, to name a few - but often shortchanged ecosystems in the process (feeding bears at Yellowstone dumps is a good example). The movement was brought into balance by Aldo Leopold, Olaus Murie, and others, who demanded that we consider the biological health of land as well. Science balanced emotion and for a while there was harmony. Today the pendulum has swung too far toward science. Ecology, particularly in the form of endangered species, seems to be driving most of the movement's policies. Not only have the "rights" of wildlife been placed ahead of human needs, but a deliberate demonization of humans in general has occurred. Humans have become an ecological Lucifer, according to some, the source of every ill afflicting the natural world, and we must be punished. For example, a resolution was passed recently by a Sierra Club group in another state that called for the "setting aside of some habitat areas that are off-limits to all humans ('pure' habitat), preferably connected to each other by wildlife corridors that are also inviolable." The reason? "The mere presence of humans, and hence any type of recreation, can be harmful or even deadly to wildlife." The resolution goes on to say that wildlife have "as much right not to be molested in their homes as we do." Politically, of course, this resolution is suicidal. It reinforces the cliché that our movement is simply determined to "lock up" the landscape, and will be used, justifiably, by our enemies against us. Pragmatically, it is a stretch as well. The number of humans who actually go into designated wilderness areas is small. Are they really having such a deleterious effect on wildlife? What is "pure" habitat anyway? Humans have been mixing it up with wild animals for 30,000 years in North

America; does "pure" mean a pre-contact environment, with Woolly Mammoths and Saber-Tooth Tigers?

While I can support the quarantining of critically endangered species from human contact in order to ensure their survival, that is not what this resolution is about. It has at its heart a fundamentally misanthropic message: humans are bad. We are the source of the plight that has befallen wildlife in this country, which is true--but banishment is not the answer. It also belittles the legitimate human use of wilderness for enrichment and recreation. Wildlife uber alles is not a solution, it is part of the problem.

Fighting The Wedge

Policies such as "people-free wilderness" drive a wedge between people and nature. It says, in effect, that people are "unnatural" and do not belong in the normal order of things. The Sierra Club's call for a ban on all commercial logging on public land drives a similar wedge between people and the land. These policies are wrong because in age of increasing, and overwhelming urbanization, we should be making every effort to reacquaint people with the natural world, not driving them away. We should be investigating ways that wildlife and people can get along, not categorically rejecting any association.

I believe it was the environmental movement's determination to drive a wedge between people and wildlife that fueled the recent Congressional assault on our conservation heritage. Although greed, politics, and corporate shenanigans were significant forces stalking the halls of

mind that a backlash to our creeping misanthropism was also at work. The public struck back at Congress, of course, but they responded primarily to human

issues--clean water in their homes, clean air in their cities, open space for their children, the opportunity to see wildlife in their natural habitats, and a chance to relax in their favorite national parks. It was a fight for the integrity of biology AND people.

The Lesson

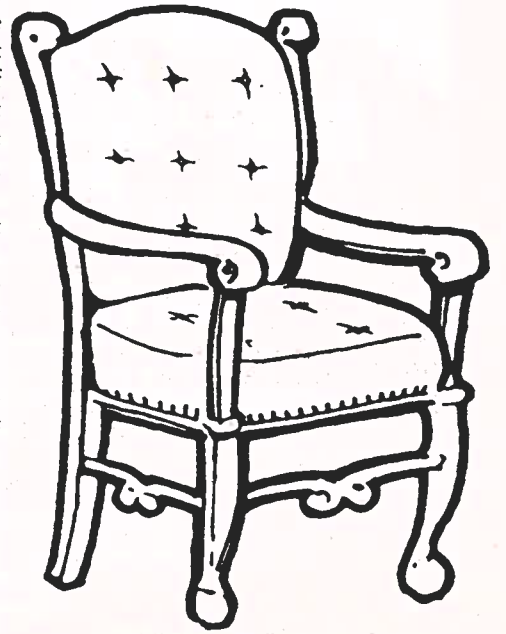
The lesson learned is this: we need to swing our movement back into balance. We need to balance the needs of the ecosystem with the needs of people, and not just hikers and campers, but hunters, fishermen, mountain climbers, even loggers and ranchers. We must require that people tread more lightly on the land and learn to respect the rights of all living things to exist there, as Aldo Leopold implored us to do years ago. We must curb our appetites and learn to live within limits in the process. But we must also acknowledge the "naturalness" of humans and their "right" to use public land. We must learn to get along; coexistence is not an option, it is a requirement.

The voice of human need must be returned to the environmental debate. We must say, for example, that the Animas-La Plata Dam is equally bad for symbolic as well as ecological reasons. We reject the dam on spiritual, aesthetic, and social grounds, not simply because it might endanger a fish. Why dam one of the last free-flowing rivers in the West? Why must there be more agriculture in a desert? Who died and appointed engineers God? Forget economics, that dam is simply an ugly idea. Let's curb our addiction to growth, change our ethics, and kill the dam. If that's good for the fish too, then so be it.

has succeeded without the support of people--many people. If we are to reinvigorate the environmental movement, and capitalize on the

The Uneasy Chair

by
Courtney White



the recent fight with Congress, then we need to restore the needs of people to our cause. Otherwise, we are doomed to goal-line stands in perpetuity.

BLM Wilderness Bill Possible

by John Wright, Wilderness Issues Co-Chair

Rumors are becoming more credible that a comprehensive BLM Wilderness Bill may be introduced in the next session of Congress by Senator Pete Domenici. That may be bad news for New Mexicans if Senator Domenici follows the recommendations of the BLM Administration, which completed its wilderness inventory on BLM lands more than 10 years ago. The good news is that New Mexicans have prepared a Citizens' Wilderness Proposal that better represents the ecological, cultural and economic needs of the state.

The BLM administration proposal, originally drawn up under the notorious anti-environmental administration of James Watt, called for only 560,000 acres to be designated Wilderness, although it was later amended to 760,000 acres. After extensive field work and research New Mexico citizens, working through a citizens' group called the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition, have found that nearly 2.5 million acres of New Mexico's BLM lands should be designated as wilderness.

The BLM Administration proposal falls far short of protecting some of the last remaining desert roadless areas in the state. Many ecosystem types, biotic communities of defined plant and animal species, are not represented adequately in the

BLM proposal. Some ecosystems found in New Mexico, which are not represented anywhere in the federal wilderness system, are not included in the BLM proposal but are in the citizens' proposal.

In addition, the citizens' proposal pays particular attention to riparian and wetland areas, while the BLM Administration proposal leaves out several important unregulated streams and riparian areas, such as those found in the San Antonio and Guadalupe Canyon Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs).

More and more citizens are realizing that we need optimum protection for our water resources.

Also importantly, the BLM Administration proposal does not reflect the significant cultural and economic values of these lands. Several of the WSAs contain sacred areas still used by Native Americans. Wilderness designation offers the highest level of protection possible for cultural activities. In addition, many of these areas are only 1 or 2

(con't on page 16)



Looking south from the Robledo Mountains WSA near Las Cruces. One of the areas not originally recommended for Wilderness by the BLM

Photo by
Michael Berman

Mining in the Jemez

Part 2

by
Abe Jacobson, Mining Issues Chair



The El Cajete Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) recommends a site-reclamation regime for the mine which is wholly non-compliant with language of the Jemez National Recreation Area legislation. The proposed mine is to be sited in the Jemez National Recreation Area. The legislation for this NRA stipulates that mining must restore the original surface and hydrologic attributes of the pre-disturbed area to the extent practicable. This is not guidance; it is the law, and must be complied with.

However, the final topographic configuration after reclamation of El Cajete is not described with any precision or quantitative rigor in the DEIS. This is especially dismaying in a document comprising 6 tables, 9 figures, 14 photographs, 72 pages, and an expensive color layout, and whose cost to the taxpayer is unknown but whose expense just for mailing is \$2.16 per copy.

The sole hard guidance by the DEIS for surface topography in the post-mine state is that the slopes not exceed 30%, that the shape be closed (i.e., a large and monolithic pit), and that there be contoured furrows every 45 feet on the sidewalls. This is not even close to the reclamation required by the NRA legislation.

The present pre-disturbance topography can be inferred from Figure 3, on page 13 of the DEIS. The contour interval is 5 feet, and it can readily be seen that the typical grade of the pre-existing topography is on the order of 5-10 degrees, that the grade exceeds 20 degrees on less than 10% of the surface area, and that the grade is less than 5 degrees on over 30% of the surface area. Thus the DEIS requirement for surface reclamation to slopes not exceeding 30% is a formula for grossly disobeying the scenic and topographic reclamation guidelines of the NRA.

Topographic Variability

Another obvious attribute of the El Cajete mine site is topographic variability: There are many irregular draws and hillsides, and the whole site is incised E-W in the central portion by the drainage containing FR4G. This topography breaks up the viewscape, provides privacy and a sense of isolation for recreational visitors, provides cover and favorable habitat for game species, and fits in seamlessly with the NRA surroundings.

Obviously, restoration to the extent practicable of the pre-mining surface topography can follow only from an accurate baseline characterization of the present site, and then must strive to the extent practicable to reproduce the pre-mining altimetric and geographic-exposure attributes. Does the DEIS do this? Not at all. The DEIS does not provide the post-reclamation contour map and set of E-W and N-S altimetric sections which are necessary to judge whether the intent of the NRA legislation is complied with, and more importantly, to guide the week-to-week process of site restoration itself. This is like embarking on the construction of a large and costly building without a blueprint!

What does the DEIS specify for post-reclamation topography? In the second column on page 14 of the DEIS, there is some vague narrative as follows:

"To prevent rilling, gullyng and loss of top soil, the reshaped mine would be concave to retain all run off within the pit limits. . . ."

"All reshaped slopes would be limited to a maximum of 30%. Baffled, contour furrows would be installed at 45-foot intervals on slopes

greater than 15%."

What does this mean? How does it constrain the reclamation? How does it serve to guide the mine operator? Where are the drawings? How do the wide possible gamuts of final products approximate the pre-disturbance surface condition? Where is the hard and quantitative specification to protect the interests of the United States taxpayers in this land they own?

Flout NRA

Unfortunately, none of these requirements of the NRA legislation, or of simple common sense, are met. Rather, the vague narrative cited above for final topography provides a convenient permission for the mine operator to flout the NRA legislation and to leave the public with an immense, unnatural, and incongruous trench in the landscape. This trench could run the length of the mine E-W (approximately 3/4 mile, or 4000 feet). The trench width could be the mine width (between 1/8 to 1/4 mile, or approximately 650-1300 feet). The slopes allowed by the DEIS narrative would be up to 30%. This would constitute an immense V-shaped-cross-section trench with a depth approximately 100-200 feet, closed to the surrounding, pooling water from the entire affected area, contoured in immense serpentine stripes which are stacked at regular intervals every 45 feet. It would resemble an elongated copper mine more than any natural landscape feature of the existing NRA.

Permanent Scar on Landscape

To get some idea of the immense scale of this permanent scar on the landscape, consider its volume: If the length is 3000 feet, the depth is 100 feet, and the width is 500 feet, then the V-shaped trench displaces approximately 2.5 million cubic yards, which is, not surprisingly, on the order of the pumice volume exported (at least 1.6-million cubic yards) from the site. To get more of an idea of this trench's visual and topographic incongruity for the surrounding area, we point out that the final trench could swallow two entire Nimitz-class nuclear aircraft carriers.

There is one narrative mitigation step, cited in the left column of page 14: "...wasted pumice would be backfilled and reshaped to mimic the bowl-shaped landscape characteristic of nearby meadows. . . Small hills similar to naturally occurring hills in nearby grasslands would be constructed to block long linear views of the reclaimed area."

Well, here is a basic problem: A million tons of pumice are going to be carted off-site. This is 1.6 million cubic yards, or enough to fill an immense cube 116 yards (a football field plus endzones) on edge. No matter how you slice this problem, you end up with a large and monolithic excavation. Is there enough "wasted pumice" to accomplish the construction of "small hills"? What does "small" mean? What is their dimension relative to the larger overall excavation? Is there enough "wasted pumice" to surmount the overall excavation and prevent the "long linear views"?

Essentially, the weakness of the quoted brief narrative on mitigation is the same as the basic weakness of the entire topographic-restoration treatment: Lack of quantitative altimetric descriptors. The interested public is just left to guess as to outcomes, and is required to trust in the will, energy, and competence by the Federal land manager during the operational phase of the project. This is hardly a formula for complete public disclosure of the pertinent issues in the pre-permit stage.

