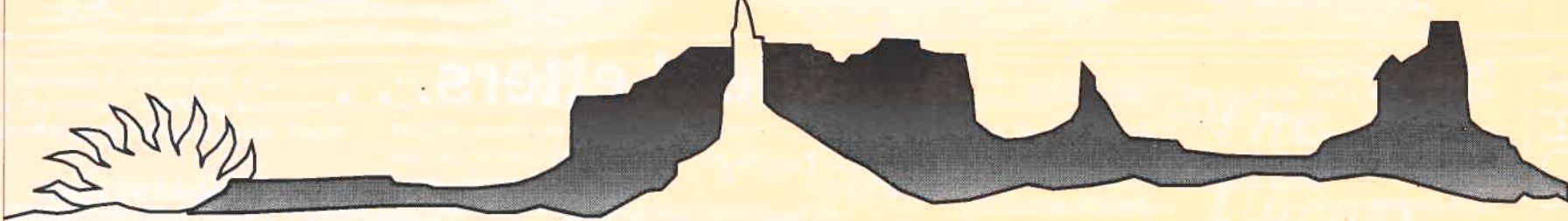


Rio Grande Sierran



News of the Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club
July/August 1997

A WORD FROM THE NEW CHAIR

by John Buchser

Editor's Note: At the June 7 and 8 Executive and Conservation Committee meetings, Van Perkins resigned as Chair and John Buchser, currently Chair of the Santa Fe Group, took over. Barbara Johnson resigned as Newsletter Editor and Jack Humphrey and Kathy Love resigned as Conservation Committee Co-Chairs. We are looking to fill these positions.

I welcome the opportunity to work with the many environmental activists in New Mexico and West Texas in my new role as Chair of the Rio Grande Chapter. I would like to thank Van Perkins for his hard work for the environmental community during his tenure as Chair. Van fought hard for environmental causes. He will remain on the Executive Committee, and he has already been a big help to me in the transition of leadership. In order to give adequate attention to my new responsibilities, I will be resigning as Chair of the Santa Fe Group. By the time you receive this newsletter, the Santa Fe ExCom will have met and considered the appointment of a new Chair.

Two of the greatest strengths I see in the Chapter are the large number of activists we have, and the

number of different issues on which we have an effective voice. If you take a look through the last few years of the *Rio Grande Sierran*, the breadth of issues we have taken on is quite impressive. It is through the depth of knowledge on these issues that individuals within the Club have gained and shared, both with us and with our elected and paid government officials, that the Club continues to be one of the most respected environmental organizations in the area.

I would like to continue with our major efforts. Wilderness protection has been one of my personal interests for over 20 years, and I hope in the next decade we successfully protect every acre of the 2.5 million acres of *de facto* BLM

wilderness in New Mexico. We need to continue to make efforts toward protecting habitat for all plant and animal species. It is not necessary to wait until a species becomes endangered in order to protect it: we should be vigilant at all times concerning the interrelationships on this planet and how we can co-exist with all the other critters.

Man is busy overpopulating the earth, and we are constantly dealing with the effects of that process. The Club has a long history of supporting laws which help to protect our ecosystems. We continue to work hard to ensure those laws are enforced. I am pleased to see the Club seriously take on the urban sprawl issue, as I have spent nearly 35 years in New Mexico watching the

population explode.

I believe communication is integral to leadership. I will try to always keep the Executive Committee informed as to what is happening within the Chapter. Let one of the members of the ExCom know what issues you are interested in so they can keep you informed.

Please take the time to thank Van for his leadership. Also, please thank Barbara for her outstanding job as newsletter editor. She is passing this task on, as she turns her attention to her health and to her interest in being more active in other ways in the environmental community. The next issue of the *Rio Grande Sierran* will be her last. It will be a challenge to figure out how we can even begin to fill her shoes. Let us know if you can help.

Comments Needed For Jemez National Recreation Area Management Plan

by Michael G. Smith

The Forest Service is currently developing a management plan for the Jemez National Recreation Area (JNRA), which was established by Congressional Act in 1993. The Act describes the purposes to be emphasized in managing the area and specifies the types of land uses allowed. Furthermore, the Act requires development of a management plan for the Area that is consistent with the purposes and provisions of the Act.

JNRA is located in the Jemez District of the Santa Fe National Forest, southwest of the Baca Location and the spectacular Valle Grande. It comprises 57,000 acres of the Santa Fe National Forest. The Area is well-known to many New Mexicans for its peaceful beauty, excellent hiking, camping, cross-country skiing, and fishing. It is also known for its crowded campgrounds, litter, the

numerous cattle in sensitive areas, and pumice mines.

JNRA Purposes and Policies

In order to present useful and effective comments, it is helpful to know the purposes and administrative policies outlined by the Act. The purpose of the Act is "to conserve, protect and restore the recreational, ecological, cultural, religious, and wildlife resource values of the Jemez Mountains." Administratively, the Act emphasizes preservation, stabilization and protection of cultural resources, ensures protection of religious and cultural sites, provides access to Indian peoples for traditional cultural uses, and permits closure of portions of the JNRA from public use if requested by a Pueblo. The Act also emphasizes the conservation and protection of wildlife resources, and provides for recreational facilities which minimize impacts on the scenic beauty, natural character, and archaeological and religious sites.

The Act administratively permits certain activities that may be incompatible with the established purposes of JNRA. For example, the Act permits timber harvesting for "commercial purposes if compatible with the purposes of the Act." Grazing is permitted with the caveat that riparian areas are to be managed to "protect their values." The Act provides for a transportation plan that "provides for the most efficient use of roads and trails to accomplish the

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The Chapter
ExCom will hold its
annual retreat
Sept. 13 & 14
at
Cottonwood
Gulch

All Members Welcome!
See story on page 13.

(con't on page 16)

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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 Editor. Letters and articles are subject to abridgement.

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We Get Letters...

Uneasy--Logging

To the Editor:

I am appalled by Courtney White's inflammatory and uninformed rhetoric. In his column *The Easy* [sic] Chair in the May/June issue, White asks, Now that we have slipped the knife into the body of traditional communities, should we twist it hard and see what happens? Should we go in for the kill and demand that all chainsaws be silenced?

The facts show that public lands logging does not benefit communities. During the 1970s and 80s, 176 million board feet of timber was cut from 50,000 acres in the Vallecitos and Tusas watersheds on the Carson National Forest, enough to fill 35,000 log trucks. \$60 to \$80 million was generated from the sale of this wood. Despite the windfall for lumber companies, in 1989 when the logging boom peaked, 35% of local residents fell below the official poverty line.

Between 1990 and 1994, when Mexican spotted owl restrictions on public land began to take effect, the timber cut from the Carson and Santa Fe National Forests dropped by 88%. But during the same period, the local wood products sector actually expanded according to U.S. Labor Department statistics. In Rio Arriba County, wood products employment rose from 127 employees with a \$2.3 million payroll in 1990 to 225 employees with a \$3.6 million payroll in 1994 (the year after the owl listing). In the absence of trees from federal land, logging companies adjusted to take advantage of opportunities on the 1.5 million acres of small diameter trees on private, state, and Indian lands.

I am proud to be a member of Sierra Club because of the 2-1 vote of the membership to end commercial logging on public lands. I would love to hear from others who want to start an end logging working group to help educate White and others on how to work for, not against, Sierra Club policy. Sincerely,

Charlotte Talberth
Santa Fe
levinson@igc.org

Uneasy--Grazing

Editor:

I appreciated Courtney White's column "The Uneasy Chair" in the recent *Rio Grande Sierran*. And while I welcomed his optimism that we may be winning our long-standing battle with the right on federal lands issues, I strongly disagree with his assessment of the livestock industry and the problems it poses for the environment.

I don't believe for a minute that the livestock industry has been weakened by environmentalists or that environmentalists are in a position to gently ask them to practice "ecologically sound grazing" (an oxymoron). The livestock industry is one of the most powerful lobbies in Washington and their power extends down to the level of county commissions and soil conservancies in all the western states. Ranchers populate state legislatures, the US Congress and Senate. They command millions of dollars in federal subsidies for fence building, predator slaughter, price supports, water subsidies, tax breaks etc. Further, a majority of the farm land in the west is devoted to cattle feed production, even when we take California's Central and Sacramento Valleys into account. Thus, a huge percentage, perhaps a majority, of our water is devoted to cattle production in the West.

In the Southwest, almost all of the species on the federal threatened and endangered list are there because of livestock grazing. The pandemic destruction of riparian systems, the wholesale conversion of ecotypes across millions and millions of acres, the loss of topsoil, and changes in surface and subsurface hydrology caused by decades of grazing constitute the greatest and most fundamental damage western watersheds have ever suffered from any cause.

Cows change the base of the ecosystem by altering or destroying the makeup of plant communities and soils. In most of New Mexico, cows have utterly removed riparian plant and animal communities and dewatered the streams they once cloaked. Untold diversity of plant life has been lost permanently over hill and dale by grazing that dates back to the arrival of the Spanish in the middle 1500s.

There is little sign that the livestock industry is loosening its grip on our federal lands. If you need proof, look at the last four national parks and monuments designated by Congress or the President. In Great Basin, El Malpais, Mojave, and the Grand Staircase, Escalante in Utah, cows have a statutory place in these parks. (The cattle industry is so powerful, they even prevented the National Park Service from managing Grand Staircase. Instead, the cattle oriented BLM has control of this

park and partial control of El Malpais and Mojave.) This despite reams of scientific reports documenting the utter destructiveness of cattle to arid biological systems and the experience of park visitors.

Meanwhile, Yellowstone National Park bison have been slaughtered by the thousands this winter by state and federal agencies on behalf of ranchers because of a cattle disease called brucellosis. This despite a national public outcry and a complete lack of scientific evidence that bison spread the disease to cattle. An industry in retreat?

Finally, cows in the intermountain west contribute less than 2% of the nation's beef supply (beef is damaging to the health of Americans anyway) and the contribution of the livestock industry to state economies like New Mexico's is utterly trivial, especially when you take into account the government subsidies the industry requires to survive in western states. Yet cows continue to graze in our wilderness areas, making streams and lakes undrinkable and fouling meadows and forests.

I agree that urbanization and sprawl are difficult problems and need to be addressed. But livestock grazing is utterly changing the ecological integrity of our public lands. I for one plan no rest in my efforts to remove cattle from federal lands in arid states.

Sincerely,

Tom Ribe
Rt 5 Box 344d
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Uneasy--Ranching, the Subdivision Threat

Dear Editor:

It seems, when all else fails, the trump card ranchers pull out to defend their subsidies, and justify continued environmental degradation and exploitation of public lands, is the peril of subdivisions. No matter how bad you think cows are, a new housing tract is worse—or so they would have us think. Yet such a choice doesn't really exist.

There are a number underlying flaws in the above assumption.

1) The assumption that a viable ranching industry can prevent subdivisions—the problem with this is it assumes that the availability of land is what drives subdivisions rather than market demand. More on this later.

2) The assumption that subdivisions will "take over" demonstrates a real failure to appreciate geography. The fact is that urbanization occupies a very small amount of the West. Ranching affects a thousand times more land, and the cumulative impacts are overwhelming.

3) The third flaw is the idea that livestock production can be modified to make it compatible with biodiversity preservation. This fails to consider the physical limitations imposed by the arid West and rugged topography which in turn translates into economic limitations.

4) The entire enterprise of livestock production is anti-nature. Ranching by its very nature requires subjugation and domination of both land and animals. It is enslavement of the landscape and a domestication of the land towards production of one species at the expense of many others. It's an oxymoron to suggest that ranchers and environmentalists have the same goals—at least they are not my goals. I want more native species. I want to protect native processes and wildlands. Livestock production is the antithesis of that goal.

First let's look at the assumption that subdivisions can be prevented by keeping ranching viable. You have to look at cause and effect. Ranches aren't being bought up and subdivided because the rancher decides to sell. If there were no demand for housing tracts, the ranch would be acquired by a neighbor and used for ranching. And in most of the West this is exactly what still happens. But in a FEW places and they are so FEW the same examples continuously crop up in the media, the demand for housing tracts drives up land prices making subdivisions attractive.

Urbanization of the West is driven by factors that go well beyond the individual decision ranchers make about the economic viability of their operations. It is not that subdivisions aren't occurring. They are. But the availability of salable land isn't the cause of it. There is plenty of inexpensive land for sale in places like North Dakota, and in the heart of Nevada, across eastern Montana and elsewhere, but there is no rush of people seeking to buy it. The reason has to do with demand. The old real estate adage about "location, location, location" has everything to do with western subdivisions. People want to live in places where the perceived quality of life is high, and such a choice about where to live is increasingly open to many

(con't on page 14)

"Capitalism is the best form of government in the world." —Mining Executive, as overheard on National Public Radio

On April 1, 1996, Taco Bell, a subsidiary of the mammoth PepsiCo conglomerate, took out full page newspaper ads to announce its recent acquisition of a famous Philadelphia landmark—the Liberty Bell. Its purchase, the ads said, was made in the magnanimous cause of reducing the federal deficit. The chime, henceforth, would be called the Taco Liberty Bell.