Governor Attempts Illegally Amend Mining Act

by Van L. Perkins

On November 18 Governor issued an Executive Order (number 96-49) which, if allowed to stand, would do serious damage to the New Mexico Mining Act. The Mining Act created a carefully crafted system of dual enforcement of the Act, with certain responsibilities assigned to the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) of the Department of Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources (EMNRD), and others assigned to the Environmental Department (ED). That scheme was intended to take advantage of the differential capabilities of the departments, and to create something of a check and balance system in enforcing the Act.

The Executive Order concentrates that responsibility in MMD in EMNRD, thus revising the Mining Act by Executive fiat. Among other things, the Executive Order makes MMD "solely responsible for implementation of the Mining Act Rules, interpreting the Mining Act and the Mining Act Rules, establishing Mining Act policy, and further provides for combination of Mining Act staff and funding of the two Departments into one. By this action, the Governor is amending legislation. That is a violation of the New Mexico Constitution which places legislative authority solely in the Legislature, not in the Executive branch.

In response, I Meiklejohn and Doug Wolf of the New Mexico Environmental Center, on behalf of several legislators (Max Coll, Gary King, and Tom McSorley), and Concerned Citizens del Norte, have filed suit in the New Mexico Supreme Court asking the Court to order the Governor to rescind the Order on the grounds that it violates the Constitutional provisions for Separation of Powers. The Chapter strongly supports the suit, but since it is based primarily on Constitutional grounds we have not joined it.

The Law Center has filed, on behalf of the same parties, a sixty-day notice-of-intent to sue under the Citizen Suit provisions of the Mining Act. That suit was based on the assertion that the Executive Order violates the terms of the Mining Act, and will seriously erode enforcement of the Act. That is clearly our issue. For that reason, the Chapter Executive Committee has voted to approve joining the suit when it is actually filed. We are now in the process of securing approval of the National Club to become a party to the suit and expect to receive authorization to do so. Therefore, if the issue is settled beforehand through a Constitutional suit, we will be an active party in the effort to get the Governor to do the right thing and simply obey the law.

RAINBOW EXPEDITIONS II

BACKPACKING TO BEAUTIFUL PLACES

- Over 19,000 miles of wilderness travel -

WINTER - SKIING & SIERRA MADRE

Jan 20 - Feb 1 **Copper Canyon Burro Trek** \$1470
Chihuahua, Mexico. Sponsored by Adventure Specialists.
Moderate. The burros carry our loads. Good cooking!

Feb 17-21 **Backcountry Skiing in the Rockies** \$450
Moderately Strenuous. Warm huts, high elevation.

Mar 2-16 **Batopilas to Copper Canyon** \$850
Strenuous. Steep rocky trails and 4,500' ascent.

SPRING - CANYONLANDS COUNTRY

Apr 4-10 **Rainbow Plateau Cross-Country, AZ** \$520
Strenuous. 31 miles, ascend Cummings Mesa.

Apr 13-19 **Mystery Canyons Canyoneering, UT** \$500
Strenuous. Short rappels, slickrock. Exploratory.

Apr 19-25 **San Rafael Swell Canyons, UT** \$470
Moderately Strenuous. Cross-country & rugged terrain.

Apr 27 - May 2 **Canyon del Muerto, AZ** \$655
Moderately Strenuous. 27 miles down the canyon.

May 4-10 **Paria Canyon Wilderness, UT & AZ** \$490
Moderate. 36 miles gentle downhill, crossing stream.

May 5-11 **Coyote Gulch & Escalante Canyon** \$525
Light to Moderate. Only 17 miles, with a resupply.

May 25-31 **Dark Canyon Wilderness, UT** \$480
Moderately Strenuous. From forest to desert.

Terry Gustafson
7125 W. 27th Ave.
Wheat Ridge, CO 80215
(303) 239-9917

What's in a Name? A Report from the Chair of the Albuquerque Group

by Susan Gorman

Nearly a year ago, the members of the ExCom met at Nick Persampieri's house to work on a strategic plan for the Group. One of the decisions we made was to identify the Group's major Conservation Campaigns and a Campaign Leader for each one. We thought that using names like Campaign" and "Campaign Leader" might send a message that Leaders need folks to share the efforts and thereby we'd get more people involved.

Through the year, we have really worked hard to invite more Albuquerque Sierrans to participate on the Conservation Campaigns, and I am pleased to report that we have had some success. Here are some examples:

On a cold and blustery day in April, Sierrans and Sierra Student Coalition members joined with other local activists to walk the neighborhoods and distribute 20,000 alerts to let people know about the threats of salvage logging to Southwest forests.

Beginning in the spring and through the summer, Sierrans joined with other groups to find ways to put water into the dry Rio Grande to keep the Silvery Minnows alive. Our appeal to the City of Albuquerque was heard and releases of water arrived just in time.

Western Section Sierrans presented comments to the Department of Energy Minerals and Natural Resources on the Fence Lake Coal Mine project to express their concerns about the environmental damage and to reinforce the comments made by the Zunis about the impact on their special spiritual place, the Salt Lake. Sadly, these comments were ignored.

During the summer, through our encouragement, a diverse group of folks began meeting to share their concerns about the impact of Westside development and the proposed Paseo del Norte Road extension on Petroglyph National Monument. The result was the formation of the Petroglyph Monument Protection Coalition which was announced in September. The Coalition has had several rallies and has increased awareness in the community about the need to protect the Monument from a range of incursions. (See article on page 1.)

Sierrans East of the Sandias joined other citizen groups to fight transfer of water from the Estancia Basin and the construction of a golf course in the Paa Ko development. We are convinced that water transfers such as this encourage unsustainable growth.

The Sustainable Albuquerque Team began to meet last March and has grown steadily. At the last meeting, so many folks came, a motion was made to get more chairs! We developed a Position on Sustainability and a list of planned Actions. We are building working relationships with 1000 Friends of New Mexico, Atlixco, the Petroglyph Protection Coalition and other Community groups. We have Sierrans serving on the City's Regional Transit Citizen Committee, the Sustainable Community Committee, the Water Customers' Advisory Committee, the Energy Conservation Council, the Bicycle Planning Committee and Urban Transportation Planning Policy Board's Public Involvement Committee. WOW!

Lest anyone think that we have enough soldiers in the Sierra Army. . . WRONG !! There's still plenty of work to do so read through the list below and contact the Leader of the Campaign that fits your interests.

Albuquerque Group Conservation Campaigns Sustainable Albuquerque

We are working together to make Regional Transit a reality, to advocate for living more lightly, to actively pursue protection and preservation of the places special to the people of the Albuquerque area, to investigate plans for large developments like Mesa Del Sol.

We are developing strategies to ensure that future development of Albuquerque does not exceed the local carrying capacity. If you do not wish to live in another Los Angeles or Las Vegas, contact Susan Gorman, bblairb@aol.com.

Wilderness

This campaign advocates protection of existing wilderness and other natural areas, their important plant and animal species, and creation of new wilderness areas. We are working with the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition to educate the public about the value of Wilderness and to advocate for a good BLM Wilderness Bill. Leaders: Jack Humphrey, Kathy Love 505-243-5319, humphrey@unm.edu and John Wright 505-247-4353, wright@apsicc.aps.edu.

Wildlife

Learn what has happened since the highly successful rally at the hearing on Wolf reintroduction in Socorro last October. Join the Wildlife Campaign to continue to work for the Lobo and other critters. Leader: Martin Heinrich 505-345-7832, mtheinrich@aol.com.

Petroglyph National Monument

PASEONO! Work with Native American and other conservation groups to protect the magnificent, culturally and spiritually significant rock art within a stone's throw from the burgeoning, unsustainable sprawl on Albuquerque's Westside. The plans to build the Paseo and Unser Freeways through the Monument threaten the integrity of the National Park System. This is just not acceptable. Help us prevent this from happening! Coalition Liaison: Julie Hicks 505-345-7832 mtheinrich@aol.com. Leader: Ike Eastvold 505-255-7679.

War on the Environment

Combat legislation proposed by anti-environmental congressmen and senators that would roll back twenty-five years of environmental progress, and promote positive environmental legislation. Opportunities for involvement are: joining our telephone tree (or helping to run it) and making telephone calls to the offices of our legislators and the President, monitoring legislative activities, and contacting congressmen and legislative aides and writing letters to the editor to express our positions. Leader: Richard Barish 505-247-8079, rdbarish@aol.com.

Bosque Protection

Is the Rio Grande going to be a live river, supporting a cottonwood bosque and abundant and varied native flora and fauna, or is it going to be reduced to a

plumbing system for our urban areas and agricultural interests? Help us fight to modify the way in which the river is managed so it can recover and become a live river again. Leader: Richard Barish 505-247-8079, rdbarish@aol.com.

East Mountain

This magnificent area is threatened by rapid development pressure. Currently we're working with other groups to fight a proposed golf course/residential development which would squander an unacceptable quantity of the region's limited water resources. We are also working with County Parks staff to develop a plan to protect open space, wildlife and trail corridors. Leader: Nick Persampieri, 505-281-7845, nickpers@flash.net.

Western New Mexico

The Western New Mexico Section seeks activists to help us develop campaigns and mobilize people in Cibola and McKinley Counties who care about the special places beyond Albuquerque's West Mesa. Leader: Barbara Leonard 505-862-7915.

Albuquerque Group Election Results

The Albuquerque Group's Executive Committee will change a bit in January. Blair Brown and Richard Barish were each elected to serve another three year term and Martin Heinrich will join us as an elected member. He has been coming regularly to provide us with his insights and ideas; now he can vote, too!

Barbara Leonard has resigned because the commute from Gallup to attend Monday night ExCom meetings is just not possible for her. We'll miss her presence! She will continue her essential activism as Chair of the Western Section.

Nick Persampieri will continue his work to protect the Eastside of the Sandia Mountains from excessive development and has promised to continue to advise us.

We will elect officers at the January 13 ExCom meeting. Contact Susan, 265-3231, bblairb@aol.com for results.

News from 1000 Friends of New Mexico

by Ned Farquhar, Executive Director

1000 Friends of New Mexico is starting a regular "Sustainable Communities Forum" in Albuquerque, a monthly breakfast meeting intended to provide information and dialogue about growth and development issues in the state.

The first Forum is scheduled for Thursday, January 23 at 7:30 AM at TVI, Administration Building, Room S-120. Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez has been asked to be the first speaker and to address issues such as the West Side Strategic Plan, impact fees, and the Transportation Evaluation Study.

Later forums, on the fourth Thursday of every month at TVI, will address New Mexico growth issues (February), progressive growth and infill proposals (March), transportation alternatives (April), water and growth (May), and (for the summer solstice) utopian design and planning (June).

1000 Friends is also planning to start up regular forums in other locations, including a bi-monthly meeting in Santa Fe.

Coffee, juice and bagels will be available. The cost is \$2 per person — \$1 if you aren't planning to eat or drink.

For information, or to reserve a place, contact 1000 Friends. TEL: 505-848-8232; EMail: nm1000@roadrunner.com; or write 823 Gold Ave SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

Have you heard about us?

Visit us at 11200 Montgomery (at Juan Tabo) for earth-friendly shopping!



Earthwares
Natural Goods & Clothing

Sierra Club Store
Calendars & books



We're sellers of quality goods at great prices and, best of all, everything we sell is kind to the earth!

January 20, 1997 General Meeting

7:30 PM, UNM Law School, Room 2401

Growth in New Mexico: Impacts and Options

Ken Hughes, Local Government Division, Department of Finance and Administration, has just completed a major report on growth in New Mexico, the first of its kind for this state. Come and learn about the fiscal, social and environmental impacts of growth, as well as options for managing it in a sustainable manner.

Ken will give us examples of what other states are doing and help us to think about policy options for neighborhoods, communities, and the state. Copies of the report will be available.

This program, the first of a series of programs sponsored by the Sustainable Albuquerque Team, will give us a solid foundation for our work during the year.

General Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at 7:30 PM at the UNM Law School, Room 2401, on the corner of Mountain Road and Stanford NE. UNM is currently enforcing parking restrictions. Please park at the metered slots (bring quarters!) or on the street or buy a one-time-only permit (\$3) at the Law Library.

Bring your own cups for refreshments during the break.