The truth was revealed at noon. April Fool. Unfortunately for PepsiCo, not many people were laughing. Sold the national symbol of liberty to a private business? Hah-hah. Privatized a piece of our beloved national park system to save a few bucks? Ho-ho.

The timing of this "joke" was quite illuminating, coming as it did at the tail-end of Republican attempts in Congress to dismantle significant environmental laws. Although late to the party, PepsiCo's contribution to the knife-sharpening chorus was no less noisy than any of its fellow wishful-thinkers. The table was set and the guests were in place. Fortunately, the waiters refused to answer the bell.

Bad Dog

Corporations, as an economist friend of mine likes to point out, are out of control. They are everywhere, telling us what to eat, how to dress, what to buy, where to vacation, who to emulate, how to live. They have gone global too, and are now telling everyone else how to behave. They will not stop either, until each of us becomes a predictable consumer.

They have already succeeded in America. We are a conquered tribe. The signs are multiple and obvious (one need not look any farther than the stranglehold television has on society). We are sheep, blindly and blithely doing as instructed. Ideology is dead, killed by greed, and replaced by "free" trade. There are few aspects of our world left that have escaped the often pernicious attentions of corporate conglomerates.

One of them is public land. Our national parks, forests, and wildlife reserves remain mostly unsullied by the hand of corporate America. True, our national parks are cluttered with cars and snack stands, and true, our national forests continue to be managed to benefit

a handful of corporate timber beasts, but escape is still possible. We can leave it all behind, sneak off into the wilderness, and be alone. And it is driving the corporations crazy.

Last year a plan was proposed that would allow corporate sponsorship of selected national parks. I was dumbfounded. Parks are for people, not corporations. They are designed to reflect, and encourage, public values, such as egalitarianism and a love of open space, unfettered by "No Trespassing" signs. Anybody with a ten dollar bill can get in. Parks are about nature and beauty, commonly shared. They are also about history, a national story, that resonates in each of us, no matter what race, sex, or religion. They are not about money.

In this context, the Taco Liberty Bell "joke" becomes ominous. Corporations are trying, I believe, to find ways to chop down the last significant obstacle in their path, i.e., the "public." Much of the recent effort in Congress to demolish environmental laws was prodded, funded, and written by Big Industry. Their goal was a simple one: separate the public from the laws that protect it, and then go in for the kill. They almost succeeded.

Heart and Soul

I am not an anti-capitalist, not by a long shot. I believe, however, that the system should have a heart. Let me explain: a very famous person once said "Capitalism has no soul." The speaker wasn't Karl Marx, or Lenin. It wasn't even John Lennon. It was the Pope, John Paul II. He meant, of course, that the free market has no inherent soul. It is intrinsically indifferent, cold, calculating, and occasionally cruel.

It is a machine, John Paul suggested, that comes without a heart included. It is not an evil or bad machine by nature, just one without morals or rules, other than the rule of the jungle. Soul must be brought to the free market by the individuals who chose to work there, or profit by it. The heart of the machine, in other words, will be no greater, or less, than the quality of souls which inhabit it.

The father of a friend of mine is the best capitalist I know. He began his career as an elementary school teacher but quickly became disgusted with the poor quality of teaching materials forced upon him by megalithic publishing houses. He decided to go into business

for himself. He hired the best teachers and writers he could find and launched a company dedicated to high-quality, affordable, and innovative primary school publications. Teachers welcomed him like rain after a drought. Business boomed. He won awards. He expanded his mission to Grades 4-6. The accolades, as well as the money, poured in.

He succeeded, in part, because he brought a very big heart to his business. Not only did he affect people's lives constructively (there are few nobler goals than educating children) but he also ran his company with compassion and consideration—and did it profitably, even as a political liberal.

Eventually he sold the publishing firm to another corporation for multiple millions of dollars and retired knowing he had made a difference, to schoolchildren, to teachers, to coworkers, to family, and to friends of his family who were overjoyed to see the system work beneficially for others. It was through his work that his soul shined.

Our Work

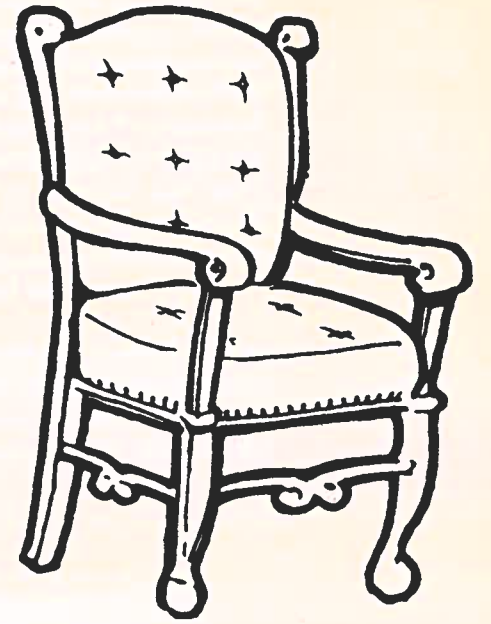
In the aftermath of the 104th Congress, two jobs seem crystal clear. First, we must expand environmentalism's role in criticizing bad capitalistic behavior. It is part of our roots. The environmental movement was born, in part, as a strong reaction to the ugliness of the Industrial Revolution. If anything, things have become uglier. Short-sighted self-interest still rules the roost—and shows no sign of abating anytime soon.

We must also strenuously defend the "public" in our society, particularly public land. We must not let national parks become toys of advertising agencies. We must put an end to the corporate rape of our forests. We must zealously guard every acre of BLM land against increasing pressure for its disposal. Sprawl is lapping at the fenceline of public land today. Tomorrow it will demand an additional sacrifice of open space. We must say "NO!" Secondly, we must find ways to inject soul into our dominant, and dominating, economic institution. While fighting the egregious elements of capitalism, such as clearcuts, toxic spills, bad mines, and air pollution, we must also foster sensible alternatives, ones that address the heart of the way we live.

I don't just mean solar power, permaculture, straw bale walls, or

The Uneasy Chair

by
Courtney White



recycling. We need to address cultural issues too, not just technological ones. We need to seek out the good capitalists and reward their good behavior. We need to teach moderation, sustainability, and sensitivity. I include ourselves among the pupils. We also need to help. If a rancher, for example, manages his operation in an ecologically sustainable manner, we should be there to encourage him or her. A ranch, like a farm, if handled with care, can be the very model of soul. What greater affection can one have, besides one's family and one's religion, than for one's home and the land it rests on?

Workshop Focuses on New Approach To Grazing

On Saturday, June 14th, the Santa Fe Group hosted an all-day workshop entitled "Ecologically Sensitive Ranching, Is It Possible?" at the Unitarian Church in Santa Fe. On a beautifully sunny, New Mexico summer day, 55 people gathered in a darkened room to listen to a radical new approach to grazing. The audience, which included a sizeable number of ranchers, was not disappointed.

Speakers included Dan Dagget, environmentalist and author of a provocative new book on grazing in the West; Kris Havstad, chief scientist at the USDA's Jornada Experimental Range and an expert on the effects of grazing in arid environments; Jim Winder, rancher extraordinaire; Frank Hayes, a holistic resource manager for the US Forest Service in Arizona; and Ray Powell, Jr., New Mexico State Land Commissioner.

Each spoke about sustain-

able ranching techniques, and the positive consequences that came with approaching grazing from a whole new angle. Ranchers were encouraged to herd their cows together, keep them out of the creeks, dodge the springtime growing season, and give their land a rest. Environmentalists were encouraged to look and listen.

One point was repeated over and over: grazing is a natural process. Ungulates of one form or another have been grazing for hundreds of thousands of years. Grasslands, as a result, have developed a symbiotic relationship with grazing animals and need to be grazed periodically. Cows, if managed properly (and this is the key), can fill this niche. Bad management, not the cow itself, is the main culprit in the overgrazing of the West.

Quivira Coalition

The Workshop also marked

the inauguration of a new organization dedicated to teach ranchers, environmentalists, public land managers, and other members of the public that ecologically healthy rangeland and economically robust ranches can be compatible. This organization is called the Quivira Coalition.

In its first newsletter, its founders wrote that they brought this Coalition into existence "because we believe we have discovered a reasonable solution to the increasingly angry debate that surrounds grazing in the American West. We enter onto the grazing battlefield not to referee the contest of wills between ranchers and environmentalists, or to mediate a negotiated truce, or even to find 'common ground' among combatants. Instead, we propose to lead people to another playing field altogether. We believe that an alternative exists which allows the

land to heal, and perhaps thrive, while enabling ranchers to make a living."

In describing his own method of ranching, Jim Winder wrote "The first question is - where are all the cows? Although there are actually more cows on the land than under the old type of continuous stocking, only 2% of the ranch is being grazed on any one day while 98% of the land is resting. The cows are kept moving in a herd in order to simulate the grazing habits of large grazing ungulates like bison and elk.

"Once we do find the cows, 1000 grazing together high on a hillside, we find something else that surprises us: coyotes, lots of coyotes. Several of the predators can be seen moving in and around the cows, undisturbed even though hundreds of baby calves are with their mothers. Why? The coyotes know that attack-

(con't on page 9)

Washington Briefs

by Richard Barish

RS 2477 rider fails

Republicans continue to use appropriations measures to attempt to force through anti-environmental provisions. This time, Sen. Ted Stevens (R-AL; 1996 League of Conservation Voters rating: 4%) shamelessly attached a controversial rider to the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill, the bill providing emergency relief to victims of this year's devastating floods. Sen. Stevens' rider would have revived frivolous RS 2477 claims and allowed the construction of roads across National Parks, wilderness areas, and other wild places.

Revised Statute 2477 is a Civil War era mining statute that also provides that "right-of-way for the construction of highways over publiclands, not reserved for public uses, is hereby granted." RS 2477 was repealed in 1976, but Congress preserved "valid, existing rights-of-way" across federal land that were established prior to 1976. In the late 1980s, Donald Hodel, Secretary of the Interior under President Reagan, broadened the interpretation of RS 2477 to include ORV tracks, livestock paths, dogsled trails, and dry streambeds. Developers, mining, logging, and cattle interests, and anti-government extremists support this interpretation of RS 2477 as a means to force access into National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, and wilderness areas and to disqualify roadless areas from protection as wilderness, thus opening the land to development. Sen. Stevens' rider would have effectively reinstated the Hodel policy.

Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark; 1996 LCV rating: 93%) offered an amendment to remove the RS 2477 rider from the flood relief bill. Sen. Stevens countered with motion to table the Bumpers amendment, which narrowly passed by a vote of 51-49. Seven Republicans voted with us, but Sen. Domenici (1996 LCV rating: 7%), with his routine disdain for environmental protection, voted with Sen. Stevens. Sen. Bingaman (1996 LCV rating: 78%) voted against tabling the Bumpers Amendment.

The House version of the flood relief bill did not contain an RS 2477 rider. In the House-Senate conference committee, Sen. Stevens at first refused to yield, with the result that a flood relief bill was not sent to the President prior to Memorial Day. Stevens ultimately bowed to opposition from other conferees and offered a compromise that would have created a heavily pro-development commission charged with the task of recommending legislation on RS 2477 by next March. If the Secretary of Interior approved the bill, it would have been put on a "fast track" schedule through Congress.

Because of this rider and other objectionable measures tacked onto the flood relief bill, President Clinton vetoed the bill. The President stated that the RS 2477 provision was "an objectionable provision that would promote the conversion of certain claimed rights-of-way into paved highways across sensitive national parks, publiclands, and military installations." Subsequent to the veto, riders were removed, and the final flood relief bill signed by the President thus contains no RS 2477 language.

The President has agreed, however, to have the Interior Department draft a bill to address the RS 2477 issue. The fight over RS 2477 roads is not over.

ESA exemption defeated

Reps. Dick Pombo (R-CA; 1996 LCV rating: 8%) and Wally Herger (R-CA; 1996 LCV rating: 0%) introduced a bill, H.R. 478, that would have exempted maintenance activities on flood control projects from the Endangered Species Act. Such a provision would have had a

devastating effect on efforts to restore the Rio Grande, recover salmon populations in the northwest, and on other river restoration efforts around the country.

Rep. Sherry Boehlert (R-NY; 1996 LCV rating: 77%) offered an amendment on the House floor that, while not supported by environmentalists, nonetheless substantially limited the damage that could have been done by the bill. The amendment passed on a vote of 227 to 196, with 54 Republicans voting in favor. Not satisfied with the bill as amended, Pombo and Herger then pulled H.R. 478 from the House floor.