Don't Forget to Vote "Yes" for Parks and Open Space

by Richard Barish

By the time you read this, all registered voters in Albuquerque should have received their ballots for the mail-in referendum election on the parks and open space gross receipts tax. The referendum asks voters to decide whether to increase the gross receipts tax by one-quarter of one percent for two years in order to fund the acquisition of open space and the acquisition and development of city parks.

If the measure passes, the City would acquire some truly exceptional parcels as open space, including the Oxbow marsh, Tres Pisos Canyon, the Rio Puerco escarpment, Tijeras Arroyo through the canyon, the Northern Geologic Windows, the north and south sand dunes, the southwest mesa escarpment, and others (see the last edition of the *Sierran* or our web page for descriptions of some of the parcels). In addition to the acquisition of open space, the tax would fund the development of 25 currently undeveloped neighborhood parks. Some of these parks have been awaiting funding for development for many years. The tax would also fund the acquisition of a few park properties, including Anderson Field. The tax would cost only five cents every time you spend \$20 during the two year period of the tax.

The parks and open space gross receipts tax referendum gives us the opportunity to leave a legacy of a bit of Albuquerque's wonderful natural heritage. If you haven't already done so, please return your ballot marked "Yes." Please call me at 247-8079 if you have any questions about the referendum.

CALENDAR

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

Jan 8	Deadline for agenda items for Group ExCom. Call Susan Gorman at 265-3231
Jan 13	Group ExCom, 7:00 PM
Jan 14	Sustainable Albuquerque Meeting, 7:00 PM. Call Susan Gorman, 265-3231
Jan 20	General Meeting, UNM Law School, Rm 2401, 7:30 PM. Ken Hughes, Local Government Division, Department of Finance and Administration, speaking on Growth in New Mexico. See notice on this page.
Jan 21	New Mexico State Legislature Opens
Jan 22	Deadline for agenda items for Conservation Committee. Call Richard Barish, 247-8079
Jan 23	1000 Friends of New Mexico Breakfast Forum, TVI, Rm.S-120, 7:30 AM. Call 848-8232
Jan 27	Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM
Feb 5	Deadline for agenda items for Group ExCom. Call Susan Gorman at 265-3231
Feb 10	Group ExCom, 7:00 PM
Feb 11	Sustainable Albuquerque Meeting, 7:00 PM. Call Susan Gorman, 265-3231
Feb 15	Deadline for articles for Jan/Feb <i>Rio Grande Sierran</i>
Feb 17	General Meeting, UNM Law School, Room 2401, 7:30 PM. Jane Mobley, Permaculture Design. See notice on this page
Feb 19	Deadline for agenda items for Conservation Committee. Call Conservation Chair
Feb 24	Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM
Feb 27	1000 Friends of New Mexico Breakfast Forum, TVI, Rm.S-120, 7:30 AM. Call 848-8232

February 17, 1997 General Meeting

7:30 PM, UNM Law School, Room 2401

Designing Ecological Landscapes

Jane Mobley will talk about permaculture design concepts and the application of these concepts to designing land use systems that are sustainable and environmentally sound, as well as culturally appropriate. Permaculture design concepts may be applied to single households or whole farms and villages. Come and see how to incorporate permaculture into your home garden.

Jane recently completed the Permaculture Design and Deep Applied Ecology Training courses at the Center for Action and Contemplation. She will share her knowledge and experience with us.

Western New Mexico Section

Sunday, January 12, 1997, 2:00p.m.

McKinley County Health Department,
1919 College Drive, Gallup

Sierra Club members and friends are invited to a meeting to discuss Forest Service plans for nearby parts of Cibola National Forest and the Zuni Mountains. Mark Catron and Paul Tidwell of the Mount Taylor Ranger District will talk to us and with us. Your questions and comments will be appreciated. Refreshments will be provided.

For questions/directions, call Barbara Brandt at 488-5233 or Barbara Leonard at 862-7915.

Group Directory**1996 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

207 San Pedro NE
Albuquerque, NM 87108
Office Telephone: 265-5506
Fax: 256-0373

Officers will be elected in January

Susan Gorman	265-3231
Blair Brown	265-3231
Kathy Love	243-5319
Richard Barish	247-8079
Ron Grotbeck	296-0944
Julie Hicks	345-7832
Jack Humphrey	243-5319
Martin Heinrich	345-7832
Jamie Grebosky	821-6455

The Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club depends entirely on the efforts of volunteers. To help, call any of us!

ADMINISTRATION

Office Organizer	OPEN	
Books/Calendars	Larry Compton	899-0679
Information Technology	Blair Brown	265-3231
	bblairb@aol.com	
Media Coordinator	Julie Hicks	345-7832
Membership	Barbara Stone	265-5304
Newsletter	OPEN	
Outings	Tom Leck	256-7217
Phone Tree	Jean Valentine	869-2090
Political Chair	Ron Grotbeck	296-0944
Programs	Sustainable Albuquerque Team	

CONSERVATION

Conservation Chair	Richard Barish	247-8079
Campaign Team Leaders		
Bosque Protection	Richard Barish	247-8079
East Mountain	Nick Persampieri	281-7845
Petroglyph National Monument	Ike Eastvold	255-7679
Petroglyph Protection Coalition	Julie Hicks	345-7832
Sustainable Albuquerque	Susan Gorman	265-3231
War on the Environment	Richard Barish	247-8079
Western New Mexico	Barbara Leonard	862-7915
Wilderness	Jack Humphrey/ Kathy Love	243-5319
	John Wright	247-4353
Wildlife	Martin Heinrich	345-7832

Outings may be cancelled or changed due to weather or other reasons, please call leader before outing. You must bring appropriate shoes, clothes, pack, rain gear, and water.

Sun 5 Jan Moderate-Strenuous
Miles: 8 Car: 130

X/C Ski - Windsor Trail

We will cross-country ski the beautiful Windsor Trail near the Santa Fe Ski Area. Due to some very steep slopes, you should be at least an intermediate level cross-country skier to participate in this trip. Please call the trip leader for further information.
Leader: Barbara Stone 265-5304

Thurs 9 Jan

X/C Lecture and Lessons

Certified Ski Instructor John Turnbull will offer a beginner's lecture on X/C history, clothing, and skis. On Saturday the class will be taken to the field to practice their kick and glide, turns and stops. Contact

John Turnbull at 466-9329 or Stan Kauchak at 839-4301 for additional information.

Sat 11 Jan Moderate
Miles: 1-2 Car: TBD

Beginning X/C Ski Outdoor Lessons

Introduction to the fundamentals of Nordic skiing and classical style, emphasizing backcountry needs. All are welcome to learn or brush up on your kick and glides and turns and stops. Bring a good-sized lunch and plenty to drink. Equipment can be rented from most sport shops. Phone John Turnbull in Santa Fe at 466-9329, or Stan Kauchak in Albuquerque at 839-4301 for information on clothing, equipment and meeting place. An impromptu X/C ski tour could be planned for Sunday 12 Jan if participants are interested.

Sat 18 Jan Moderate-Strenuous
Miles: 8 Car: 200

X/C Ski - Peralta Canyon

We will cross-country ski the Peralta Canyon in the Jemez Mountains. Due to some pretty steep slopes,

you should be an intermediate or experienced cross-country skier to go on this trip. After the trip, a visit to the famous Los Ojos Restaurant is a possibility. We will meet at the Sierra Club office at 8:45am, but please call the trip leader for further information.

Leader: Barbara Stone 265-5304

Sat 18 Jan Moderate
Miles: 5-6 Car: 100

Hike - Ojito Wilderness Study Area

Beautiful desert landscape on public land near San Ysidro. Moderate exploratory hike starting at the western boundary. Please call the trip leader for meeting time and place.
Leader: Tom Petencin 255-1497

Sun 19 Jan Leisure
Miles: 3 Car: 3

Hike - Oxbow

Various waterfowl, some hawks, and other wildlife can be seen in this wetland within Albuquerque. The hike will take about three hours. Please call the trip leader for the meeting time and place.

Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat 25 Jan Moderate-Strenuous
Miles: 4 Car: 130

X/C Ski - Las Conchas Trail to East Fork Parking Lot

A beautiful hike in spring, summer, and fall. It should be just as beautiful covered in snow. A moderate X/C ski overall, expect strenuous conditions as we climb from the canyon floor up to the East Fork Ridge Trail.
Leader: Stan Kauchak 839-4301

Sat 8 Feb Moderate
Miles: 4 Car: 30

X/C Ski - Las Huertas Canyon Trip

We will ski Las Huertas Canyon, an area of critical concern. Issues regarding the management of Las Huertas Canyon continue to be litigated. There will be a chance of seeing birds and other winter wildlife. You should be an intermediate or experienced cross-country skier to go on this trip. There is a possibility that inclement weather may mean postponing this trip until the 9th of February, so please call the leader for additional information.

Leader: Marion 867-5178

Sun 9 Feb Moderate
Miles: 3 Car: 175

Snowshoe Hike - Jemez Falls

Come and see the beautiful iced-over waterfall. A wonderful winter site. Snowshoes will be required. Please call the leader for additional information.

Leader: Tom Leck 256-7217

Sun 16 Feb Leisure
Miles: 3 Car: 3

Hike - Rio Grande Bosque

We will hike to the bosque north of Central Avenue. The entire hike should take about three hours. Please call the trip leader for the meeting time and place.

Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat 22 Feb Leisure
Miles: 3 Car: 200

Hike - Chaco Outliers

We will visit some of the outlier ruins associated with the ancient Chaco Canyon culture. These ruins are outside the Chaco Canyon park and are present throughout a good portion of western New Mexico. Please call the leader for more information.

Leader: Tom Leck 256-7217

Sat 1 Mar Moderate
Miles: 4-6 Car: 240

X/C Ski - Amole Canyon

A beautiful X/C ski area just outside of Taos. Bring lunch and dress in layers. Please contact trip leader for details.

Leader: Stan Kauchak 839-4301

Sustainable Albuquerque Team's Progress Report for 1996

by Susan Gorman

The Sustainable Albuquerque Team began to meet in January and, through the year, the team has grown both in size and knowledge. By August, we had developed a Position Statement and an Action Plan which we presented to the Albuquerque Group ExCom, and they approved it.

What follows is a brief summary of the Action Plan and the progress we have made.

1. Encourage more members to join the Team and advocate sustainability.

Since the first meeting, in January 1996, the Team has been growing. At the December meeting, we had 18 folks and there are 38 on the distribution list. There's plenty more to do! Join us!

2. Support the Initiatives of 1000 Friends of New Mexico and the Atlixco Coalition, and initiate outreach to other organizations with compatible goals.

We are working with 1000 Friends, and we have had guests from Atlixco and a meeting to tour Perry & Bette Wilkes' small ranch in the South Valley. We still need to expand our outreach to increase our effectiveness.

3. Learn about sustainability concepts such as Local Carrying Capacity, and determine applicability to the Albuquerque Area.

This is a tremendous undertaking! The collection of resource documents is growing and the challenge is to comprehend the concepts which are new for us. We are all educating ourselves in the ways which work best for each of us.

4. Develop relationships with City Councilors, Staff of City Departments, County Commissioners, Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments and other policy makers.

This is really essential! We developed the Position on Sustainability so that everyone would have a coherent message and the next step is training so we are comfortable about what to say when we meet with these folks.

5. Continue research to determine whether the Group should endorse Mesa del Sol, and make recommendation to Conservation Committee and ExCom.

The research effort so far has included a trip to Mesa del Sol, meetings with the State Land Office Commercial Division, an interview with Tom Leatherwood, Land Office Planner and a General Meeting program with presentations by Tom and Commissioner Ray Powell. We anticipate more interactions in 1997 as the Land Office develops the master plan.

6. Participate effectively on the Albuquerque Sustainable Community Committee.

As the Sierra Club's representative on the SCC, I have worked hard to participate effectively and to continuously advocate for the Club's position. This is one of the most challenging assignments I have ever had! It is also a wonderful opportunity to learn about the inner workings of the City.

7. Participate effectively in the development of the Regional Transit Service Plan.

The discovery that the City Transit

Department is taking the lead to create a viable transit system for the region has given us hope! To provide support, team members are attending the RTA Public Advisory Committee meetings. Ann Watkins, City Transit Director, gave an overview of the Regional Transit Plan process for a General Meeting providing members with the opportunity to learn and ask questions. The next step is for the Legislature to approve the enabling legislation and we have asked that this be on the agenda for the Club's lobbying effort.