The fallout from the H.R. 478 vote has been serious dissension within the ranks of House Republicans. The more extreme conservatives, led by House Resources Committee Chairman Don Young (R-AL; 1996 LCV rating: 4%), Rep. Billy Tauzin (R-LA; 1996 LCV rating: 0%), and Rep. Helen Chenoweth (R-ID; 1996 LCV rating: 0%) sought to curb Boehlert's powers over environmental matters. Chenoweth lashed out at moderate Republicans for having "lost respect for the sanctity of private property." (And these people fault environmentalists for worshipping nature?) House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-GA) has reportedly agreed to take away Boehlert's control over environmental issues.

White House Backs Tougher Clean Air Standards

One of the most important environmental issues this year is the Environmental Protection Agency's new proposed standards for ozone (smog) and particulates (soot). The new standards could save an estimated 20,000 lives a year, but have been the subject of intense attack from industry-supported groups.

Resisting the strong pressure from business groups and their allies in Congress, President Clinton has now backed most of the EPA's proposal. It is now expected that there will be some effort in Congress to gut the regulations, either by not funding enforcement or by simply attempting to vote them down.

U.S. reneges on greenhouse gases

At the 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil, the United States vowed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000. Instead, U.S. emissions have grown nearly 10% since 1992 and are expected to be 13% above 1990 levels in the year 2000.

Now, with negotiations for a legally binding international global warming treaty set to take place in Kyoto in December, Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV; 1996 LCV rating: 81%) has introduced Senate Resolution 98 which would derail efforts to negotiate the treaty. The goal of this resolution is to mandate that developing countries take the same pollution reduction measures as industrialized nations, regardless of wealth, ability to comply, or contribution to the accumulation of greenhouse gasses.

While Britain has already met emission targets set at the 1992 Rio summit, and while Britain and other European nations push for reductions of 15% or 20% below 1990 levels by the year 2010, the United States has given no indication of a willingness to take any concrete measures to reduce its production of greenhouse gasses.

Republicans renege on LWCF deal

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was created in 1965 to acquire important natural areas. Royalties from offshore oil and gas leases were to fund the program. However, Congress has always allocated only a fraction of the lease proceeds to the

LWCF. In recent years, funding has decreased further.

Under pressure from environmental groups, this year's budget deal between the White House and Republican leaders agreed to provide an additional \$700 million for the LWCF. About \$315 million of this money was to have been used to complete two high profile purchases: \$65 million for the New World Mine on the edge of Yellowstone National Park and \$250 million to acquire the Headwaters Redwood Grove in California from a private lumber company.

In another sign of divisions among the Republicans on environmental matters, the budget passed by the House Appropriations Interior Subcommittee did not contain the \$700 million for the LWCF. House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-TX; 1996 LCV rating: 4%) dismissed the breaking of the budget deal by stating: "I didn't agree to it. I was not in the budget negotiations."

New Legislation Would Expand Access to Information About Toxic Pollution

by Jeanne Bassett
NM Public Interest Research Group

New Mexicans, like all Americans, are being kept in the dark about millions of pounds of toxic chemicals being used, shipped, discharged and spilled in our communities.

The Community Right to Know Act is the best source of public information about toxic pollution and is lauded by the administration, environmentalists, and often industry leaders as one of the most effective environmental protections. Unfortunately, reporting under this law is woefully inadequate. More than 72,000 synthetic chemicals are emitted into our environment. The public receives information about fewer than 1% of these chemicals, many of which cause cancer, birth defects and the deterioration of the earth. In addition, less than 5% of toxic pollution is reported to the public. We need to protect and expand the public's right to know.

The Children's Environmental Protection and Right to Know Act of 1997 was just introduced this April by Representatives Waxman (D-CA) and Saxton (R-NJ) as H.R. 1636 in the House and by Senator Lautenberg (D-NJ) as S. 769 in the Senate. The bill will expand the Community Right to Know Act to include:

1. Toxics use reporting which tells the public about toxic chemicals transported through our neighborhoods; produced, used and stored in the workplace; and contained in consumer products.
2. More complete data on toxic emissions including information from all major sources of toxic pollution and data on extremely hazardous substances like dioxins and mercury which are currently not collected under the law.
3. Children's Right to Know which informs parents if foods and products they are buying for their children contain chemicals that may cause cancer, or reproductive or neurological harm.

We need to write to the New Mexico Congressional delegation and urge them to become original cosponsors of this bill. We have a right to know more than we currently do about toxic chemicals. In addition, expansion of our right to know is critical to pollution reduction. Write your Representative and Senators today!

Contact your Representatives

Call the Capitol Switchboard and ask for your Congressman or Senators:
(202) 224-3121
Call President Clinton at
(202) 456-1111
Call Newt Gingrich at
(202) 225-0600

Write your representatives at these addresses:

Congressman Steve Schiff (R-NM)
Congressman Joe Skeen (R-NM)
Congressman Bill Redmond (R-NM)
Congressman Silvestre Reyes (D-TX)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Write the President at
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM)
Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM)
Senator Phil Gramm (R-TX)
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Fax to these numbers:
Sen. Bingaman (202) 224-2852
Sen. Domenici (202) 224-7371

On the Internet:
Jeff Bingaman:
Senator_Bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov
Newt Gingrich:
georgia6@hr.house.gov
The White House:
http://www.whitehouse.gov

Environmental Education

RAISING AUSSIE AWARENESS

by Ellen Frances

"Supposing a tree fell down, Pooh, when we were underneath it?" "Supposing it didn't," said Pooh after careful thought. Piglet was comforted by this. . . " *The House At Pooh Corner, A.A. Milne*

Flying into Santa Fe airport was a shock. I admit that at the time I was suffering a strange blend of the common cold and altitude sickness, so to say I was lightheaded is the understatement of the century. Consequently, I wasn't sure if I was seeing anything clearly. But after leaving Australia more than 40 hours before, here I was, standing in another country and gazing at a familiar scene. Except for the Tarantula Wasps buzzing round the blossoms, I could have been in any number of places in the Australian countryside.

Apparently, I wasn't the first Aussie to notice the similarities; over the following week, any number of Santa Feans asked me if New Mexico was like parts of Australia, like they'd heard. Well, I obviously agree and because of those similarities, we also share many of the same problems inherent in living on a semi-arid patch of land.

These difficulties are familiar to Australian teacher, Jan Hall, who lived and worked in North America when she was younger. These days, Jan is a consultant in Environmental Education, working with groups such as the Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment at their Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre.

Jan believes that environmental education is the key to solving many of society's ills. "Children who love and understand this earth and the plant and animal life on it will grow into adults who have a full understanding of the importance of caring for Planet Earth," she explains. "As far as I'm concerned, the only way you get children in this day and age interested in the environment is to teach them how to love it. When I was a child, after school we used to go into the bush, pick irises, play games, touch the soil and watch out for snakes. This was all part of growing up."

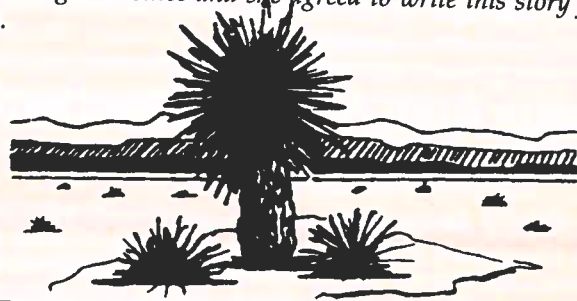
As a teacher, Jan was horrified by how few children got to share these type of experiences, having all their free time taken up with after-school clubs, activities and responsibilities. "Unless these kids had an adult who was particularly interested in them like a grandparent, an aunt, an uncle or one of the parents, who was prepared to walk off in the bush with them and let them sit, looking at a river flowing by, these kids had

absolutely no understanding of doing things with the earth."

Each state and territory in Australia has an Association for Environmental Education which guides teachers and distributes information concerning environmental activities that schools and individuals can be involved in. "The sort of exciting things that are happening include children becoming involved with local projects such as the 'Platypus Preservation Group,'" Jan enthuses. "These are scientists who are out working, trapping platypus at night in the Yarra River and its tributaries to see how many platypus are around."

Jan loves seeing evidence for her theories. One year, she decided to run a pumpkin-growing contest. "We got seeds for giant sized pumpkins and there was one little girl who told me that they didn't garden at their place. She asked, 'Can the gardener grow my pumpkin?' I explained that the idea was for her to grow the pumpkin and she seemed to understand. Her father came to me after the competition and said 'I've realised something. I employ a gardener but after helping my daughter grow this pumpkin, I realise that I'm missing out on a tremendous amount. I'd like to thank you because my gardener's gone and I'm going to do the gardening and get someone else to do the other tasks I used to do around the home.'"

Ellen Frances is an author of children's books & stories, living in Victoria, Australia. She found the Rio Grande Chapter's Homepage and wrote to us about water conservation. We have been corresponding ever since and she agreed to write this story for the Sierran.



Living more Lightly

Help from Other Organizations

by Susan Gorman

The Sustainable Albuquerque Team's mission is to build an inclusive coalition of individuals and organizations in the Greater Albuquerque Area to work together to develop and implement a long-term Sustainability Strategy and to establish a set of policies to be used as guidelines in developing this Strategy.

We developed an ambitious action plan which includes education by publishing ideas to help Sierrans live more lightly and providing information about sustainability and personal responsibility. We also pledged to support the Initiatives of other organizations with compatible goals.

The Home Builders Association of Central New Mexico has just announced its Green Builder Program which will encourage builders to build "Green Homes." (See story on page 6.) The City of Albuquerque is offering a workshop to help mechanics and anyone who works on a car or truck to do so with consideration for the steps to take to protect the environment. (See story on page 6.) These are just two examples of other organizations which are helping people learn to live more lightly. We'll feature more examples of this in future issues of the *Sierran* and also on the Rio Grande Chapter's website at <http://www.nm.org/~sierra>.

To join the Sustainable Albuquerque Team, come to the next meeting, July 8, 7:00 PM, Sierra Club Office.

Water in the West
Coronado, Cadillacs and Cottonwoods

Saturday, July 12 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
UNM Student Union Building, South Ballroom

This public forum is to raise awareness of how much water we have in the Middle Rio Grande Basin and the choices we face. This is your opportunity for decisionmakers to hear your views on water allocation and conservation.

See "The Last Oasis," fourth episode of the PBS series *Cadillac Desert*, airing Tuesdays beginning June 24 at 8:00 PM on KNME-TV. Hear panel discussions:

- Living within our Basin
- What Can We Do to Help?
- Multiple Users, Conflicting Needs
- How Many Can our Basin Hold?

Participate in roundtable discussions and visit exhibits

Cadillac Desert Series Underwriters: CH2M Hill, PNM, and John S. Koontz Co. Presented by: KNME-TV, Southwest Biodiversity Initiative, Rio Grande Nature Center and Del Agua Institute

For more information, call Rebecca Tydings, 505-344-7546 or Vickie Peck, 505-867-1588.

Living more Lightly--"Pioneer" Workshop
Bringing Sustainable Living Home

by Susan Gorman

More and more people are becoming aware of the depletion of fresh water and other resources, the growing certainty of global climate change, and the impact we are all having on the earth and its critters. Many would like to be able to live more lightly but need some help in learning how.

The Albuquerque Group is sponsoring a series of workshops to help folks learn how to find that sustainable home.

The first workshop is For Pioneers--those interested in buying property and building a home from strawbales or tires, using permaculture techniques for homegrown food, harvesting and re-using water, and using the sun for energy.

We plan to have this workshop at a strawbale home construction site so participants can see how it's really done. We'll invite pioneers who have built their sustainable homes to share their stories. A builder experienced in various sustainable building methods will provide us with hands-on knowledge, and we'll have folks to answer technical, legal, and financial questions!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 9 from 9 AM to 3 PM.

We could use some help in making this happen! Come to the Sustainable Albuquerque Team meeting on July 8, 7:00 PM, at Sierra Club Office. Call the Hotline at 265-5506 and check the Homepage at <http://www.nm.org/~sierra> for more information.

Albuquerque Co-Housing Day

by Barbara Ford

Would you like to create community, share resources, get out of the rent cycle, live in a safer place? The Albuquerque Co-Housing Group is a clearinghouse to help people realize this dream. We are having a Co-Housing Day on August 23, from 9 AM to 5 PM, at Truffula House, a mini-co-housing community right in the middle of Albuquerque. Here is the schedule:

9AM - 1PM: Help Truffula residents work in their permaculture garden and build a solar greenhouse

1 - 2PM: Lunch

2 - 3PM: Co-housing Games and Exercises

3 - 5PM: Discussion, Future Outlook, Team Building

5PM - : More food and fun!

Please come any time during this day!

For more information, call Mike Good at 843 9125, or e-mail

at doogekim@aol.com

Working Together for You and the Planet



Earthwares

Natural Goods & Clothing
11200 Montgomery NE at Juan Tabo
323-7207

Sierra Club Store



You're invited to shop at Earthwares, offering you two ways to help the planet...

- by purchasing our natural, recycled and earth friendly products
- by purchasing special books, cards and T-shirts from the Sierra Club Store

Club Store

We feature organically grown cotton and natural fiber hats and clothing from Blue Fish, Ecosport and maggies; bed & bath; aromatherapy; recycled papers & products; unique gifts; and Sierra Club books, cards and T-shirts.