8. Participate effectively on the Water Customers' Committee.

The Club's representative, Vickie Gabin, brings her great knowledge of water law and her ability to work well with people to this committee. The charge to the committee is to learn about the options that are being considered for use of the City's San Juan/Chama water and to develop a strategy with recommendations to present to the City Council. The work of this committee will be reported on in the next *Sierra*.

9. Actively pursue opportunities to provide input to the Cost of Growth Study being undertaken by the Local Government Division, Department of Finance and Administration.

At the January General Meeting, Ken Hughes will discuss the outcome of the study. Plan to come and learn more!

10. Actively pursue protection and preservation of the places special to the people of Albuquerque, such as the Rio Grande Bosque, the surrounding mountains and Petroglyph National Monument.

Protection of Petroglyph National Monument will require plenty of work (see article on page 1). Nick Persampieri was the catalyst for the formation of the Petroglyph Monument Protection Coalition, and he has been the Group's Liaison. Julie Hicks will be taking over for Nick as Liaison in 1997 and she'll be asking us to help. Be ready!

We have a great opportunity to approve a tiny increase in the sales tax to generate money to purchase open space. Be sure to vote YES when you get the ballot in the mail!

11. Educate members: publish ideas to help Sierrans live more lightly, provide information about sustainability and personal responsibility.

All of the General Meeting programs will be about sustainability in 1997. Topics will include the Cost of Growth study, permaculture, water, sustainable building, simple living. . . Plan to attend!

12. Study the feasibility of holding a Sustainability Workshop.

If possible, we'd like to hold a Sustainability Workshop in 1997. We'll need plenty of help for this, so bring your ideas to the next meeting, January 14, 1997, 7:00 PM at the Sierra Club office. We'll have more chairs!

To get involved, contact Susan Gorman, 2226B Wyoming NE #272, ABQ, NM 87112, TEL: 505-265-3231 FAX: 505-256-0373 EMail: bblairb@aol.com

GALA WINE AND CHEESE PARTY

Friday, January 31, 1997

6:30 P.M.

Location to be Announced

Bring ten or so of your favorite slides, a bottle of wine and some cheese to our annual wine and cheese party. This is a purely social event featuring lots of good conversation and a captive audience as you show slides from last summer's vacation. New members are particularly encouraged to attend since it provides an opportunity to meet "old" members in an informal atmosphere. Although we call this a "wine and cheese" party, don't let the name limit the type of beverage or snack food you choose to bring. There is a \$3.00 charge.

Please note that there will be no regular Sierra Club meeting in January. This event will replace the meeting that would have been scheduled for Wednesday of that week.

For further information please contact Gary Williams at 544-8484 (work) or 562-3540 (home).

Outings**January 5 - Ron Coleman Trail Dayhike**

Place: Franklin Mountains State Park

Class: Moderate

Limit: 20, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Carolina Greenfield, 594-7342

This beautiful hike in the Franklin Mountains begins at McKelligon Canyon. We then climb to the crest, which we follow to South Franklin Peak before descending to Transmountain Road. There is a minor scramble at one point (assistance will be available), and we pass the Window, a natural arch. The views are spectacular along this four mile hike. Elevation gain is about 2400 feet. Call Carolina for reservations and details.

January 11 - Franklin Mountains Dayhike

Place: Franklin Mountains, El Paso

Class: Moderate

Limit: 15, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Carol Morrison, 545-1632

This interesting loop hike will follow a new trail in the canyon below Crazy Cat Mountain to the base of the "trail of 1000 steps." We will then hike the "trail of 1000 steps" to Ranger Peak and complete our loop by hiking back along the ridge to Commando Peak and then down the "C" road to our vehicles. The hike will cover approximately 5 miles with 1500' of elevation gain. Call Carol early for more information and reservations to go on this never-before-done hike.

January 17-20 - Martin Luther King's Birthday Guadalupe Mtns Backpack

Place: Guadalupe Mountains, New Mexico

Class: Moderately Strenuous

Limit: 10, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Rollin Wickenden; 534-6594 (W)

We will depart Friday night and drive to our campground at Pine Springs. On Saturday, after leaving a car at McKittrick Canyon, we will hike the length of the Tejas Trail from Pine Springs to Dog Canyon, 11.7 miles where we will camp Saturday night. On Sunday, after picking up a gallon of water, we will hike 6.5 miles to McKittrick Ridge campsite where we will camp Sunday night. On Monday, we will make the spectacular descent into McKittrick Canyon and hike 6.6 miles to trails end at the McKittrick Canyon Parking lot. Total trail mileage is 24.8 miles. Elevation gain climbing to Pine Top is about 2000 feet and elevation gain on Sunday to McKittrick Ridge is a little over 1600 feet. Call Rollin early for reservations and details.

January 18 - Filmore Canyon Dayhike

Place: Organ Mountains, New Mexico

Class: Easy/Moderate

Limit: 8, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Ann Falknor 833-9162

Approximate distance is seven miles with elevation gain at La Cueva Picnic Area, nine miles east of Las Cruces on the Dripping Springs Road.

January 25 - Lookout Mountain Dayhike

Place: Robledo Mountains, New Mexico

Class: Moderate

Limit: 12, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Gary Williams; 544-8484 (W) 562-3540 (H)

This day hike will introduce us to the nearby, but seldom visited, Robledo Mountains Wilderness Study Area (WSA) located just 8 miles northwest of Las Cruces. This area offers interesting geological features and great views.

We will plan on hiking to Lookout Peak and, if time permits, to the summit of nearby Robledo Mountain at 5,876 feet. Lookout Peak once served as a heliograph station for the U.S. Army in the 1880s and offers outstanding views of southern New Mexico as well as a close-up of the Rio Grande and Mesilla Valley below. Please note that access will require travel over unimproved roads requiring a high clearance vehicle. Please contact Gary Williams for additional information.

February 2 - Guadalupe Peak Dayhike

Place: Guadalupe National Park

Class: Moderate to strenuous

Limit: 12, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Jim Bell 594-2501 (W), 581-8864 (H)

Come hike to the top of Texas. The Guadalupe Peak dayhike is a classic that

GROUP DIRECTORY**Executive Committee**

Chairman	Wesley Leonard	747-6649	
Vice Chair	Jim Bell	581-8864	
Treasurer	Kathy Sunday	584-9301	sunday@pogo.den.mmc.com
Member	Laurence Gibson	584-5688	gibson@ece.utep.edu
Member	Ted Mertig	852-3011	tmertig@aol.com
Member	Bill Phillips	772-6503	
Member	Gary Williams	562-3540	

Administration

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Intern	E. Anthony Martinez	747-6216	emanuel@mail.utep.edu
LORAX	Pat Dugger	581-3264	
	Betsy Julian	544-5741	76251.2520@compuserve.com
Secretary	Mike Seidensticker	581-8864	

Project Chairs

BLM Wilderness	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655	
Enviro. Center & Franklin Mountains	John Sproul	545-5157	ae94@rgfn.epcc.edu
Grazing & Timber	Liz Walsh	584-1471	ewalsh@utep.edu
Inner City Outings	Ted Mertig	852-3011	tmertig@aol.com
	Richard Rheder	544-5659	af303@rgfn.epcc.edu

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	Carol Morrison	545-1632	
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Programs	Gary Williams	562-3540	
Project ACT	Ann Falknor	833-9162	

	E. Anthony Martinez	757-6216	emanuel@mail.utep.edu
	Richard Rheder	544-5659	af303@rgfn.epcc.edu
	Liz Walsh	584-1471	ewalsh@utep.edu
	Gary Williams	562-3540	
Publicity	Ted Mertig	852-3011	tmertig@aol.com
Sierra Blanca	E. Anthony Martinez	747-6216	emanuel@mail.utep.edu

Sierra Club Environmental Center
800 S. Piedras @ Paisano
532-9645, 532-4876 fax

Membership:

SIERRA CLUB
800 S. Piedras
El Paso, TX 79983

LORAX information:

Betsy Julian
615 E. Baltimore
El Paso, TX 79902

every hiker in El Paso should do. Distance is approximately 9 miles with an elevation gain of 3,000 feet. Please call Jim for further information and reservations.

February 5-9 - Superstition Mountains Backpack

Place: Superstition Wilderness Area, Arizona

Class: Moderate with a long drive

Limit: 12, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Rollin Wickenden 534-6594(H)

We will depart from El Paso on Wednesday night and drive to a campsite in the Penalenos Mountains. On Thursday, we will drive the remaining distance to the Peralta Trailhead and begin our three day backpack. The planned route follows the Dutchman's Trail (104) and makes a wide loop through the heart of the Superstition Wilderness, exiting the Wilderness through East Boulder Canyon on the Peralta Trail (102), returning to our vehicles. We plan to spend two nights in the backcountry, camping near water sources. This is Sonoran Desert with lots of spring plants, so participants should dress accordingly. Come search for the Lost Dutchman Mine. Trail distance 15.2 miles. Elevation change +2800 feet and -2600. Call Rollin early for reservations and details.

February 8-9 - Cooke's Peak Carcamp

Place: Cooke's Peak, New Mexico

Class: Moderate

Limit: 12, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Joe Rodriguez 833-9655 (H)

Call leader for details.

February 15-16 - West Slaughter Canyon Backpack

Place: Guadalupe Mountains, New Mexico

Class: Moderate

Limit: 12, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Tony Rullan 775-3386 (W)

Call leader for details.

February 22-23 - Mt. Riley/Mt. Cox Carcamp

Place: Mt. Riley, New Mexico

Class: Easy to Moderate

Limit: 15, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Wesley Leonard 747-6649 (W)

We will depart El Paso Saturday morning for the 40 mile drive to our camping place in a scenic valley between Mt. Riley and Mt. Cox in the nearby West Portillo Mountains. On Saturday afternoon, there will be an optional off-trail hike to the summit of Mt. Cox. We will spend Saturday night around a roaring campfire to ward off the February chill. On Sunday morning, there will be another optional hike, this time to the summit of Mt. Riley. Our drive home on

Sunday afternoon will feature brief stops at Kilbourne and Hunt's Holes to examine these interesting geologic features.

Both optional climbs are steep and on very loose rocks and should be attempted only by those prepared for such conditions. (Sierrans have been injured on these climbs in the past.) High clearance vehicles are recommended for the trip. Please call Wesley for more details.

March 8-9 - Baylor Canyon Service Trip

Place: Organ Mountains, New Mexico

Class: Easy

Limit: none, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Alice Anderson, 505-523-5179 (H)

The BLM has asked us to obliterate a wildcat trail in the Organ Mts WSA. The BLM will provide tools, but if you have a shovel, please bring it. Wear work gloves. Here is your chance to give something back to the wildlands we all love. You may sign up for Saturday, for Sunday, or for both days.

OUTINGS REPORT

McKittrick Canyon Brunch Dayhike - Sun Nov 10 (Mike Bromka)

A lucky seven Sierrans gathered at McKittrick Canyon in the Guads to celebrate foliage, food, and fellowship. We rendezvoused the previous evening at Parks Ranch for a campfire and a free spat. Sunday morning, with the rising sun at our backs, we drove to McKittrick turnoff, then onto the ranger station. Arriving shortly after 8 a.m., we set off briskly to savor slanting morning light playing on the trees. Backlit amid canyon shadows, orange maple leaves shimmered as remnant tongues of forests brought south, then abandoned, by ice age glaciers.

After inspecting historic Pratt Lodge and Hunter Cabin, we noted the eerie beauty of the Grotto, a ghostly convocation of speleothems unearthed by millennia of erosion. At a limestone picnic table, we shared our repast: New York bagels, cream cheese, roasted chilies, Bermuda onion, smoked salmon, dill pickles, grapes and gala apples, with a dessert of mints and German chocolate cookies. Bon Appetit! to Rafaela Schuler, Laurence Gibson, Carolina Greenfield, Cheryl Frey, Cynthia Salgado, Sondra Sage, and leader Mike Bromka.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair	Michael Smith	662-2380
Vice-Chair	Walt Matuska	662-9212
Secretary	Stephany Bouchier	662-6867
Treasurer	Guthrie Miller	662-5545
	Barbara Calef	662-3825
	Steve Koch	662-9423
	Warren Lieb	662-7966

FUTURE MEETINGS

January

General: Wednesday, January 8, 1997, 7:00 PM at Mesa Public Library. **Eddie Bennett**, of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, will present a lecture entitled **Teaming With Wildlife**. The program will address upcoming U.S. Congressional legislation that proposes new funding to non-traditional wildlife programs and projects.

Conservation Committee: Wednesday, January 8, 1997, 7:00 PM at Mesa Public Library in conjunction with the General Meeting.

Executive Committee: Wednesday, January 15, 1997, 7:00 PM at Mesa Public Library.

February

General: Wednesday, February 5, 1997, 7:00 PM at Mesa Public Library. **Dave Foreman**, will present a lecture entitled **Biological Meltdown And Conservation Biology**. The program will focus on the new science of conservation biology, its understanding of the current extinction crisis, and what it says about protecting endangered species. Dave is on the national board of the Sierra Club, he was a cofounder of Earth First!, and he has written several environmental books.

Conservation Committee: Wednesday, February 12, 1997, 7:00 PM at Mesa Public Library.

Executive Committee: Wednesday, February 19, 1997, 7:00 PM at Mesa Public Library.

For further information on the Pajarito Group, and how to get involved contact Janet Gerwin (662-9568) or Michael Smith (662-2380).

PERMANENT COMMITTEES

Several Committees have already been identified and a few interim Chairs have volunteered.


All the committees need volunteers! The Committees and their Chairs are:

Conservation	Steve Koch	662-9423
Environmental Education	Janet Gerwin	662-9568
Membership	Terry Phillips	662-4838
Newsletter	Edwina Lieb	662-4013
Outings	Tinka Gammel	662-4856
Phone Tree	Lonna Evans	662-2621
Political	Michael Smith	662-2380
Publicity	Janet Gerwin	662-9568

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE NEWS

The Conservation Committee has identified 7 issues. They, with the member responsible for each, are:

Community Planning	Michael Smith	662-2380
Mining	Abe Jacobson	662-9579
Forest	Steve Koch	662-9423
Bandelier	Sue Barns	662-9423
Water		
Grazing		
Wildlife		



You have more to give than you know

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can become a financial hero by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. You can even direct your gift to a specific Club program or to your home Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact the Sierra Club Planned Giving Program, 85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105, (415) 977-5538.

SANTA FE GROUP MEETINGS

CONFRONTING THE FUTURE:
Northern New Mexico and the Next Century



Beginning in January, the General Membership meetings of the Santa Fe Group will focus on the most pressing concerns confronting the region as the 21st century approaches. Speakers will share their vision on the shape of the future and suggest ways that community members can get involved. They will be provocative talks, so plan to attend and **BRING YOUR THOUGHTS, TOO!!**

SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST
New Supervisor

Tuesday, January 21, 7 PM

Leonard Atencio, the new Supervisor of the Santa Fe National Forest, is a native of Northern New Mexico, having been born and raised in Cuba, New Mexico.

Mr. Atencio has been on a tour of duty in California and now returns home to confront the complex issues facing the Santa Fe Forest. Come and meet him to learn what he thinks the Forest Service should be doing to prepare for the next century.

In the question and answer session following his talk, you will be given an opportunity to express your thoughts and find out how he feels about those issues. Please come, bring your friends, good ideas and suggestions.

All meetings, outings, and activities are **FREE** and open to the public.

1000 FRIENDS OF NEW MEXICO
Urban Sprawl

Tuesday, February 18, 7 PM

Few issues are more contentious, and important, in our region than the spread of urbanization (*sprawl*). From the disruption of cultural traditions, the destruction of open space, the depletion of water resources, to an increase in traffic congestion and crime, nothing quite affects the quality-of-life the way urban growth does.

The 1000 Friends of New Mexico is dedicated to improving sustainability and preserving the integrity of our land and communities. Ned Farquhar, Executive Director, will speak to us of what the future looks like and help us learn what we can do to control growth.

The Membership Meetings will be held at the Unitarian Church at 107 W. Barcelona Street (between Galisteo and Don Gaspar).

HOLIDAY PARTY A WHOPPING SUCCESS !!

We saw people who've been in hiding for years! Lots of wonderful Sierrans, tantalizingly delicious food, and an entertaining and informative talk by historian Orlando Romero made for a very fun evening.

The Silent Auction was a grand success and netted much needed dollars for our conservation efforts. Thanks to everyone who brought their wallets and spent generously.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION RETURNS

Congratulations to Jeff Regenold and Barbara Johnson on their reelection to the committee. Welcome and congratulations go to Doug Fraser and Ned Sudborough on their election. The Executive Committee plays an important role in the direction of our Group and we all greatly appreciate the hard work these people devote to the efforts of the Sierra Club and to our environment.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

During the next two months, the Conservation Committee will be considering the Mexican Wolf reintroduction, growth concerns around Santa Fe, the Summo mine, forest issues, and a number of other topics. Everyone is welcome to attend.

January 28, 1997, 7 PM — Sierra Club Office

Terry Sullivan of the Nature Conservancy will join us for an informal discussion about the Conservancy's goals for the new year.

February 25, 1997, 7 PM — Sierra Club Office

A representative of the Trust for Public Land will attend our meeting to discuss what we can do to protect open space in New Mexico.

Courtney White, Conservation Committee Chair, 982-5502

◆ ◆ SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS ◆ ◆

Chair — John Buchser *	820-0201	Phone Tree — Norma McCallan*	471-0005
Vice-Chair — Jerry Bober*	827-1557	Membership	} open
Secretary/Treas — Lionel Soracco*	983-6715	Fundraising — Education	} positions
Answering Machine — L. Soracco*	983-6715	Office — Welcomer	
Chapter Representative —			
Barbara Johnson*	466-4935	Martha Anne Freeman *	438-0697
(alt.) Norma McCallan*	471-0005	Don Goldman *	473-2821
Conservation — Courtney White*	982-5502	Jeff Regenold *	661-6707
Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson	982-3926		
Publicity — Kay Carlson	982-3926	* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee	
Outings — Norbert Sperlich	983-1962	Terms expire	
— Norma McCallan*	471-0005	12/96: Bober/Freeman/Johnson/Regenold	
Political Committee — Ned Sudborough	820-1270	12/97: Buchser/Goldman/McCallan/Soracco/White	



Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club
621 Old Santa Fe Trail · Suite 10 · Plaza Deslra · Santa Fe · New Mexico · 87501
505 · 983-2703

SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS

Santa Fe Group News

Sat Sun January

- 4 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Hike to Ancho Rapids. Call for time and meeting place.
- 5 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate Loop Hike in the La Bajada area, mostly off-trail. Call leader if not familiar with area. Leave 9 AM.
- 11 Carolyn & Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike up St. John's arroyo, with extensions. Leave 9 AM.
- 12 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Tetilla Peak from La Bajada. 10-11 miles RT. Leave 8 AM. Alternate trip if weather unsuitable.
- 18 Tom Petencin (1-505-255-1497) Moderate Exploratory Trip to the *Ojito Wilderness Study Area*, near San Ysidro, home of the seismosaurus dinosaur and moonscape rock formations. Call for time and meeting place.
- 19 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Easy Hike Nun's Corner Loop. Dogs allowed. Leave 9:30 AM. Weary sturdy boots since there may be snow in the shade.

Saturday, Sunday, Monday — January 18-19-20

John Buchser (820-0201) 3-day X-country Ski Weekend Stay in motel in Chama and ski Cumbres Pass area. Leave 9 AM Sat. Call for details.

- 25 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Easy Hike to Tsankawi Ruins. Children (with parents) encouraged. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 25 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate/Strenuous X-Country Ski Tour to the area of best snow. Hike if no snow. Leave 8 AM.

Saturday, Sunday — January 25-26

Margot Wilson (744-5860) Enjoy a warm weekend in TorC! Moderate Day Hikes to Mud Springs Mtns and possibly the Fra Cristobols. Camp at Margo's house/share potluck supper Sat nite with local Sierrans. Leave after work on Fri. Call Norma McCallan (471-0005) for carpooling from SF.

Sat Sun March

- 1 Ned Sudborough (820-1270) Moderate Hike. If there is a good, recent snow, this will be changed to a cross-country ski trip. Call for details.
- 2 Matt Gervaise (466-3497) Moderate Cross-Country Ski Trip. Call for time, meeting place and destination.

Saturday, March 1, through Sunday, March 9

John Buchser (820-0201) Moderate/Strenuous Backpack to the Superstition Mountains in Arizona. Call for reservations to confirm date. (This may be changed to the last week of February or second week of March.) If the price is right, we may consider flying instead of driving.

- 8 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Hike in the White Rock area. Call for time and meeting place.
- 9 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Cerro Rito and the Blowhole in the Caja. Off-trail walking. Call leader if not familiar with hike. Leave 8 AM.
- 15 Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike to Tent Rocks. Call for time and meeting place.
- 16 Victor Atyas (438-9434) Easy Hike in the Cerrillos Hills. Meet at *Villa Linda Mall* in front of Walgreens at 9 AM.
- 22 Steven Janus (988-4137) Moderate/Strenuous Snowshoe Trip northwest ridge to Lake Peak, return via Raven's Ridge. Leave 8 AM.
- 22 Sherry Evans (473-9632) Moderate Hike to Ancho Rapids. Leave 9 AM.
- 23 Lee Sullivan (662-6185) Moderate Hike near Santa Cruz Lake, 7 miles RT. Meet 9 AM at Sierra office in Santa Fe to carpool, or meet leader at 9:30 AM in Pojoaque at the Cities of Gold Casino parking lot.
- 29 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Moderate Hike on DOE lands between White Rock and Bandelier. Dogs allowed. Meet in Santa Fe at 8 AM or at White Rock Shell Station at 9 AM. (Note, this is the hike listed for December 22, 1996, that was canceled.)

Sat Sun February

- 1 Noreen Sanders (984-0386) Easy Hike from end of Buckman Road along Rio Grande. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 2 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate/Strenuous Hike in Caja del Rio, road conditions permitting. Call if not familiar with area. Leave 8 AM.
- 8 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Hike in White Rock Canyon. Call leader for information.
- 8 Ned Sudborough (820-1270) Moderate X-Country Ski Trip. Leave 8 AM. Call leader for information.
- 9 Sherry Evans (473-9632) Moderate Snowshoe Trip to Glorieta Ghost Town, snow conditions permitting. Leave 9 AM. Call leader for information.
- 9 Jeff Regenold (661-6707) Easy/Moderate Hike in the Sierra Ladrones. Explore new terrain in this little known *Wilderness Study Area* between Belen and Socorro. Call for time and meeting place. [moved from 1-18-97]
- 15 Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike in Cerrillos Hills. Call leader for time and meeting place.
- 15 Stephen Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Telemark Ski and/or Snowshoe trip to Santa Fe Baldy. Leave at 7:30 AM. Call leader for reservation.
- 16 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Easy Hike with one short, but difficult rock scramble to Kitchen Mesa (Ghost Ranch). 5 miles RT. Kids welcome. Leave 9 AM.
- 22 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Easy/Moderate Hike along railroad tracks toward Lamy. Dogs allowed. Lve 9 AM.
- 22 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate/Strenuous Cross-Country Ski Grip. Leave 8 AM. Call leader for information.
- 23 Victor Atyas (438-9434) Easy Hike to Tent Rocks. Leave 9 AM.

** Possible week-long backpack in Superstitions February 22 to March 2. See write-up for March 1 to 9 under John Buchser.

Outings Notes — Unless otherwise noted, all outings leave from the Sierra office, 621 Old Santa Fe Trail, "Plaza Desira," just south of Old SF Trail Bookstore & Coffee House. Carpooling will be arranged. Each hiker should come prepared to pay 5¢ a mile to the driver of the car in which s/he rides. 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 right to alter destination of hike or cancel 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 not permitted on hikes unless noted otherwise. Telephone leader for details of the individual hike.

Yes, I want to join! I want to help safeguard our children's precious natural heritage. My payment is enclosed.

My Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

Check enclosed Phone (Optional) () _____

Please charge my Mastercard Visa

Cardholder Name: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: ____/____

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SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$58
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SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23
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GROUP DIRECTORY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 3705 UPB
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88011

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Kiki Suggs, Secretary	523-5635(H) 526-5442(W) coues@aol.com
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Mario Ruiz, Inner City Outings Leader	589-4622 (H) mruiz@nmsu.edu
Margot Wilson, Warm Springs Section Chapter Delegate	744-5860 (H) 894-7152 (W) hshs1@dusty.riolink.com
Jimi Ickes, Chihuahuan Desert Protection Coordinator	525-2059 (H) jickes@nmsu.edu
Marianne Thaeler, Military Affairs	522-34221 marianne.thaeler@sierraclub.org

A Word From The Chair, Wayne Suggs, Jr. KEEPING FOCUSED

Generally speaking of environmental issues, 1996 gave us many victories and handed us a few defeats. I would like to thank all the people who worked hard to keep these issues at the forefront. A little combined effort goes a long way. At a time when most of our schedules seemed full to the hilt, it's good to know that the sacrifices we all made accomplished many of the goals we set out to achieve.