Half of the earnings from the Sierra Club Store support Sierra Club efforts in the Albuquerque area to protect our wildlands, wildlife and our children's health and future.

Storewide discount to all Sierra Club members on non-sale items

City Helps Auto & Diesel Mechanics to Work More Sustainably

The City of Albuquerque, in cooperation with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), cordially invites automotive and diesel repair businesses (and anyone who wants to learn to minimize environmental damage when doing vehicle repairs) to attend a free workshop on July 23, from 6:00-9:00 PM at Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute's (TVI) Trades and Service Occupation Campus (Southeast corner of Coal and University Avenues).

The evening workshop will provide technical assistance and educational information about hazardous and solid waste management, air quality preservation, uniform fire code compliance, and wastewater and storm water discharge requirements.

Representatives from the City of Albuquerque's Environmental Health, Fire, Public Works and Solid Waste Management Departments; NMED Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau; and Albuquerque TVI instructors will be present to answer questions, provide guidance and hands-on demonstrations.

For more information, call Therese Martinez-Loner, 505-768-2636, EMail: tloner@cabq.gov

CALENDAR

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

- | | |
|------------|---|
| July 8 | Sustainable Albuquerque Meeting, 7:00 PM. Call Susan Gorman, 265-3231 |
| July 9 | Deadline for agenda items for Group ExCom. Call Susan Gorman at 265-3231 |
| July 12 | Water in the West - A public forum to raise awareness on how much water we have in the Middle Rio Grande Basin and the choices we face in managing this critical resource. 9AM - 5PM at the UNM Student Union, South Ballroom. Free to the public. Call Rebecca at 344-7546 for more info. |
| July 14 | Group ExCom, 7:00 PM |
| July 21 | Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM. Call Martin Heinrich, 345-7832 |
| July 24 | 1000 Friends of New Mexico Breakfast Forum, 7:15 AM. Call 848-8232 for location. |
| Aug 6 | Deadline for agenda items for Group ExCom. Call Susan Gorman at 265-3231 |
| Aug 9 | "Pioneer" Workshop. See article on page 5. |
| Aug 11 | Group ExCom, 7:00 PM |
| Aug 12 | Sustainable Albuquerque Meeting, 7:00 PM. Call Susan Gorman, 265-3231 |
| Aug 15 | Deadline for articles for Sept./Oct. Rio Grande Sierran Bluegrass Contest and Festival, 10 AM-5 PM, Santa Fe Rodeo Grounds |
| Aug 23-24 | |
| Aug 25 | Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM. Call Martin Heinrich, 345-7832 |
| Aug 28 | 1000 Friends of New Mexico Breakfast Forum, 7:15 AM. Call 848-8232 for location. |
| Sept 12-14 | Chapter Getaway at Cottonwood Gulch. See story on page 13. |

Building Green

by James Folkman, Executive Vice President,
Home Builders Association of Central New Mexico

Homes can be built with a healthy respect for the environment through the Green Builder Program being developed by the Home Builders Association of Central New Mexico. The first program of its kind in New Mexico and one of only four in the nation, the program is designed to provide homes that preserve the health of our environment; conserve water, energy and other resources; and reduce and recycle construction waste while meeting the growing need for housing.

While most builders already incorporate many "green" features in the homes they build, certified Green Homes are specifically built to meet the program's criteria, and will be rated on a scale of from one to four stars. The more stars a home is rated, the more "green" features and systems the home contains. Controlling the cost of green home construction will be a major consideration in the program, ensuring that the opportunity to own an environmentally friendly home is available to every home buyer who is interested, in most every price range. The first certified Green Homes are already under construction, and the complete program is expected to be in place by early Fall.

Both the home builder and the home buyer who participate in the Green Builder program, regardless of the star level they choose, will become an important part of providing a sustainable community for themselves and their children, protecting our environment and natural resources through conservation and prudent use, and insuring the opportunity of home ownership to future New Mexicans.

For more information about the Green Builder Program, contact Home Builders Association at 505-344-3294.

Basic Permaculture Design Course

The Permaculture Drylands Institute will hold a basic permaculture design course in Albuquerque this Fall. The course will take place every other weekend for two months, starting September 6 and 7. For registration and more information, contact Bert Lopez at 268-4035.

Group Directory

1997 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
207 San Pedro NE
Albuquerque, NM 87108
Office Telephone: 265-5506
Fax: 256-0373

Susan Gorman, Chair	265-3231	bblairb@aol.com
Jack Humphrey, Vice Chair	243-5319	kjl@swcp.com
Martin Heinrich, Conservation	345-7832	mtheinrich@aol.com
Blair Brown, Secretary	265-3231	bblairb@aol.com
Kathy Love, Treasurer	243-5319	kjl@swcp.com
Richard Barish	247-8079	rdbarish@aol.com
Julie Hicks	345-7832	mtheinrich@aol.com
Jamie Grebosky	821-6455	
	71203.2762@compuserve.com	
Beth McDonald	254-2010	

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

ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Assistant	Barbara Ford	246-8490
	truffula@usa.net	
Books/Calendars	Barbara Ford	246-8490
	truffula@usa.net	
Information Technology	Blair Brown	265-3231
	bblairb@aol.com	
Media Coordinator	Julie Hicks	345-7832
	mtheinrich@aol.com	
Membership	Barbara Stone	265-5304
	Barbara.Stone@somasf.unm.edu	
Outings	Tom Leck	256-7217
	Thomas_Leck@nmenv.state.nm.us	
Phone Tree	Barbara Ford	246-8490
Political Chair	OPEN	
Programs	Sustainable Albuquerque Team	

CONSERVATION

Conservation Chair	Martin Heinrich	345-7832
	mtheinrich@aol.com	
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
	wright@apsicc.aps.edu	
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. If you plan on driving, please have your gas tank full prior to arrival at the meeting place. Please do not bring pets unless approval is given by the Trip Leader. Thanks.

Fri 04 Jul to Sun 06 Jul Moderate
Miles: 15 Car: 200

Backpack - San Pedro Parks Wilderness
A kind of leisurely and scenic backpacking trip in the San Pedro Parks Wilderness. Call leader for additional details.
Leader: John Thomas 298-5234

Sat 12 Jul Leisure - Moderate
Miles: 3 Car: 10

Hike - Canyon Rinconada (Petroglyph Nat'l Mon.)
We will hike up into Rinconada Canyon to view thousands of petroglyphs. Meet at 8:30 am. Please call the leader for additional details.
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun 13 Jul 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 19 Jul Leisure
Miles: 3 Car: 3

Hike - Piedras Marcadas (Petroglyph Nat'l Mon.)
Tremendous variety and unique petroglyphs not found elsewhere in the Monument. Meet at 8:30 am. Please call the leader for additional details.
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sat 26 Jul Strenuous
Miles: 12 Car: 140

Hike - Lake Katherine in Santa Fe Nat'l Forest
We will hike from the Santa Fe Ski Basin to beautiful Lake Katherine. We will meet at 7:45 am in the parking lot behind Winchell's Donut shop at San Mateo and Academy Streets. Please call Tom Leck (256-7217) for additional details.
Leader: Eric Smith

Sat 02 Aug to Sun 03 Aug Moderate
Miles: 7 Car: 200

Camp and Hike - Magdalena Mountains
This will be the 5th Annual "Astronomy and Car Camping Trip." Hiking in the daytime and telescopic viewing at night from high in the Magdalena Mountains.
Leader: Tom Leck 256-7217

Sat 02 Aug - Sat 09 Aug Strenuous
Miles: 36 Car: A Lot

Backpack Trip - Mt. Zirkel Wilderness, Colorado

Week-long backpack trip along the Continental Divide Trail in Mt. Zirkel Wilderness, near Steamboat Springs. A moderate pace on an established trail. We will average about 7 miles/day and up to a 1500' elevation gain on at least one day. No dogs will be allowed on this trip. Please contact the leader for additional details.
Leader: John Thomas 298-5234

Sun 03 Aug Leisure
Miles: 2 Car: 5

Hike - Geological Windows (Petroglyph NM)
Good wildlife viewing opportunities and interesting petroglyphs. This area of the park is secluded in a near wilderness-like setting. We will meet at 8:30 am. Please call the leader for details and reservations.
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun 10 Aug Leisure
Miles: 3 Car: 3

Hike - Boca Negra Canyon (Petroglyph NM)
The Anasazi people once farmed in this area. Exciting flute and parrot figures and some of the oldest petroglyphs in the park will also be visited on this hike. We will meet at 8:30 am. Please call the leader for details and reservations.
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sat 16 Aug Leisure
Miles: 10 Car: 0

Bicycle Tour - University Area, Albuquerque
A progressive dinner tour of the University area. If you want to ride or are willing to be a Host and/or Hostess, please call Barbara by Monday, August 11th.
Leader: Barbara Stone 265-5304

Sun 17 Aug 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

Fri 22 Aug Moderate
Miles: 7 Car: 40

Evening Hike - Tree Spring Trail
An evening "cool off" hike in the Sandia Mountains. What a wonderful way to unwind after a hard work week! Please call the leader for details.
Leader: Barbara Stone 265-5304

Fri 29 Aug

The 128th anniversary of the completion of Major John Wesley Powell's epic voyage down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon.

Western New Mexico Section Report Forest Service Seeks Comments on Proposed Timber Sale

by Barbara Leonard

The US Forest Service held its final public meeting on April 3 after two years of meetings to consider permitting commercial logging in the McGaffey area of Cibola National Forest, and two members of the Western New Mexico Section attended.

McGaffey is a beautiful area just south of Fort Wingate near Gallup. It includes a recreation area with picnic facilities, two campgrounds and a small fishing lake. The Forest Service proposed commercial logging to maintain forest health by allowing tree thinning and providing funding to close old roads and improve the watershed.

At the meeting the Forest Service reviewed comments received to date and listed the following issues of concern identified by the public:

--The Proposed Action conflicts with and adversely affects the high recreational use status of the McGaffey area.

--Commercial logging should not be allowed because commercial loggers do not have the health of the forest as their primary concern. The Forest Service does not adequately monitor and control commercial logging. The proposal to address "forest health" is an excuse to log. Receipts from wood products do not benefit the local population.

--The Proposed Action could affect threatened, endangered or sensitive species habitat.

The Forest Service is currently updating its environmental assessment of the 13,000 acres included in the area considered for the timber sale. The EA will be available in early August. Comments on the proposed timber harvesting will be accepted until September 5. After that time, a final decision on the matter will be made by Jeanine Derby, Forest Supervisor.

Five alternatives are being considered for the proposed timber cut.

Alternative 1 (No Action): "Planning and implementation of activities to address forest health concerns and road density/location management would not proceed except where already addressed under existing management strategies."

Alternatives 2 through 5 would involve logging 12 to 13 separate stands of trees with a total of approximately 1370 acres logged (areas vary in each alternative). Objectives in these alternatives include creating "permanent" openings where needed to meet other resource objectives, removing conifers encroaching on natural forest openings, and carrying out other "treatments" in the Ponderosa Pine, Oak or Pinon-Juniper forests. Where practical, existing roads used for logging would be utilized to meet post-sale objectives such as hiking and mountain biking. No clear-cutting is being considered. No endangered species habitats have been identified. One sensitive species habitat has been found and would be left undisturbed.

Alternative 2 would incorporate an even-aged approach for timber cutting. This means that all the trees cut would be about the same age and size, with a single canopy at the top. This type of approach is considered best for trees that require abundant sunlight to grow, such as Aspen. Methods of logging would include thinning, salvage, sanitation and regeneration of shelterwood harvests. These objectives would be achieved through both commercial

and non-commercial means. ("Commercial" includes an activity which results in a product for re-sale on a commercial basis. "Non-commercial" means an activity which results in most of the treated material being left on-site with only small amounts removed for personal use.)

Alternative 3 would involve an uneven aged approach to address forest health objectives. Treatments could include individual tree selection or group selection harvests. Regeneration openings could be up to one acre in size. Treatments would be accomplished by both commercial and non-commercial means.

Alternative 4 would involve objectives being met only through non-commercial means. Trees of any diameter or height could be cut, using both even-aged and uneven-aged methods. Objectives would be accomplished through sales of forest products to the public, contracting or by work crews such as prison inmates or Job Corps. Funding for the work would be funds appropriated by legislation and treatments would be limited to areas accessible by existing roads.

Alternative 5 is similar to Alternative 3 in that forest health objectives would be addressed under an uneven-aged approach. However, where Alternative 3 treated stands with larger tree diameters, pre-existing uneven-aged conditions and relatively low dwarf mistletoe infection levels, Alternative 5 would also enter areas with trees of small diameter and densely stocked stands of Ponderosa Pine which are currently even-aged in appearance. The initial treatment in the smaller diameter stands would be thinning to improve vigor and future treatments (not included in this proposed action) would reflect uneven-aged strategies.

Alternative 5 was originally set up to use both commercial and non-commercial means to accomplish the objectives. However, this writer was recently told by Paul Tidwell of the Forest Service that they are now leaning to more non-commercial than commercial means because of the costs of building roads needed for commercial harvesting.

The fees received from commercial logging do not cover the cost. The Forest Service is therefore reducing the number of acres available for commercial logging from 800,000 board feet to about 410,000. The rest, 330,000 board feet, will be available to small operators and public use.

We appreciate the Forest Service's consideration of public comments in the decision-making process and its willingness to work with the local Sierra Club group. In an ideal world, the Forest Service would be adequately funded and not have to depend on tax-payer subsidized commercial logging fees to cover forest maintenance costs.

Interested readers are encouraged to send comments on this issue by September 5. To request a copy of the EA, obtain more information or submit comments, contact:

Chuck Hagerdon, District Ranger
Mount Taylor Ranger District
1800 Lobo Canyon Rd.
Grants, NM 87020
505-287-8833

Water Waste Hotline 768-3640

Remember! If you see water running in the street, call the Hotline.

Be sure to provide address and time of your observation.

General Meetings

July 30: Hueco Tanks State Park Slide Show, 7:30 P.M., St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere Boulevard.

August 22: Annual Picnic, Chamizal National Memorial. Bring family and friends. Details will be in the July LORAX.

August 27: No General Meeting. (We'll picnic the week before, instead.)

For further information, contact Gary Williams at 593-3624 (H).



The following Committee Meetings will take place at 7 P.M. at the Environmental Center, 800 South Piedras in El Paso:

July 2: Executive Committee. Contact Gary Williams at 593-3624 (H).

July 9: Conservation Committee. Contact John Sproul at 532-9645 (W).

July 16: Franklin Mountain Wilderness Coalition. Contact John Sproul at 532-9645 (W).

Summer Volunteer Opportunities for Students

Students, if you're already getting bored with the summer and need something to do, here's a worthwhile opportunity! Volunteer for the Environmental Center's recycling program. At 800 South Piedras in El Paso, the center is open 9 AM to 2 PM, Wednesday through Saturday. You'll do the Planet a big favor, learn first-hand about environmental issues, and have something impressive to include in your resume. If you put in a minimum amount of hours, you'll receive a certificate of appreciation at the Sierra Club annual picnic in August. Call John Sproul at 532-9645 to volunteer.

Outings

Jul 12-13: Car Camp with Dayhikes

Place: Chiricahua National Monument, AZ
Class: Easy
Leader: Betty Fisbeck: 581-00174

Jul 12: Willi White Canyon Dayhike

Place: Sacramento Mountains, NM
Class: Easy
Leader: Ann Falknor: 833-9162 (H)

Jul 19-20: Hummingbird Saddle to Redstone Backpack

Place: Gila Wilderness, NM
Class: Moderate
Leader: Rollin Wickenden: 534-6594 (W)

Come enjoy the beauty of the Gila Wilderness in mid summer. We'll depart El Paso Friday evening, driving to our campsite off NM 159 at the Gold Dust trail head. On Saturday, we'll drive to our trail head at Sandy Point (9,000'). We'll follow the Crest Trail (TR 182) to Hummingbird Saddle and the Whitewater Trail (TR 207) to Redstone Park, where we'll make camp. There will be an altitude gain of 1,300' and then a loss of 2,300'. On Sunday, we'll hike Trail 206 out to the Bursum Road, a gain of 1,000' on a good trail.

Jul 26-27: Ice Spring Backpack

Place: White Mountain Wilderness, near Ruidoso, NM
Class: Moderate
Leader: Kathy Sunday: 778-8030 (W) or 584-9301 (H)

We will leave El Paso early Saturday morning and drive to the trail head just below Monjeau Lookout. Our route follows the Crest Trail (Trail 25) atop a long, scenic ridge with fine views on both sides. The trail continues over a shoulder of Buck Mountain and drops to a low point before climbing to our campsite, above Ice Spring, at an altitude of 11,000'. The ridge top setting offers spectacular views of the Tularosa Basin. On Sunday, we'll retrace our steps and return to our vehicles. Total round trip is about 15 miles, with an elevation gain of about 1,880'.

Aug 9: Railroad Canyon Dayhike

Place: Black Range, NM: Aldo Leopold Wilderness
Class: Moderate
Leader: Gary Williams: 593-3624 (H)

This dayhike will begin at the Railroad Canyon trailhead and end at Emory Pass Vista. Our route will take us through beautiful Railroad Canyon to East Railroad Canyon, which we'll ascend to the Crest Trail. We'll follow the Crest Trail, one of the most scenic trails on the Black Range, to Emory Pass Vista. A pre-arranged car shuttle will permit us to return to the cars.

GROUP DIRECTORY

Executive Committee

Chair (Revolving)	Gary Williams	593-3624
Vice Chair	Jim Bell	581-8864
Treasurer	Kathy Sunday	584-9301 sunday@pogo.den.mmc.com
Member	Laurence Gibson	594-7342 gibson@ece.utep.edu
Member	Ted Mertig	852-3011 tmertig@aol.com
Member	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Member	Gary Williams	593-3624
Member	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655

Administration

Chapter Rep	Liz Walsh	584-1471 ewalsh@utep.edu
LORAX	Sally Savage	833-6899
Secretary	OPEN	

Project Chairs

BLM Wilderness	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655
Enviro. Center & Franklin Mtns	John Sproul	545-5157 ae494@rgfn.epcc.edu
Grazing & Timber	Liz Walsh	584-1471 ewalsh@utep.edu
Membership	OPEN	
Outings	Laurence Gibson	594-7342 gibson@ece.utep.edu
Political Action	Jim Bell	581-8864
Programs	Gary Williams	593-3624
Project ACT	Ann Falknor	833-9162
	Liz Walsh	584-1471 ewalsh@utep.edu
	Gary Williams	593-3624
Publicity	Gary Williams	593-3624
ICO Chair	Richard Rheder	544-5659 af303@rgfn.epcc.edu

Sierra Club Environmental Center
800 South Piedras @ Paisano
Phone: 532-9645
Fax: 532-4876

LORAX Information:
Sally Savage
829 Cloudburst Drive
El Paso, TX 79912
Phone: 833-6899

Aug 23-24: Car Camp with Dayhikes

Place: Skyline Campground, Lincoln National Forest, near Ruidoso, NM
Class: Easy
Leader: Mark Post: 581-2696 (H)

Aug 29-Sep 1: Labor Day Backpack: Holden Prong - Sid's Prong Loop

Place: Black Range, NM
Class: Moderate+

Leader: Rollin Wickenden: 534-6594 (W)

We'll depart El Paso Friday evening to our campsite at Iron Creek Campground. On Saturday, we'll ascend Railroad Canyon on Trail 128 and drop into Holden Prong on Trail 114. We'll then go to the confluence with Flower Canyon and follow Trail 121 through part of Pretty Canyon into Sid's Prong, where there are wide meadows for camping. On Sunday, we'll hike over Sid's Saddle into Gallinas Canyon, following Trail 129 back to the trailhead. The total distance is 18 miles, with elevation gain and loss of about 1,200 feet.

Oct 17-25: Rainbow Bridge National Monument & Buckskin Gulch Backpack

Place: Navajo Indian Reservation/Paria Canyon Vermillion Cliffs Wilderness Area, Utah

Class: Moderately strenuous

Limit: 10. Reservations and leader approval required.

Leader: Rollin Wickenden: 534-6594 (W)

We'll depart El Paso on Friday evening and drive to a campsite near Glenwood, New Mexico. On Saturday, we'll drive through northeast Arizona to a trailhead at the ruins of the Rainbow Lodge. On Sunday, we will begin a three-day, 26 mile backpack round trip to Rainbow Bridge National Monument, camping at Cliff Canyon. We'll finish the Rainbow Bridge hike on Tuesday, October 21st and spend the night in or near Page, Arizona. On Wednesday, we'll resupply in Page, leave a car at the White House trailhead, and camp at the Wire Pass trailhead. We plan to hike through Buckskin Gulch in one day, camping near the confluence (12 1/2 miles) and hike the remaining seven miles to the White House trailhead on Friday. On Saturday, October 25th, we plan to return from Flagstaff, Arizona to El Paso. This is a unique opportunity to hike to two of the nation's outstanding land forms in southern Utah. For the Rainbow Bridge hike, a camping permit is required. This involves a fee of about \$7.00 per person. Call Rollin for details and reservations no later than September 1st.

Most outings have a limit of 12. Call leader early to get further information and to sign up.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 945, Los Alamos, NM 87544

Chair	Michael Smith	662-2380
Vice-Chair	Walt Matuska	672-9212
Secretary	Stephany Bouchier	662-6867
Treasurer	Guthrie Miller	662-5545
	Barbara Calef	662-3825
	Warren Lieb	662-7966

Upcoming Meetings

All meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at Mesa Public Library, upstairs.

August General Meeting: Wednesday, August 6. John Bruin of the Forest Service will speak on the **New Management Plan for the Jemez National Recreation Area.** (See story on page 1.)

September General Meeting: Wednesday, September 3. **"To Plan is Human; to Implement is Divine! Moving Toward a Sustainable Future."** Most cities and counties in America make plans: Comprehensive Plans, Sector Plans, Long Range Transportation Plans, possibly even Regional Plans. These plans contain guidance to lead us toward sustainability. But often these plans end up on a shelf and NOTHING HAPPENS! Why? What else can we do to ensure that our children can sustain their needs? Albuquerque, like communities throughout the US, has initiated a Sustainable Community Project. A set of Sustainability Indicators is being written by a group of citizens who represent a broad base of community and industry organizations, including the Sierra Club. Susan Gorman, Chair of Albuquerque's Sustainable Community Committee and of the Sierra Club's Albuquerque Group, will report on Albuquerque's progress and lead a discussion about what is happening in Los Alamos.

PERMANENT COMMITTEES

Several Committees have been identified and Chairs have volunteered. **All the committees need volunteers!** The Committees and their Chairs are:

Conservation	OPEN	
Environmental Education	Janet Gerwin	662-9568
Membership	Terry Phillips	662-4838
Newsletter	Edwina Lieb	662-4013
Outings	Jennifer Johnson	662-3023
	Warren Steckle	672-0414
Phone Tree	Lonna Evans	662-2621
Political	Michael Smith	662-2380
Publicity	Janet Gerwin	662-9568

The **Conservation Committee** meets on the second Wednesday of each month, and the **Executive Committee** on the third Wednesday; both meetings are open to all, and you are encouraged to attend.

Potluck

Our second quarterly (post-solstitial) potluck will be held on Saturday, July 12, at the Bandelier picnic ground, beginning at 5:30; car pools will be arranged. In addition to food to share, bring silverware and dishes; let's set a good example and minimize disposable items. Guthrie is planning games, and a guided walk to the bat cave. Call him at 662-5545 for more information. The last one was lots of fun, so please join us!

Outings

Leader training workshops are being held this month. We hope to have some outings scheduled in the next newsletter. Los Alamos Pathways Association work parties are a good way to spend a few hours on a Saturday morning. They are usually advertised in the *Monitor*, or call 662-0715.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE NEWS

The Conservation Committee has identified 7 focus issues. They, with the member responsible for each, are listed below. There are still two issues which need a member to take responsibility:

Community Planning	Michael Smith	662-2380
Mining	Abe Jacobson	662-9579
Forest	Steve Koch	662-9423
Bandelier	Sue Barns	662-9423
Water	Janet Gerwin	662-9568
Grazing		
Wildlife		

Our garage sale proceeds came to a grand total of \$172.00. Special thanks to Stephany and Barbara, and to Jennifer, Sue and Miriam.

Grazing Workshop

(con't from page 3)

ing a calf in the midst of 1000 cows, each weighing over half a ton, is not a good career move.

"While grazing, the cows are always in motion--moving to a plant, taking a bite, and then moving to the next. When the herd has passed, we see that the amount of plant tissue removed is actually quite small compared with what is left standing--in fact under 10% of the forage is eaten. Our goal is to maximize plant production during the growing season, and we know that the more tissue remaining, the faster the recovery.

"The soil surface between plants has been cultivated by the cows' hooves, and old grass has been knocked down to cover the ground. The animal impact works the same way as cultivation in the irrigated farmland down along the river, breaking soil crust and allowing water to infiltrate quickly."

Jim calls this method of grazing the "New Ranch." In a regular newsletter, in lectures, workshops, site tours, and in research, the Quivira Coalition will promote and help define further applications of the New Ranch.

Ecological Concerns

But why should environmentalists care? Because the New Ranch addresses nearly all of our concerns. On the ecological front, it: 1) abolishes overgrazing; 2) ensures the protection of streamsides and wetlands; 3) allows native grasses to return and flourish; 4) provides the proper habitat for endangered species; 5) maintains "wildlands" corridors for native wildlife; 6) increases biodiversity and biomass on the land; and 7) admits that some lands simply are not suitable for any type of grazing.