1997 is stacking up to be even tougher. It is so easy to get discouraged, we sometimes lose sight of what we're all working so hard for. When you can't see the mountains for the tailings, it's time to take a break, get out and find those pristine places we are trying so hard to save. Take a hike in the desert with your dog, explore a canyon with a vegetation field guide and discover the vast varieties of flora that flourish between the canyon's walls. Go backpacking with your soulmate, tie a hammock to a couple of old growth Douglas firs, and stare up at the stars between the trees' silhouettes. Take your children fossil hunting and when they find one, give it a name and tell the story of its journey through the life it led millions of years ago. Go on a Sierra Club outing and meet people who share your passion for the outdoors.

Get out and get your fill of Mother Nature, because it's much easier to work on a "full stomach."

Outings

January 11, 1997 - Baylor Pass

Moderate dayhike starting at the Baylor Canyon Road trailhead. We will hike up to Baylor Pass. We will eat lunch at the pass and then hike back to the cars. Bring extra clothing, the pass is often windy. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the north parking lot of the Pan American Center. Call outings leader, Larry at 522-4600 ext. 270 or Lolina at 521-1152, or email larry@tcisoft.com.

January 25, 1997 - Anthony's Nose

Strenuous dayhike in the Franklins. The hike contains lots of 4th class scrambling and exposure. We will have to move quickly in order to finish before dark. We will meet at 7:00 a.m. in the north parking lot of the Pan American Center. Call Larry at 522-4600 ext. 270 or Lolina at 521-1152 or email Larry@tcisoft.com.

January 25, 1997 - Car outing to Lucero Canyon Petroglyphs

We will meet at the Fort Selden exit, on the east side of Interstate 25 where the pavement turns to dirt, at 10:30 a.m. It would be best if you had a four-wheel-drive vehicle. If not, we can arrange to carpool from that point. We will take a two track road to the mouth of the canyon and hike down, exploring the many petroglyphs to be found along the canyon's walls. Bring a daypack, water, and a lunch. (Please bring an abundance of food, I like to mooch.) For more information, please contact Wayne Suggs Jr. at (505)523-5635 evenings and weekends, (505)526-5442 week days, or email to

coues@aol.com.

January 26, 1997 - Mountain Bike Ride in the Dona Ana Mountains (Intermediate to experienced riders)

We will meet on the east side of Chucky's Convenience Store located on the west side of the Dona Ana exit off of Interstate 25 at 9:00 a.m. We will drive from there to our starting point. The ride is approximately 15.5 miles long and should take 2 - 3 hours, depending on the group. We will follow long, rocky, two-track climbs, and we will rest beneath the lavender-tinged cliffs of the Dona Anas. We'll then weave our way down twisty singletrack descents. All riders must wear helmet and bikes must be in good working order. For more information please contact Wayne Suggs Jr. at (505)523-5635 evenings and weekends, (505)526-5442 weekdays, or email to coues@aol.com.

February 1, 1997 - Baylor Peak

Moderately strenuous dayhike. Starting at the Baylor Canyon Road trail head we will hike up to Baylor Pass. From Baylor Pass we will hike off trail to Baylor Peak. Bring extra clothing, food and plenty of water. We will meet at 8:00 in the north parking lot of the Pan American Center. Call Larry at 522-4600 ext. 270 or Lolina at 521-1152 or email Larry@tcisoft.com.

February 15, 1997 - Achenbach Canyon

Easy/Moderate dayhike into the Achenbach Canyon area of the south Organs. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the north parking lot of the Pan American Center. Bring extra clothing, food, and plenty of water. Call Larry at 522-4600 ext. 270 or Lolina at 521-1152 or email Larry@tcisoft.com.

February 16, 1997 - Children's Dayhike/Fillmore Canyon

Ages 6 through 13 (parents also welcome)
We will meet at the Pan American Center in the northside parking lot at 9:00 a.m. We will hike up Fillmore Canyon where we will explore the depths of one of the Organ Mountains' most beautiful canyons. We will hear canyon wrens, smell turpentine bush, and possibly see a bounding mule deer. Depending on the gusto of our young adventurers, we may make it to the Narrows where we can picnic underneath an old growth Ponderosa. Please bring appropriate clothing, there are a lot of cacti along the trail. Also bring plenty of water, a day pack, lunch, and your parents. For more information, please contact Wayne Suggs Jr. at (505)523-5635 evenings and weekends, (505)526-5442 week days, or email to coues@aol.com.

February 22, 1997 - Desert Clean-up/Dona Ana Mountains

We are going to attempt to bring the desert dumping problem to the forefront. Hopefully we will get a lot of media attention and get a different program for solid waste disposal implemented as the current one appears to be detrimental to the desert surrounding Las Cruces. Please attend with work gloves, water, and a rake if possible. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. and dump trucks will be provided. Call Jimi Ickes for more information: (505)525-2059 (hm), email address: jickes@nmsu.edu. or Kiki Suggs (505)523-5635 (hm) or (505)526-5442 (wk). email address: coues@aol.com.

MEDICINE AND VITAMIN BOTTLES

Biological diversity is important to our future and our families. Many products, including medicines, come directly from natural resources. The Endangered Species Act is in need of reauthorization by Congress. It needs to be strengthened and not weakened. So what can YOU do? Save your empty medicine and vitamin bottles. At about the time that the Endangered Species Act comes up for reauthorization, we will send these empty bottles to our Congressional delegation. Considering our delegation, it may not do any good - but it is worth a try. So save those medicine and vitamin bottles! Hopefully we can put them to good use!

ENDANGERED SPECIES NM DEPT OF GAME & FISH DOES GOOD JOB

New Mexico Game and Fish Department, Conservation Services Division, should be thanked and congratulated for putting out an excellent publication! If you have a chance to say "GOOD JOB," do so! The publication is FREE, and is professionally prepared and produced. It contains specific information about different endangered species. This "easy read" describes the agency's attempts to save specific endangered species and includes information on some of the biologists involved in the efforts. And it is FREE! So if you have not subscribed, do so. You will be glad you did. The efforts of the Conservation Services Division need our continuing support.

Write to:

"New Mexico Partners Conserving Endangered Species"
Conservation Services Division
NM Department of Game and Fish
Box 25112
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-5112



Warm Springs Section Report

Outings

January 25-26, 1997: Hike from Garcia Falls, south of Vick's Peak. Leave from the parking area in front of the Forest Service office at 8:30 A.M. Meet at Margot Wilson's for a potluck supper Saturday at 6:30 P.M. (Southwest food for vegetarians.) Sunday hike in the Mud Springs.

February 1, 1997: Wilderness Society meeting in Socorro at 10:00 A.M., at NM Tech Library. Carpool from the Forest Service office at 8:30 A.M.

February 15, 1997: Tim Aydellot, from the NM Museum of Natural History, will give an outdoor program on riparian systems. Meet at the entrance to the old fish hatchery off Third Street at 8:30 A.M.

February 22, 1997: Desert clean up! Carpool to the Dona Anas to help; the Southern Group in a clean-up. Dump trucks provided. Bring work gloves, shovel and lunch.

March 15-16, 1997: Join The Forest Service's Jerry Payne for an outing to the upper reaches of Animas Creek. We will car camp. Leave the Forest Service office at 8:00 A.M. sharp. See some beautiful and inaccessible country.

Warm Springs Section Visits the Bat Caves

This fall, the Armendariz Ranch hosted an outing to the bat caves of the Jornada. The bumper-high grasses were radiant in the afternoon sun. They testified to the plentiful rains of summer. We wound our way through the lava fields for an hour and a half and finally came to a huge trench formed when an ancient lava tube collapsed. At either end, the tube continued underground, forming two caves. In the center, an uncollapsed arch forms a natural bridge. A few of our group worked their way down the boulders of the trench to get closer to the mouth of the cave. Seeing tiny people down below gave perspective to the huge size of the opening and the canyon-like trench.

It was close to sundown, but where were the bats? Maybe we were too late and they'd flown already. Perhaps it was too late in the year and they'd migrated. Oh well, we had the promise of a lovely sunset and in the stillness of the desert evening, we watched canyon wren glean insects on the rocks of the lava tube.

Then the bats did start to emerge. At first just a few wheeled out of the cave. But in no time the trickle became a river, then a torrent. They flew out of one cave, through the tube under the arch and up at the other end. The air was filled with the pungent but not unbearable odor of urine and the tiny clicking of bat wings. They rose up in a mass so thick, it looked like smoke. In the distance, other clouds of bats were forming above another nearby cave.

It was the time the Swainson's Hawks had been waiting for. About a dozen hawks would dive through the clouds of bats, catching them on the wing. The feast was opulent but shortlived. After fifteen minutes, the flow began to slow. After twenty, there was hardly a bat to be seen. They had scattered to the horizon for a night on their own, feasting. The hawks, with crops full to bursting with the spectacle which has been re-enacted every summer evening since before there were people to see it. The experience was magical. It reminded me how glorious nature is and how worth of our vigilant care.

Grazing Issues Hike - Rio Puerco

by Gina Aranda

On Saturday November 23, a small group of us, including Norma McCallan and guided by Gary Simpson, went to Rio Puerco, which is about 45 minutes from Bernalillo. The BLM land we visited, located near some land which may be leased by Forest Guardians, is divided into three enclosures which had been used for grazing but which are now being allowed to recuperate. A fourth area is still being grazed. The effects of grazing can clearly be seen when looking down the length of the fence which divides grazed and ungrazed lands or when seeing the deep, narrow and healthy ungrazed sections of the stream which have high, vegetated banks as opposed to the wide mud hole that was the part of the stream which hooves had flattened, destroying all vegetation.

As we went along the stream, sometimes through the boot-sticking mud near the stream and sometimes high along the banks which the stream had eroded five meters or more, we saw much evidence of wildlife. An abandoned beaver's dam, tufts of rabbit hair, an elk print

and numerous burrows proved the richness of the area and the importance of the stream. We were lucky enough to see a rather large owl fly before us along the eroded corridor formed by the stream bed. Efforts to increase the populations of these wild inhabitants were seen in the newly planted willows and cottonwoods and in the removal of tamarisks, even though they were removed with the damaging effects of bulldozing.

As Gary stopped to mend a dismantled piece of the fence, the importance of such recreational hikes through government lands became obvious to me. It is a means of offering our services as witnesses, seeing to it that agreements, such as the restriction of grazing on these lands, are carried out correctly.



1997 will see increased activity in moving toward passage of a BLM Wilderness Bill - an uphill battle now further complicated by the imminent departure of Bill Richardson to the UN, and the strong likelihood that Sen. Domenici will introduce a bad Wilderness bill. (See article on page 3.) The Rio Grande Chapter has made BLM Wilderness a major priority, and our hike leaders have risen to the occasion by offering a number of trips, listed below, to BLM Wilderness Study Areas. Come explore one or more of these special, remote areas so that you, too, can speak out for Wilderness, and also learn a new place to go hiking!

Sat Jan 18 FILLMORE CANYON, ORGAN MTNS - Ann Falknor - 915-833-9162. Moderate dayhike. Limit of 12 people. Call for reservations/leader approval.

Sat Jan 18 OJITO WSA - Tom Petencin - 505-255-1497. Known for the discovery of the Seismosaurus dinosaur, this WSA has great rock formations and moonscape badlands. Easy/moderate exploratory hike in the western end. Call for time/meeting place.

Sat Jan 25 LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, ROBLEDO MTNS - Gary Williams - 915-562-3540/915-544-8484. Moderate dayhike. Limit 12 people. Call for reservations/approval.

Sat/Sun Feb 8/9 COOKE'S PEAK, COOKE'S PEAK RANGE - Joe Rodriguez - 915-833-9655. Carcamp with moderate/strenuous day hike. Limit 12. Call for reservations/approval.