The New Ranch also helps us meet concerns on the social front, which include: 1) accommodating recreational use of the land; 2) encouraging the economic diversification of ranches; 3) blocking the spread of subdivisions and sprawl; and 4) ensuring, through use, that public land will remain in public hands.

Or, as Kris Havstad wrote about the ecology of rangelands: "The truth is that there are environments where grazing is and has been

harmful, there is land that is unsuitable for grazing today, and grazing isn't always properly managed. These situations have caused serious problems to the resources. However, grazing has been and can continue to be a productive use of much of our Western rangelands."

A video copy of the Grazing Workshop is available. Please contact Courtney White at 982-5502 for more information.

To request a copy of the Quivira Coalition newsletter call Courtney, or write to: 535 Cordova Blvd. Suite 423, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

PLACES OF PEACE & POWER

The Sacred Site Slide Show of Martin Gray

Stonehenge... Machu Pichu... The Pyramids... Jerusalem... Banaras... Mt. Fuji... Mecca

Since ancient times such places have expressed an irresistible spiritual magnetism on the hearts and minds of billions of people around the world. The myths and legends of these places tell of certain sites having the miraculous power to heal the body, enlighten the mind, increase creativity, develop psychic abilities, and awaken the soul to a knowing of its true purpose in life. What is the key to the mystery of the sacred sites? How are we to explain their power?

Explorer-anthropologist Martin Gray has spent 12 years as a wandering pilgrim visiting, studying, and photographing 800 sacred sites in 40 countries around the world. To share his insights and photographs with a wide audience, Martin speaks at museums, universities, and conferences throughout the U.S. Drawing from intensive scholarly research and his extraordinary mystical experiences at the sacred sites, Martin presents a fascinating discussion of the mythology of pilgrimage places and a radical interpretation of the miraculous phenomena that occurs at them. Featuring hundreds of stunningly beautiful photographs, the slide show is a magical blend of art, history, and travel adventure, shamanism, inspiration, and spiritual ecology.

SOUTHWEST TOUR - SUMMER '97

Taos	Aug. 18	Mon.	Taos Community Auditorium
Santa Fe	Aug. 20	Wed.	James A. Little Theater
Albuquerque	Aug. 21	Thurs.	Rodey Theater, UNM

All Presentations begin at 7:00pm • Admission: \$15

Weekend Workshops in Santa Fe (Aug. 23)

P.O. Box 4111 • Sedona, AZ 86340 • <http://www.epcnet.com/powerplaces/>

SANTA FE GROUP MEETINGS

SUMMER POTLUCK

Saturday, July 12, 5 PM

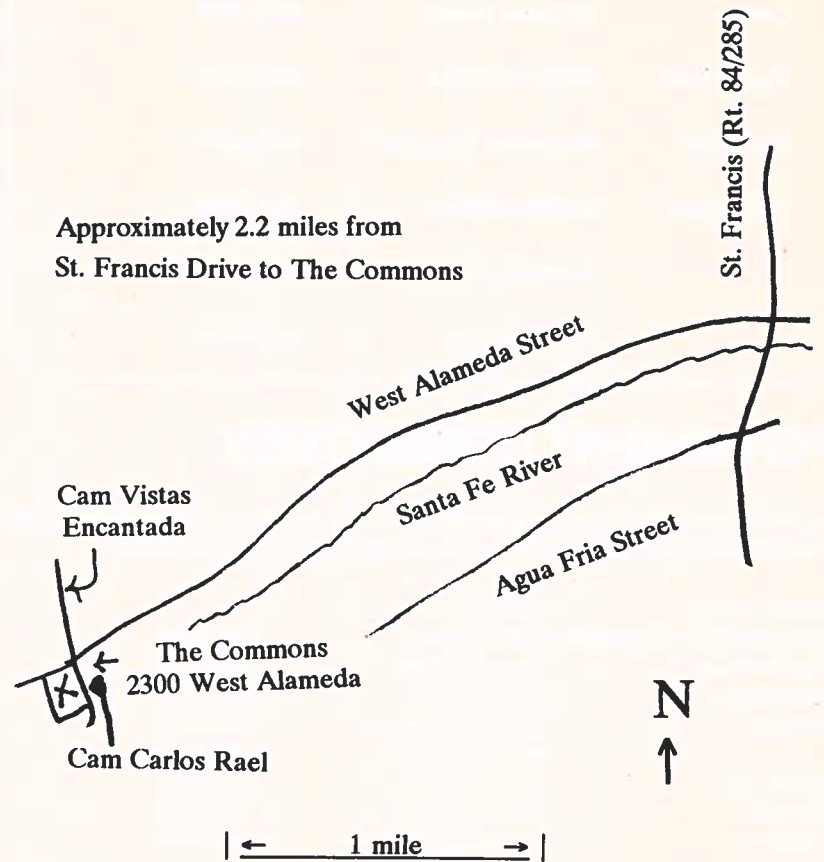
at *The Commons, 2300 West Alameda*

Come join your old acquaintances and meet new friends at our annual summer get together! We would like to start a new activity at this event — *Please bring up to 10 slides of your favorite outing, vacation, environmental issue, or whatever you think folks would enjoy.* After supper we will have a fun sharing of slides.

For the potluck, each person please bring 8 servings worth of an appetizer, salad, vegetable dish, casserole, meat, bread or dessert. If you don't want to prepare food, bring a beverage (fruit juice, soda, wine, beer). Coffee and tea will be provided, as will plates and silverware. An oven is available for warm-ups. Questions? Call Norma McCallan (471-0005) or our host, Ken Hughes (474-0550).

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

Approximately 2.2 miles from
St. Francis Drive to The Commons



Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club

621 Old Santa Fe Trail · Suite 10 · Plaza Desira · Santa Fe · New Mexico · 87501
505 · 983-2703

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Conservation Committee will meet on *Wednesday, July 23* (not the usual Tuesday), and on Tuesday, August 26, at the Sierra Club Office, 7 PM. Everyone is welcome. Come, talk about bad mines, clean air, trees, grass, water, wildlife and anything else! For more information, contact Courtney White (982-5502).



THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS !!

(in no particular order)



Earth Day Tables at Wild Oats: Lionel Soracco, John Buchser, Ralph Luce, Barbara Bro, Karen McGrath, Bruce Friedlich, George Grossman, Ned Sudborough, Karla Friedlich, Suzanne Garney, Margaret Tompkins, Jean Bahr, Thomas Harmer, Richard Jones, James Bradbury, Chris Kassube, Barbara Johnson, Ken Hughes, James Kuzava, Judy Higginson, Paul Scott, Molly Post, Kristin Chancellor, Barbara Stein, Mimi Gordon, George del Gaudio, Wesley Horner, Eleanor Eisenmenger, John McClure, Angela Grubbs, Bob McCarthy, Gie Van Den Pol, Robert Rucker, Dale Rich, Norma McCallan, Cliff Larsen, Carol Karp, Reinhold Groepler, Norma Lynn, Linda Whittenberg, Sherrie Evans, Mimi Gordon, Jacob Tarazoff, Bob Wilbur, Herman Gordon, Joseph McKenna, Laurie Dickerson, Carol Szpokowski and Gen Head.

Sierra Club Yard Sale: Linda Buchser, Barbara Bro, Carol Szpokowski, Barbara Johnson, Norma McCallan, Ned Sudborough and Bob McKee.

Grazing Workshop: Carol Szpokowski, Linda Buchser, Eleanor Eisenmenger, George Grossman and Barbara Johnson.



28 people joined organizers Elizabeth Winter and Cliff Larsen for the June 15 issue outing to the proposed site of the Summo Mine at Copper Hill near Dixon. Here they are shown hiking Rattlesnake Canyon, an area which will experience drainage from the mine if it is opened. For more information on the mine, see the May-June *Sierran*, or the last issue of *High Country News*.

[photo courtesy of Graham Bowkett]

◆ ◆ SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS ◆ ◆

Chair — John Buchser *	820-0201	Membership — Ned Sudborough	474-4055
Vice-Chair — Doug Fraser	474-7615	Fundraising — Education	} open
Secretary/Treas — Lionel Soracco*	983-6715	Office — Welcomer	} positions
Answering Machine — L. Soracco*	983-6715	Don Goldman *	473-2821
Chapter Representative — TBD		Jeff Regenold *	661-6707
Conservation — Courtney White*	982-5502	Barbara Johnson *	466-4935
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	12/97: Buchser/Goldman/McCallan/Soracco	
Political Committee — Ned Sudborough	474-4055	12/98: Fraser/Johnson/Regenold/Sudborough	
Phone Tree — Norma McCallan*	471-0005		

FIND US ON THE INTERNET !!

www.santafescene.com

Group Conservation Committee meets:
Wednesday, July 23, and Tuesday, Aug. 26
Group Executive Committee meets:
Tuesday, August 5, and Tuesday, Sept. 2

SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS

Sat Sun July

- 5 Sherry Evans (473-9632) Easy/Moderate Hike to Ghost Hotel (near Glorieta Baptist Center) 6.5 miles RT. Leave 9 AM.
- 6 Lee Sullivan (662-6185) Moderate Hike Peralta Ridge area. Part off-trail, 700' elevation gain, 7 miles RT. Meet in Los Alamos 8:30 AM at McDonald's on Trinity Drive, or carpool from Santa Fe Sierra Club office at 7:30 AM.
- 12 Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike Borrego-Chamisa Trails (w/car shuttle). Leave 8:30 AM.
- 12 Summer Group Potluck After that great hike, come and share your adventures with your Sierra friends. The Commons, 2300 West Alameda, 5 PM, your host Ken Hughes (474-0550).
- 13 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Hike in the Pecos Wilderness. Leave 8 AM.
- 19 John Jasper (466-8572, 986-4613) Moderate Hike upper Santa Barbara Canyon, probably West Fork. Meadows should be filled with summer flowers. Leave 8 AM.
- 19 Steven Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Loop from Williams Lake up the Cirque Ridge, climbing the 3-4 little peaks from Lake Fork to Simpson before ascending Wheeler. 8-10 miles, significant elevation gain. Optional carcamping near trailhead night before. Call for reservations, details.
- 20 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate/Strenuous Hike along the East Fork of the Jemez River. Some walking in river, bathing suit useful. Call for reservations.
- 26 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Easy Hike at the Ski Basin. Leave 8:30 AM. Kids encouraged.
- 26 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike from Iron Gate to Beatty's Cabin, possibly on to Pecos Falls. Dogs allowed. Call for reservations.

(July continued ↓)

- 27 Art Judd (982-3212) Moderate Hike in high country. Leave 8AM.

Saturday and Sunday, July 26 and 27

Matt Gervase (466-3479) Moderate Backpack with one overnight in the Pecos Wilderness. Call for details.

Saturday, July 26 to Sunday, August 3

Norma McCallan (471-0005) 75 mile exploratory backpack on Continental Divide Trail, Colorado. Leave 1:30 PM, Friday, July 25. Backpack from Berthoud Pass south to Tennessee Pass. Resupply at Silverthorne (mile 33), which allows for participants to do only the first or second section, if desired. Call for details/reservations.

~ ACTION ALERT ~

HELP PROTECT THE SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST!

With your help, the last remaining inholding on Atalaya Mountain can be purchased for public use and enjoyment. For five years, the Forest Service has been working to consolidate public ownership around the mountain through land exchanges and acquisition of key inholdings. With an appropriation of \$1 million, the Forest Service will be able to purchase the final parcel of 36 acres.

Please write or call your members of Congress, asking them to submit a request to the Interior Appropriations subcommittee to earmark \$1 million for the SF Nat'l Forest to protect Atalaya.

U.S. Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Sen. Pete Domenici
(202) 224-6621

Rep. Steve Schiff (1st dist.)
(202) 225-6316

Sen. Jeff Bingaman
(202) 224-5521

Rep. Joe Skeen (2nd dist.)
(202) 225-2365

Rep. Bill Redmond (3rd dist.)
(202) 225-6190

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.

Sat Sun August

- 2 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Strenuous Hike on Ski Basin-Lake Peak-Penitente Loop. Leave 8 AM. Call leader for reservation.
- 2 John Buchser (820-0201) Trail Maintenance Camino Real R.D., Centennial Trail between Santa Barbara and Trampas canyons. Bring lunch, work gloves. Lve 8 AM.
- 3 Ned Sudborough (474-4055) Moderate Hike in high country. Leave 8 AM. Call leader for reservation.
- 9 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike to Pecos Baldy Lake. 15 mi. RT, 2600' elevation gain. Dogs allowed. Call leader for reservation.
- 9 Martha Anne Freeman (438-0697) As a follow up to the Jemez National Recreation Area general meeting June 17, this *Issue Trip to the Jemez NRA* will encompass a loop from Jemez Springs to Rio Cibolla. This will be an opportunity to see how and to what extent this area is being used and to voice an opinion on what actions you would like to see administered. John Bruin, Jemez NRA Project Team Leader, will be our guide. Space is limited, call Martha Anne by August 6 for reservation.
- 10 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Easy, Slow Hike to Cañada Bonita (near Los Alamos ski area). Leave 9 AM. Call leader if not familiar with hike.
- Friday, August 15, to Sunday, August 17
- Norma McCallan (471-0005) Moderate/Strenuous Backpack to Colorado Sangre de Cristos. Exploratory loop Cotton Creek-Horsethief Basin-South Brush Lake-Major Creek. Leave Thursday after work. Call leader for reservation.
- 16 Matt Gervase (466-3479) Moderate Hike in high country. Leave 8 AM. Call leader for reservation.
- 17 No hike leader available !!