Sun Feb 9 SIERRA LADRONES WSA - Jeff Regenold - 505-661-6707. Easy/moderate dayhike into the rugged "Thieves' Mountain," where bandits once hid. Call for time/meeting place. [Note: originally scheduled for Jan 18]

Sat/Sun Feb 22/23 MT. RILEY, WEST POTRILLO MTNS - Wes Leonard - 915-747-6649. Carcamp with easy dayhike. Call for reservations.

Sat/Sun Mar 8/9 BAYLOR MOUNTAINS, ORGAN MTNS - Alice Anderson - 505-523-5179. Service trip. Call for details/reservations.

Sun Mar 30 BOCA DE LOSO WSA - Jeff Regenold - 505-661-6707. Easy/moderate hike on this high flat mesa with stands of old ponderosa, near Cabezon Peak. Call for time/meeting place.

Also of interest:

Sat/Sun Jan 25/26 T or C R&R - Escape the cold and spend the weekend with Margot Wilson 505-744-5860. Moderate dayhikes to the southern end of the San Mateo Mtns & the Mud Springs Mtns, camping at Margot's Saturday night and sharing potluck supper with local Sierrans.

Sat Feb 8 LAS HUERTAS CANYON - Marion Davidson - 505-867-5178. Moderate cross-country ski trip. For almost a decade environmental groups and Sandia Pueblo have been battling the Forest Service over the widening and paving of the forest road through this lovely mountain canyon on the north side of the Sandias. At issue is the extent of development of National Forest close to a large urban area, and whether the Forest Service should encourage low impact recreational activities like hiking, birding and cross-country skiing, or promote a Drive-Through Scenic Highway. Though the court has found for the plaintiffs, the legal dispute



Chapter Outings Notes from Norma

by
Norma
McCallan

continues. Call for time/meeting place.

Sat Mar 15 ANIMAS RIVER - Field trip with Jerry Payne, USFS, to look at riparian and grazing issues on this remarkably lush stream with huge old sycamores and the only live trout on the east side of the Black Range. Call Margot Wilson 505-744-5860 for details.

Letters

(con't from page 2)

representatives, cloistered as they are in their own little universe out of touch with the rank and file, get high on their own rhetoric and worse, they start acting on it. These syndromes are obvious not only in Washington, but in the Sierra Club as well.

If it wasn't for the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, and the important role it plays in protecting New Mexico's environment, I would have already resigned from the national organization, knowing full well that a goofy Sierra Club will rapidly lose credibility and influence, thereby creating a niche for a new, and more intelligent, national organization to take its place. I'm curious to see what the Rio Grande Chapter is going to do. I'm wondering if the Executive Committee is going to send the national board an official repudiation.

Probably the most likely course of action will be to eventually vote the goofier members off the national board, do whatever housecleaning is necessary at national headquarters, and go on from there. But in the meantime, a strong message needs to be sent, in an official manner, from the regional organization to the national organization: that the national Sierra Club needs to stop the trivial grandstanding, and needs to get back to work protecting what's left of our biosphere from almost certain destruction.

Sincerely yours,
Gordon Solberg
Box 23
Radium Springs, NM 88054

Helping the Herps

by Martin Heinrich



For more information try this web site: <http://www.rt66.com/peacmyer/herps>

Snakes and salamanders, toads and tadpoles. What are these? "Herpetile" is the name biologists have given our amphibian and reptile neighbors. It's a catch-all term that covers everything from your daughter's box turtle to the "waterdogs" that so many fish find irresistible. In addition it's a name you may come to hear more often in the next few months. The reason is, our herps are in trouble. Once common species are becoming rare in certain parts of the state. Is it the hole in the ozone, poor logging practices, and introduced species that are to blame? If you are a Chiricahua leopard frog or a Jemez salamander, the answer is probably "yes" on several counts, but a far more acute problem is plaguing many of our hardest species as well. **New Mexico does not protect its reptiles from commercial exploitation!**

If you went out next June and caught every water turtle up and down the banks of the Rio Grande for miles, it would be perfectly legal! In addition, you could chuck all those sliders and snappers in a cardboard box, without food and water, and ship them to New York City to sell as pets. Half the turtles would die, but you'd make a healthy profit—a perfectly legal business venture by New Mexico standards.

Why New Mexico? Other states in the Southwest already have laws regarding commercial over-collection of their herpetiles. This means collectors from Texas and Arizona come to New Mexico to make a buck at our expense and at the expense of our ecosystems!

A 1995 study found that, in Silver City, collectors were shipping two to three hundred snakes and lizards each month to the Big Apple, not to mention several boxes of reptiles going to Nevada and Colorado each week from the Grant

County airport! And that's just in the Silver City area. These activities can decimate local populations of important species, species which help regulate populations of insects, rodents, and other animals. Without rattlesnakes and other predatory reptiles, diseases like plague and hantavirus can spread unchecked from one rodent population to another. Eventually, even the human population suffers from this ecological imbalance.

So what's the good news, you ask? Fortunately, some of our allies in the Audubon Society have decided to stop this injustice, and they are asking for our help. A bill is currently being prepared for the upcoming state legislative session which will end the unregulated collecting of native herps for resale. With strong support from the entire conservation community, this bill stands a good chance of passing with bipartisan support.

How can you help make New Mexico conservation history? Write AND call your state representative and senator and tell them to "end the unregulated exploitation of New Mexico reptiles and amphibians." Also call and write the Governor and tell him to "Help New Mexico herps." If every Sierra Club member called their representatives personally, this bill would sail through the Roundhouse. Unfortunately, without such strong pressure, this issue will become lost behind Indian gaming, prisons, and other media-popular issues.

Your State Rep. or Senator
State Capitol Bldg.
Santa Fe, NM 87503
(505) 986-4300

Governor Gary Johnson
State Capitol Bldg., 4th Floor
Santa Fe, NM 87503
(505) 827-3000
gov@gov.state.nm.us

Powell Proposes Animal Cruelty Bill

State Land Commissioner Ray Powell says he has received considerable interest from legislators about his bill to strengthen and clarify the laws against cruelty to animals. Powell said the bill clarifies two sections of law that were confusing, and elevates the most severe cases, or repeat offenses, of animal cruelty to a fourth-degree felony.

"This is important and timely legislation, in light of the incidents of animal abuse that have occurred in recent weeks and months," Powell said.

The bill will be introduced by an as-yet unidentified sponsor in the upcoming legislative session. The bill sets out cruelty to animals as a misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in jail and up to a \$1,000 fine. Cruelty is defined as failing to provide sustenance, cruelly working or driving an animal or willfully or maliciously tormenting an animal.

Extreme cruelty would be punishable as a fourth-degree felony by up to 18 months in prison and/or a \$5,000 fine. Extreme cruelty is willful or malicious torture, mutilation, injury or poisoning, or cruelly killing an animal. A second or subsequent offense of cruelty can be punished as extreme cruelty.

Powell said the bill does two important things: It gives the courts an opportunity to require offenders to undergo treatment, and it lets the court prohibit a convicted animal abuser from owning another pet.

Commonly acceptable practices in veterinary medicine, hunting and fishing, agriculture, rodeos and licensed research facilities would be exempted from the bill.

1997 Legislative Preview

by Van L. Perkins

The New Mexico Legislature will convene on January 21. This is a two-month "general" session in which any legislator may introduce a bill on any subject. So it will be a wide-open, no-holds-barred session.

There will not be much legislation to promote environmental issues. The Governor has demonstrated—and reaffirmed—an intent to veto almost anything we might get through the legislature which is favorable to the environment. There will be a bill to provide protection for snakes and lizards (see article on this page), and an Enabling Act for a Regional Transit Authority. There may be some good bills on water issues, but we don't yet have much of an idea what they will be, since—if there are any—they will come mainly from state agencies and interim committees of the legislature. We may sponsor a bill or two to begin the educational effort on an issue.

Most of the action will be

directed to killing bad bills. The Department of Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources will have legislation introduced which, from our perspective, will weaken the New Mexico Mining Act. There may also be additional amendments proposed by the mining industry. We will have to fight hard to prevent the weakening—possibly gutting—of this important Act.

There will also be proposals to weaken the Subdivision Act, passed two years ago, which—among other things—protects water quality, requires adequate sewage treatment, and otherwise requires developers to meet environmental standards. And there will be an assault on the Solid Waste Act, probably intended to weaken or delete requirements for buffer zones around landfills and incinerators, which protect water quality.

We also expect that there will be the usual assortment of bills to weaken protection of air and water

quality enforcement by measures such as an audit privilege bill. Essentially, audit privilege bills carry the double negative of allowing industries wide latitude in policing themselves (audit), and keeping records on emissions private (privilege), thus denying the public's right to know who is polluting. We can also expect to see "takings" legislation, and a variety of bills to provide for the transfer of federal lands (our public lands) to the states or to private ownership.

That should be enough to make your blood boil, and there undoubtedly will be more. If you want to help defeat the bad, and promote the good, contact your Group Chair and join the phone tree. That way you will have quick access to alerts, and be able to respond to them. If you are able to do more, please attend the legislative planning meeting in the Santa Fe Group Office, on January 16. Meet our new lobbyist, and learn more about what you can do.



Legislative Planning Meeting

January 16, 1997

7:00 p.m.

Santa Fe Group Office

621 Old Santa Fe Trail, Suite 10
Santa Fe

Join us to share your concerns and learn how you can help. For information, call Chair Van Perkins, 505-983-8801

As long as people have lived together in towns, they have expected their leaders to provide the necessities for community life. Medieval citizenry demanded walls and moats. Modern citizenry demand their equivalent, and then some. Indeed, as voters, we judge the quality of our leaders by the cost and quality of the services delivered. This article discusses the costs of these services, as driven by the location of our homes and businesses.

Growth Doesn't Pay

Many studies show that growth does not pay. A Montana study found new revenue generated by growth was half the total expenditures needed to serve that development. Springfield, Oregon's decade of rapid growth in the 1970s caused spending and indebtedness to quadruple and per capita spending to triple. While impact fees can cover a portion of the costs of roads, sewers, water, electricity, schools, parks, libraries, police, fire protection, and other basic services, the fees usually are inadequate to the task: Eugene, Oregon collects \$2,000 per new unit, when the actual costs of public infrastructure to support new development start at levels over ten times the collection rate.

An Urban Land Institute study of every major postwar study of development costs found that traditional towns, when compared to low-intensity development, cost only a third to one-half as much for roads, sewers, mail delivery, fire protection, and other government services. Streets, utilities, and schools for a suburban single family development with three dwelling units per acre built five miles from sewage and water treatment plants in a leapfrog pattern cost \$43,381 per dwelling in 1987 dollars. Building the same development adjacent to existing development and near central facilities would reduce costs by \$11,597 per dwelling unit, a 27% reduction.

How a community is fiscally affected is often contingent on the rate and type of growth. Typical of many New Mexico communities since the 1950s is a low-density development pattern, aka "sprawl." This pattern reflects a lifestyle and way of thinking that has evolved with the American frontier. People living in New Mexico prize the feeling of "wide open spaces" in their settlement patterns. While there are psychological benefits to residents, there are also costs for sprawling development much higher than for traditional communities. A review of literature on the costs of providing infrastructure, contrasting planned or compact development with low-intensity or sprawling development, concludes:

Land consumption—planned development consumes 40% as much land as sprawl, 60% as much agricultural

Chapter Election Results

Barbara H. Johnson, Norma McCallan, and Van L. Perkins were elected to the Chapter Board in December.

New officers were chosen at the December 7 and 8 meeting in Kingston. They are listed in the Directory on page 2, along with new and returning Issue Chairs.

We want to thank all of you who participated in the election, and we would like to encourage you to contact any member of the Board with your thoughts and concerns about New Mexico's environment and how you think the Chapter can best protect it.

acreage and 17% the level of development on frail lands;

Infrastructure—planned development is 75% less expensive for roads, 95% for schools, and 85% for utilities as for low-intensity development;

Housing—planned development does not increase costs, and may yield a small (<6%) savings over low-intensity development; and

Fiscal Impact—planned development is less costly on annual basis to both municipality and school district by two percent, and requires about three percent less capital expenditure for school districts.

An analysis of the fiscal health of a Fairfax County, Virginia, traditional "bedroom" community of West Springfield compared to Reston, a "new town" of mixed uses, showed Reston to be a \$1 million asset to the County, compared to West Springfield's \$500,000 deficit. Reston was able to generate a much larger real estate tax revenue from its industrial and commercial tax base, which also allowed the city to keep its tax rate relatively low. The study concludes that sound fiscal policy would encourage mixed-use development, and that the traditional philosophy that residential development "pays its own way" is misguided.