(August continued ↓)

- 23 Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy/Moderate Hike Ski Basin-Winsor Trail-Borrogo Trail. Leave 8:30 AM. Call if not familiar with area.
- 24 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Strenuous Hike on Hermit Peak-Porvenir Canyon Loop. 14 mi., 2800' elevation gain. Many stream crossings. Leave 7 AM. Call leader for reservation.

Friday, August 29 to Monday, September 1

Bob McKee (672-3426) Backpack in Weminuche Wilderness loop trip via the narrow gauge railroad on Elk-Creek-Needleton-Vallecitas-Columbine Pass Trails. 35 miles, considerable elevation gain. Involves train ride. Leave Thursday PM. *Make reservation before August 15!*

- 30 No hike leader available !!
- 31 No hike leader available !!

Sat Sun September

- 6 Carolyn & Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike up Aspen Vista Road. 8:30 AM. Leisurely pace.
- 7 Art Judd (982-3212) Moderate Hike in the high country. Leave 8 AM.
- 13 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate/Strenuous Exploratory Hike in the area west of Santa Fe Baldy and north of Nambe River. Leave 8 AM.
- 14 Matt Gervase (466-3479) Moderate Hike probably in Taos area. Leave 7 AM.
- 20 Lee Sullivan (662-6185) Moderate/Strenuous Loop Hike from Cumbres Pass area to Flat Mountain, only 7½ miles in length, but 2000' elevation gain. Meet leader 8 AM at Rio Grande Café, Española, or carpool from SF office at 7:20 AM. See next hike for car camp option.
- 21 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Red Lake, 11,000' +, near Cumbres Pass. Considerable elevation gain. Combined with hike above, this allows an overnite car camp at Trujillo Meadows CG, or participants can meet group at Cumbres Pass on Sunday morning. If 2nd option, call to confirm meeting time.
- 21 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Very Strenuous Hike to Lake Katherine and beyond. Leave 7:30 AM. Call leader for reservation.
- 27 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike to Johnson Lake (in the Pecos). Dogs allowed. Call leader for reservations and meeting time.
- 28 Victor Atyas (438-9437) Easy Hike to Tent Rocks. Leave 9 AM.

GROUP DIRECTORY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

Wayne Suggs, Jr., Chair Mexican Wolf	523-5635(H) 526-5442(W) coues@aol.com
Cheryll Blevins, Vice Chair	526-6220(W) 524-4861(H) spotblev@jaws.greatwhite.com
Kiki Suggs, Secretary	523-5635(H) 526-5442(W) coues@aol.com
Lesa Wilson, Treasurer	647-4298(H) dwilson@totacc.com
"Dutch" Salmon, Rural Forum, Political Issues	388-3763(H) 388-5705(Fax)
Larry Hughes, Outings Leader	522-4600 ext. 270 (W) larry@tcisoft.com
Lolina Alvarez, Outings Co-Leader	521-1152
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

Outings

Friday- Sunday July 4, 5, 6--Gila Backpack Trip

Place: Mogollon Mountains
Class: Moderate/Strenuous
Limit: 12, Reservations and leader approval required
Leader: Larry Hughes 522-4600 ext 270, email: larry@tcisoft.com and Lolina Alvarez 521-1152

Early Friday we will start from Sandy Point (about 10 miles east of Mogollon on 159). We will hike along the Crest Trail to Hummingbird Saddle. Then we will drop down to the Whitewater Creek and set up camp in Redstone Park. Saturday we will hike back up to the high country via Lipsey Canyon and head back to Hummingbird Saddle where we will set up camp. Sunday morning we will hike back to the car. We will probably carcamp Thursday evening in order to get an early start Friday morning. Call for more info.

Saturday July 12--White Mountain Wilderness Dayhike

Place: White Mountain north of Ruidoso
Class: Strenuous
Limit: 12, Reservations and leader approval required
Leader: Larry Hughes 522-4600 ext 270, email: larry@tcisoft.com and Lolina Alvarez 521-1152

Starting from the South Fork Campground (close to Bonito Lake), we will dayhike up the South Fork of Rio Bonito to the crest of the White Mountains. About 13 miles roundtrip with 3000 ft elevation gain. Camping is available at the trailhead. Call for more info.

Saturday August 2--Pine Tree Trail Dayhike

Place: Aguirre Springs in the Organ Mountains
Class: Easy
Limit: 12, Reservations and leader approval required
Leader: Larry Hughes 522-4600 ext 270, email: larry@tcisoft.com and Lolina Alvarez 521-1152

Starting from Aguirre Springs, we will dayhike the Pine Tree Trail. About 5 miles roundtrip. Call for more info.

Saturday Aug 9 - 10 Trail Maintenance Backpack with Forest Service

Place: Sheridan Gulch Trail/North Fork of Big Dry Creek, Gila Wilderness
Class: Moderate - Strenuous (depending on how hard you want to work)
Limit: None, Reservation and leader approval required
Leader: Wayne Suggs Jr. - Sierra Club, hm: 523-5635 wk: 526-5442 Steve Brown - Forest Service, 505-539-2481

Starting at Sheridan Corral (Forest Road 146--4x4 not needed). This forest road is between Cliff and Glenwood N.M. Come Friday night and carcamp at the trailhead or arrive Saturday a.m. We will hike in to some of the most spectacular scenery in the Gila. Forest Service will supply the tools to do trail maintenance until approximately 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Bring everything needed for an overnight trip. We will camp Saturday night around Skunk Johnson's prospector's cabin. We will continue the trail maintenance Sunday until approximately 2:00 pm., then we will hike out. Plan on hard work, good people, and beautiful surroundings. All come, it's

time to give something back. Kindly give 2 weeks notice to allow the Forest Service to make the arrangements for the tools. Please call for more info.

Saturday August 16--Black Range Dayhike

Place: Railroad Canyon
Class: Strenuous
Limit: 12, Reservations and leader approval required
Leader: Larry Hughes 522-4600 ext 270, email: larry@tcisoft.com and Lolina Alvarez 521-1152

Starting from the Gallinas/Railroad Canyon trailhead (45 minutes West of Hillsboro on 152), we will hike up Railroad Canyon to the Black Range Crest Trail. Then we will hike along the Crest Trail to the intersection with Gallinas Canyon. We will return via Gallinas Canyon. About 12 miles roundtrip with 2500 ft elevation gain. Call for more info.

Sunday Sept 7--Annual Sierra Club Field Trip to McGregor Range

Place: McGregor Range
Class: Easy
Limit: None; call by Sept 1 for reservations
Leader: Marianne Thaeler 522-3421

Hopefully, this will not be our last trip before the US Army and Air Force and the German Command USA decide to turn it into a bombing range complex!

This year, we will be going through the heart of the grasslands where the antelope play. We will visit the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern along the rim of Otero Mesa, and the historic Prather Ranch and grave site. BLM staff will be leading the field trip with us and will help with ecological interpretations. Tell us whether you have a high clearance vehicle and hopefully we can carpool so there can be some interpretation while we drive. This is a day-long event. We will leave at 7:45 am from the Pan American Center parking lot--we shall not wait if you are late, and we will return by late afternoon. Bring picnic or sack lunch and water. Wear shoes to walk through grassland.

Warm Springs Section Report "No Logging on Public Land" Can Work

When the Sierra Club membership voted last year, not to more carefully regulate logging on public land, not to simply reduce the number of types of trees cut, but to work to ELIMINATE it entirely, I was astonished. Isn't that too extreme? What about the communities whose economies are tied to public land logging? What about the good faith compromise?

Upon reflection though, my views have changed. One of the biggest problems with logging is the the road building that goes with it. Whether opening up pristine, old growth for valuable straight, knot-free heartwood for building or for getting out invasive juniper or pinon for firewood, these roads are very difficult if not impossible to close. Put up a dirt berm and people drive around it. Put up a gate and the lock gets shot off or cut or a winch pulls it down. These roads are put in hastily, often with little thought except to get to the wood. They don't follow the contours of the land. They don't have bar ditches to carry runoff. When it rains, they run like creeks. Topsoil is carried off. Headward erosion begins. In extreme cases, mudslides that carry away whole hillsides result.

When people can get to a place easily, wildlife becomes more vulnerable. I'm not only talking about species like spotted owls or goshawks declining because of loss of habitat. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has documented that the vast majority of hunted game is killed within 1/4 mile from a road. In some areas of Washington State which are riddled with logging roads, male elk do not survive past the age of three years. They simply have no place to hide from hunters. Roads change the character of a place.

Moreover, these roads are built at taxpayer expense, making public timber sales a huge money loser for the treasury. So much so that every unemployed logger could get a check from the government to stay home and we'd come out ahead. But ideas are floating around that they could be hired by the Forest Service to build trails, maintain campgrounds, thin by hand areas where small trees are too thick and help with prescribed fires.

These are good ideas, but the Forest Service should not be compelled to provide "make work" jobs. Other employers certainly aren't. In the 80s when the banking industry was consolidated, thousands of people were laid off (Many times the number that even work the timber industry.) We didn't hear about the loss of their custom and culture. In fact, now that we are in one of the greatest and sustained economic booms of our history, those people clearly found other jobs. The rearranging, downsizing and consolidation had to contribute to the prosperity we now enjoy even though it was plenty painful for some people at the time.

Should we have preserved the slide rule manufacturing industry when no one wants slide rules now that we have pocket calculators? What spell doom for one venture is opportunity for another. Those pocket computers have evolved to the point that fewer trees are required for paper and have produced the richest man in the world at the same time.

If timber becomes less available, its price will go up. This will benefit the private landholder who might then cut more selectively. It also benefits those who create new ways to use, and new materials to replace, timber. Straw bale and used tie construction come to mind. Changes will hurt some people but will always benefit others who rise to the occasion. But change doesn't come from a position of compromise. Women didn't get the vote by compromising. The protesters loudly, got themselves arrested and went on hunger strikes. No one would have paid attention to PETA disavowing fur until some of its members threw blood on fur coat wearers. That was extreme and even vulgar—but it was working. The fur industry is dying.

The Sierra Club's no-cut position can work too, to rein in this massive government subsidy, begin to heal the land and provide new opportunity for those who will seize it. Coming from a position of no compromise gets attention and the resolve gets results.

Warm Springs Outings

August 8: Watch the bats make their nightly exit from the lava tubes, while the Swainson Hawks dine on the bats. This is the largest bat population in New Mexico. Meet at the Armendaris Ranch headquarters in Engle. Bring a snack and your four-wheel drive. This trip will be limited as to the number of vehicles we can take, so call Margot (744-5860) to make reservations and to find out the time.

August 23 & 24: As issue outing with Forest Service's Tim Pohlman to learn about savannah restoration at Cooney Meadows near Beaverhead. We will also see longitudinal test plots established by New Mexico State University, and plots where herbicides have been used to control pinon-juniper encroachment on savannahs. We will leave the Forest Service Office at 8:00 A.M. on the 23rd and camp out at Wolf Hollow Campground. We might have time for a hike. Call Margot for details.

All Sierrans are invited Chapter Getaway Sept. 12-14 at Cottonwood Gulch

Martin Heinrich has graciously offered Cottonwood Gulch to the Chapter for our September Retreat and ExCom Meeting, during which priorities are set for the coming year. We are designating it the Rio Grande Chapter Getaway. Come for the whole weekend, a day or any part you wish. Some of us will be arriving Friday evening to greet old friends and meet new ones.

Cottonwood Gulch is a 520 acre rustic residential facility in Northwestern New Mexico, South of Thoreau. It is about 2 hours West of Albuquerque between Thoreau and Bluewater State Park on NM 612, South of I-40, and lies on the gentle, northern slope of the primitive Zuni Mountains at an altitude of approximately 7500 feet.

There will be meetings of the Conservation and Executive Committees which all are invited to attend. There will also be time for:

Birding--The riparian area is home to Bullock's orioles, violet green swallows, spotted towhees, red-shafted flickers and many other avian species. This area is also the hunting ground of a Cooper's hawk and a nesting site for ravens and red tail hawks.

Tracking--Hikers to Rice Park are often treated to all kinds of wildlife sign. Bear, bobcat, wild turkey, elk, deer, and raccoon sign have all been recently observed in this area.

Tuche--This traditional Navajo sweat lodge is a great way to unwind after a long day of meetings.

Campfire--Meetings and end of the night songs and stories can be held around the campfire circle or on benches under the cottonwoods. We're working on getting a bluegrass band to play for us Saturday night. Let us know if you like the idea.