Development in Rural Areas

Residential development in rural areas is often justified by the claim that it increases the tax base and thereby lowers property taxes. Nationwide between one and two million acres of farmland are converted every year to development. Between 1982 and 1992 163,500 acres of New Mexico farmland and open space were converted to its "highest and best use," in this case, residential development. But a Massachusetts study found that, while new homes do increase the local tax base, they did not pay for themselves. Localities paid more for residential services than they received in revenues: for every dollar paid in taxes, residences receive \$1.12 in services, while the average farmer or open space owner receives just 33 cents in services for every tax dollar, and commercial and industrial development 41 cents. The study concluded that housing is subsidized locally by businesses and rural landowners.

Santa Fe County is requiring fiscal impact analyses for new subdivisions, based on its findings that the costs of infrastructure for a major subdivision of 300 units are over eight times more for low-density development (\$52,597 per unit) as infill of existing development (\$6,251), and 2.5 times that of new, planned clustered development (\$21,536). A clustered eight-unit subdivision costs \$10,297 per unit for infrastructure, versus \$23,393 per unit for eight units spread out on large lots in a standard subdivision. Long distances for extending roads, water, sewer and electric lines is the most significant factor, causing not only higher housing costs but higher taxes and lower disposable income.

Managed Growth Saves

Rutgers University conducted a trends versus managed growth study for the state of New Jersey. The study determined that managed growth could save \$700 million in road costs, \$562 million in water and sewer costs, \$178 million in school capital facilities, and up to \$380 million per year in operating costs to local governments and school districts.

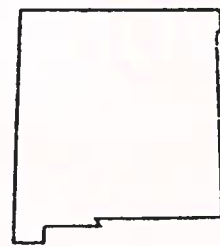
High growth in the twin border cities of El Paso and Juarez, despite job growth, has led to deteriorated infrastructure, strained public services,

high poverty levels, and chronically high unemployment. According to Juarez' Mayor Ramon Galindo, "while we have more growth, more unemployment, we have less money." Roads are especially congested due to increased commerce in the area of 2 million residents.

New Mexico farmers are feeling the pinch of higher property taxes caused by new residential development near their farms. Land in the Española valley, with private developable land becoming a premium, has gone from \$15,000 per acre in 1994 to as much as \$45,000 per acre two years later. As a result, productive agricultural lands that have been in one family's hands for generations are being sold. The pressures to sell on those making under \$15,000 per year are enormous, according to Edmund Gomez, director of the Rural Agricultural Improvement Project in Alcade. Another concern he notes is the proposed redefinition of a farm, with \$10,000 to be the threshold; at that rate, nearly every farmer in Taos County would see lands taxed not as farm but as residential, and residential is what those lands might increasingly become. A final concern is the severing of water rights from agricultural lands so they may be sold for development.

Taxpayer protection is a major consideration, especially when imprudent private investment decisions lead to overbuilding. Savings and loan failures in the 1980s were due in large part to overbuilding driven by tax policies, unrealistic market expectation and the absence of growth management. New Mexico, a non-growth management state, had a per new resident bailout cost of nearly \$10,000, while growth management state Oregon, a state of comparable size and growth rate, had costs under \$1,000 per new resident.

Taxpayers are also affected when economic development, which affects 75% of New Mexico's general fund, does not provide sufficient new revenues to pay for growth-driven demands for public school and higher education enrollments, corrections, and human services. This leaves policy makers trying to simultaneously cut state taxes, provide generous tax and other incentives for economic development, and all the while keep up with demands for more public services asked by a growing population. The risk New Mexico takes is that, in not meeting the demanded services, quality of life suffers and businesses will be deterred from moving or expanding here.

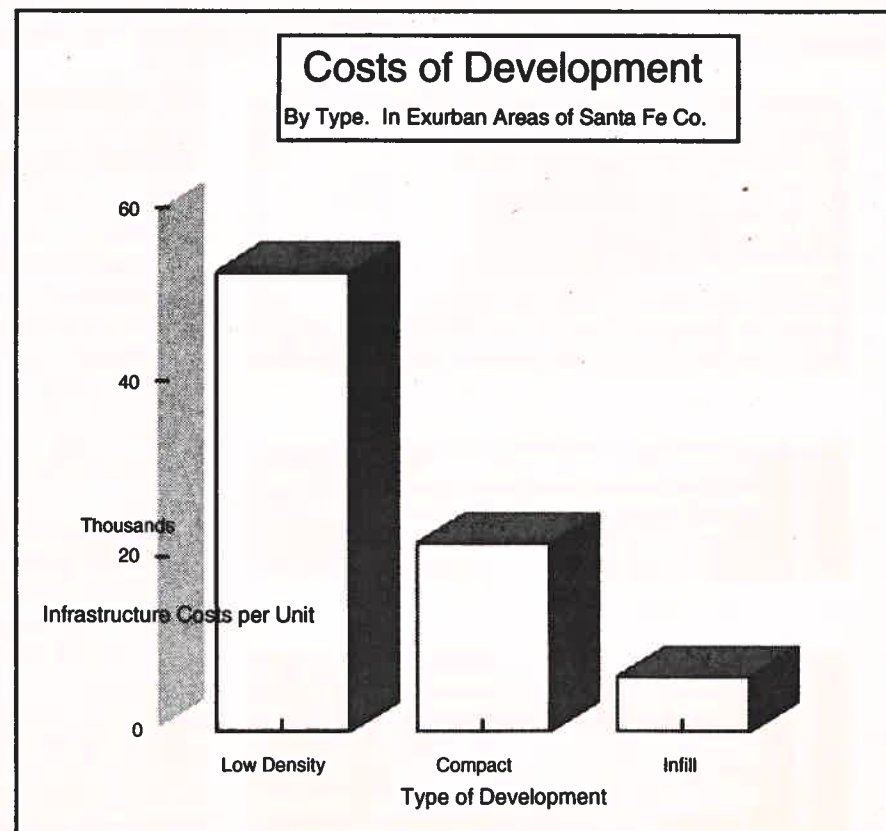


FISCAL IMPACTS OF GROWTH

[Taken from the report "Growth in New Mexico: Impacts and Options"]

by Ken Hughes

This is the second in a series in the *Sierran* on a subject with important consequences to many environmental issues: growth in New Mexico. Its impacts are myriad, yet, to date, options exercised to deal with it constructively have been few. Growth and . . . population, consumption, sprawl, infrastructure, urban planning, automobile use, zoning, even species habitat; these are some of the issues to be addressed in future articles.



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

by Van L. Perkins

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY, PROSPEROUS, AND VERY GREEN NEW YEAR!

Everyone should have a gift to celebrate the occasion, and this year there is a particularly appealing one for each of us. On December 19, the Fish and Wildlife Service (at long last) issued its Final Environmental Impact Statement proposing reintroduction of the Mexican Wolf into the Blue Range, with natural dispersion into the Gila. While the proposal is not all we would have liked, it is a workable plan for reintroduction, and that is what matters most. (See story on page 1.)

There is a thirty day comment period, and Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt will make a final decision on the matter. So we still have work to do, but this is a giant step in the right direction. Thanks to all who have worked so hard on this. Take a few moments to congratulate yourselves, and to savor the moment.

If it is the New Year, it is also time for the New Mexico Legislature to convene, and that means we begin

one of our most important annual battles. This year the effort will be focused primarily on killing bills that would weaken existing environmental laws, and others that would foul our air and water and disrupt present ownership and management of our public lands.

We will need all the help we can get in this fight, especially since the Governor has proven he is adamantly opposed to protecting the environment. Are you willing to help? If so, contact your Group Chair and ask to be added to the phone tree. Calls and letters generated by our phone trees are one of the most effective ways to influence legislators. If you are able to do more, please come to the pre-legislative meeting (see notice on page 14), or call me at 505-983-8801, and I will pass the information on to our lobbyist.

Finally, as our gift to the earth in this New Year, the Chapter will begin a major push to enact a BLM Wilderness Act. We envision a major effort to produce a plan for this campaign, to undertake a major

fundraising effort to support it, and to mobilize activists who are willing to work on the issue. We will coordinate our efforts with the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition, and we hope to make the Chapter a major player. If you would like to be involved, please drop me a note at Rt. 19 Box 128H, Santa Fe, NM 87505. I will add you to the activist list. If you have e-mail, please include your e-mail address. More on this as things develop.

Thanks for your efforts this past year to "Protect America's Environment. For our Families, For our Future." Let's do even better in 1997.

The Electronic Sierra Club Our Home Page is Truly World Wide

by Susan Gorman and Blair Brown (bblairb@aol.com)

A few days ago we received the following message:

"G'day guys! Greetings from Down Under. I was overjoyed to find this website tonight. I was in New Mexico in 1995 for a business meeting and fell in love with the high desert (all I had time to explore).

"Reading about some of your conservation problems has inspired me to write to you with what may be a simplistic suggestion. For years Australia has had to grapple with the realities of drought & desert. Of course, our situation is different to yours but maybe there could be a swapping of ideas between the conservation groups? One of the things we noticed while in the U.S. was the enormous amounts of water used to flush your toilets. In Oz, all new buildings are required to fit a dual system cistern which only uses what water is necessary to accomplish the task. It is a great water saver. Maybe a few of our ideas could help you in your task.

"All the best for the future & because I think the Southwest is such a precious place, Ellen O."

We find it pretty exciting that folks down in Australia are finding our Home Page and are interested enough to write to us. We're always looking for additional information about our conservation efforts and campaigns and invite anyone to send us materials for posting.

If you haven't checked our home page recently, just ask a teenager for help. The address is <http://www.nm.org/~sierra>

Update from the Listserve

For all the members of the Listserve, please note that the address has changed to sierra@www.nm.org. Be sure to make the change in your e-mail address book.

For any of you Sierrans who wish to join, the procedure is pretty simple: send an e-mail message to majordomo@www.nm.org. No subject is required. In the body of the message, enter **subscribe sierra**. Once you're approved, you'll start receiving Club alerts plus messages from all the other Sierra List Members (about 40 at last count), plus you will be able to send messages to all the folks on the list.

BLM Wilderness

(con't from page 3)

hours' drive away from the major urban populations in New Mexico. Many New Mexicans value the quality of life afforded by a healthy, diverse environment. Increasing populations will mean more use of these wilderness areas and their preservation for the future is necessary.

The Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club has made Wilderness a priority this year. Efforts currently underway include gathering petition signatures and preparing public education materials. Educational events are being planned in many of the groups as well as in many communities around the state. However, much support is needed for the Citizens'

Wilderness Proposal.

If you are interested in supporting a healthy environment for the future, one need is adequate wilderness designation. You can get involved by attending the next New Mexico Wilderness Coalition meeting on Saturday, Feb. 1, 1997 at the New Mexico Tech Library in Socorro at 10:15 a.m. If you would like to be informed of wilderness news through the e-mail network for wilderness activists, drop a note to wright@apsicc.aps.edu. You can contact the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition to join and be on the mailing list at 2400 Rio Grande Blvd. NW Alb. NM 87104-3222, 505-247-4353.

Petroglyph National Monument

(con't from page 1)

DC just before Christmas to prepare for legislation in the 105th Congress which would authorize construction of that road as well. Both men were putting pressure on Senator Jeff Bingaman, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, and others to get on the Paseo bandwagon. With Congressman Bill Richardson becoming US Ambassador to the United Nations, and Pueblo leaders focussed on the State Legislature approving their casinos, the first part of 1997 promises to be a window of opportunity for mischief makers, and an Armageddon for the Monument and everything it represents.

Only an avalanche of letters, especially yours, can avert the complete urbanization of this sacred landscape. Take just fifteen minutes to write, in your own words, a pointed letter to the three key leaders listed below. Using your own perspectives on what Petroglyph means to the park system, the nation, and history, ask them to remove the recreational trails and uncontrolled access from the Monument; and insist that they, as leaders, initiate a fresh study of transportation and road alternatives which would avoid building Unser and Paseo del Norte through the Monument. Mail your letters before Martin Luther King's birthday, January 20th.

Secretary Bruce Babbitt

1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208-4123
FAX (202) 219-1220

Senator Jeff Bingaman

110 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5521
FAX (202) 224-2852

Senator Pete Domenici

2209 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-6190
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