There's also a library, museum, and a swimming pool (may be cold in September).

We extend a special invitation to Sierrans in the Western part of New Mexico.

Put these dates on your calendar and check the September/October *Sierran* for final details.

The Chapter has experienced a stunning number of V.I.P. resignations in the last several weeks. Let's help maintain continuity and a sense of purpose and community by active participation in our various outings programs.

Summer activist trips:

Sat August 2 CENTENNIAL TRAIL, CARSON NATIONAL FOREST - John Buchser 505-820-0201. Trail maintenance on this little known trail connecting Trampas and Santa Barbara Canyons. Meet at the Santa Fe Sierra Club office, 8 am, bring lunch and work gloves.

Sat/Sun Aug 2/3 ASTRONOMY FIELD TRIP, MAGDALENA MTNS - Tom Leck 505-256-7217. Moderate days hikes, with a carcamp near the Irving Langmuir Observatory on South Baldy, and an evening of star gazing with Tom's telescope. Call for details.

Sat Aug 9 JEMEZ NATIONAL RECREATION AREA FIELD TRIP - Martha Anne Freeman 505-438-0697. John Bruin, U.S. Forest Service, will show participants how and to what extent this popular area is now being used, and will solicit suggestions for future Forest Service management. Call for reservations by 8/6. See story on page 1.

Sat/Sun Aug 9/10 GLENWOOD RANGER DISTRICT TRAIL MAINTENANCE and BACKPACK - Wayne Suggs, Jr. 505-523-5635 hm, 526-5442 wk; Steve Brown, Forest Service, 505-539-2481. This Moderate-Strenuous outing (depending on how hard you want to work) starts at Sheridan Corral (Forest Road 146--4x4 not needed). This forest road is between Cliff and Glenwood N.M. Come Friday night and car camp at the trailhead or arrive Saturday a.m. We will hike in to some of the most spectacular scenery in the Gila. The Forest Service will supply the tools to do trail maintenance until approximately 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Bring everything needed for an overnight trip. We will camp Saturday night

around Skunk Johnson's prospector's cabin. We will continue the trail maintenance Sunday until approximately 2:00 pm., then we will hike out. Plan on hard work, good people, and beautiful surroundings. All come, it's time to give something back. Kindly give 2 weeks notice to allow the Forest Service to make the arrangements for the tools. Please call for more information and reservations.

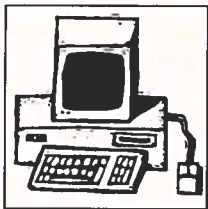
Sat/Sun Aug 23/24 COONEY PRAIRIE, near BEAVERHEAD, BLACK RANGE DISTRICT - Margot Wilson 505-744-5860. Join Tim Pohlman to find out more about the Forest Service's savannah restoration project, visiting longitudinal test plots established by NMSU and test plots where herbicides have been used to control pinon/juniper encroachment on traditional savannahs. Meet at the Forest Service office, T or C, 8 am to carpool. Overnite camp at Wolf Hollow Campground. Call for more details.

Sat Sept 7 MCGREGOR RANGE, FT. BLISS, TX. - Marianne Thaeler 505-522-3421. Annual field trip to the Range, this year going with BLM staff through the heart of the grasslands, where the antelope play, visiting the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern along the rim of Otero Mesa and historic Prather Ranch and gravesite. Must call for reservations before 9/1.

Coming Events, more details later...

Fri/Sat/Sun Oct 24/25/26 (or Nov 7/8/9) GHOST RANCH GET-TOGETHER for Santa Fe and Los Alamos Groups, and any other interested Chapter members. The lively program will feature hikes, tours, social events and discussion of northern New Mexico problems amidst the mellow red rock beauty of the Ranch.

Thanksgiving weekend BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK GET-TOGETHER with the Lone Star Chapter (that other part of Texas, east of El Paso).



Visit our homepage on the World Wide Web:

<http://www.nm.org/~sierra/>

You can contact other activists via E-mail by using our List Serve:

sierra@www.nm.org

1997-98 Nominating Committee

In accordance with the Standing Election Rules of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, Chair John Buchser has appointed the following persons to serve on the Nominating Committee for 1997-98:

George Grossman, Chair, 1391 Santa Rosa Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87501. Phone: (505) 982-1024.

Margot Wilson, P.O. Box 926, Elephant Butte, NM 87935. Phone: (505) 744-5860. Email: hshs1@dusty.riolink.com

Gary Williams, 10925 Cardigan Drive, El Paso, TX 79936. Phone: (915) 593-3524.

Chapter members wishing to suggest names for consideration to be candidates for the Executive Committee should submit them to one of these Nominating Committee members in the coming months. See the next issue of the *Sierran* for the formal call for nominees.



Chapter Outings Notes from Norma

by
Norma
McCallan

Many, many thanks to all of you who contributed to the Annual Appeal. Your generosity is much appreciated and will be put to good use protecting the environment in New Mexico and West Texas.

We Get Letters

(con't from page 2)



people.

We all know the factors driving these changes: telecommunications and improved transportation, people moving to flee crime or breath clean air. And the cumulative individual decisions of these new western residents about where to live are made without any reference to the livestock industry.

Supporting the local livestock industry by either ignoring, or downplaying the real and significant environmental degradation that results from it, won't halt these national trends. Championing the rural lifestyle or denouncing the newcomers won't make any real difference in the rate of land conversion. None of these stems the demand for western land.

We should also assign just a little of the blame to greed. No one forces a rancher to sell to a subdivider. Hell if a rancher wanted to sell his ten thousand [acre] spread with a deed restriction on it, he could. Ranchers could offer to sell their property cheaply to conservation buyers who protect them intact. But they don't. I don't blame them. Who can resist the chance to make millions. But the point is that ranchers don't have to sell to developers. And the fact that most do choose to do this makes them as much to blame for what is occurring as anyone.

Bear in mind it is DEMAND FOR LAND, not the mere supply of land that drives subdivisions. But demand is not uniform. Only a very few places are really attractive, and the vast majority of the West is seeing no population increase, and many places are depopulating.

In terms of protecting open space or biodiversity, the livestock industry isn't the solution, it's part of the problem. There are hundreds of millions of acres in the West without a single house on them, yet are biologically impoverished by domestic livestock production. Most people fail to consider the CUMULATIVE IMPACTS of livestock production, focusing instead on a few problems like excessive grass consumption or a few trampled riparian zones. But cows are a bad foundation for a western livestock industry. They require a lot of water. They are dumb and vulnerable to predators. They don't move well across rugged terrain. The West is a lousy place to raise cows. And ranchers are competing on an international market. They can only make so many adjustments without going broke. The fact is that there are far better places to raise cows than western rangelands.

Furthermore, domestic livestock production is the domestication of the landscape. It's a gardener's approach to land. It destroys native ecological systems. Despite the growing impact of housing tracts in some local areas, livestock operations are still the single greatest cause of species endangerment and ecological damage west-wide. The entire goal of livestock production is to funnel solar energy through one animal—and you can't

be allotting the majority of the West's water, space, and fodder to one animal without impacting all others. Livestock reformers never do a full accounting of the costs associated with livestock production so are able to come out with rosy words about how livestock production is compatible.

Livestock production is responsible for the extirpation or extinction of more species in the West than any other human activity. It is the major source of water pollution. It is the major source of soil erosion. It is the major source and factor behind exotic plant invasion. It is a reason for forest health decline. A loss in ecological processes like fires. It is the reason there are few wolves in the West and the major reason why bison are being shot outside of Yellowstone. The livestock industry is also the major reason why prairie dog ecosystems are endangered, big predators will never recolonize the West again, and a host of other negative effects.

The consumption of water is perhaps the largest negative impact of livestock production. It uses the vast majority of western water—even in places like California forage production for cows uses more water than any other human activity. In Nevada, for instance, the driest state and a state full of new subdivisions, only 6% of the water is consumed by urban domestic uses, while ag uses 90%—all of it to grow fodder for cows. The big dependence on irrigation is one reason western livestock production is so damaging, and you can't grow cows profitably in the West without irrigation. Most of the dams that fragment our western rivers are also built largely to store water for irrigation, so that is yet another negative impact resulting from livestock production.

If we are talking about protecting biodiversity, you can't ignore the livestock industry's role in its loss. Only those are willing to gloss over all these cumulative impacts over hundreds of millions of acres can suggest that livestock production is desirable.

Finally, urbanization isn't really a comparable threat to biodiversity. Not that urbanization doesn't have impacts, but it affects far less of the land. The West is empty. Take Nevada as an extreme example. There are 70 millions acres in that state. According to the state planner, only 227, 000 acres or 0.32% of the state are urbanized. So what's happening on the rest of those acres. Well nearly every other acre in the state is chomped, stomped, and trashed by cows.

Even California is largely a state degraded by cows, not housing tracts. According to the state office of Land Conservation only 3% of the Golden State is urbanized. Sure LA is a mess. But most of California isn't LA. Indeed, two-thirds of the state has a population density of 1 person per square mile—the same as Alaska. Livestock production, on the other hand affects some 70 million acres or about 70% of California. The fact is that urbanization, as bad as it is for the landscape, it is concentrated, and influences far less of the land than the rural deathstyle it replaced. The amount of land affected by urbanization nationwide is less than 4% of the land area of the U.S. while livestock production, including the growing of crops fed to livestock, affects 65% of the U.S. land area. Urbanization just doesn't even come close to affecting the acreage degraded by livestock. No place. No where. No way.

So what's the solution? Once land prices rise—it is no longer possible to "save" the ranching industry. Nevertheless, it is still possible to save the land. One option is outright fee purchase of critical lands for conservation purposes. As I have often argued, even in these budget-cutting times, we easily have the money for such acquisitions if we redirect the billions of dollars currently wasted on government agricultural subsidies, including the CRP program, subsidized grazing on public lands, emergency livestock feed program, and other give-aways that provide no long-term protection of open space or wildlife habitat.

Another option is regional or state-wide zoning. In Oregon, the only state with state-wide zoning, the number of farms and ranches has actually increased even while a million new people were added to the state's population. But restrictions on use of land infuriates property rights advocates—who are often the same people

threatening to subdivide their lands if we don't cower before their demands to ease off on our criticisms of their operations.

Some skeptics may counter that the political will for widespread land acquisition or zoning doesn't exist in the West. I'd suggest that is because people perceive—incorrectly—that supporting the livestock industry will hold development at bay. Once you recognize the fallacy of this argument, these other land protection options take on greater urgency. Just as we seek to restrict and limit urban development to the most suitable locations, we should likewise attempt to minimize the land impacted by marginal industries such as livestock operations. If we need to produce meat, let's do so in the mid-west and eastern United States where such commodity production can be done with fewer environmental impacts than in the arid West.

The choice isn't one of supporting ranchers or they will be forced to sell out. They are already selling out. Ranching as a viable industry is dead. It can't and won't survive. Supporting the livestock industry by downplaying their environmental impacts, or continuing public subsidies, just allows them to hold onto their lands longer, increasing their profits when the ranch is finally sold. While at the same time, the public continues to suffer dewatered streams consumed for irrigation, destruction of riparian zones and extirpation of wildlife from prairie dogs to wolves, AND the continued loss of biologically important lands to development.

Sincerely,

George Wuerthner
POB 3975
Eugene, Oregon 97403
Fax and Phone (541) 683-8882

Grazing: Bringing People Together is a Challenge

Dear Editor:

I am writing to publicly thank the individuals who have helped organize an organization known as the Quivira Coalition. The organizers of the Coalition—Jim Winder, Courtney White and Barbara Johnson, all Sierra Club members—are the vanguard of a powerful new force in the area of public and private land management in New Mexico. I am fortunate to have been invited to participate in the inaugural events surrounding the formation of this exciting organization.

One of my early frustrations as state land commissioner was the realization that political rhetoric and posturing were keeping us from solving the thorny problems that face us every day as land managers.

We administer a trust acreage larger than some states, with much of the land intermingled with private, federal and tribal land. I knew right away that the success of my administration depended on our ability to bridge the political gaps and bring people together. Every day, we are confronted by the enormity of this endeavor. But every now and then I see signs that I am not alone. The greatest satisfaction comes in being able to work with people willing to share and work toward that vision. That's why I am so enthusiastic about the Quivira Coalition.

All across the West and in New Mexico, coalitions are emerging among city-dwellers, environmentalists, the agricultural community and public land managers who are recognizing their common interest in light of our fast-growing population. Urban residents are beginning to appreciate the role agriculture can play in preserving open lands, which city-dwellers need to stay in touch with the natural earth.

Farmers and ranchers, facing development pressures, are realizing they have allies in the city who will help them protect their livelihoods and their communities. We all want to make sure New Mexico grows the right way. We want homes built so that they conserve water, maximize transportation resources, preserve the best of our agricultural land and protect our remaining natural wild areas.

As New Mexico's elected state land commissioner, I see this evolution as the growth of a powerful political base that could influence the performance of public and private sector land managers, planners and developers. Land and water are finite, and they are essential resources for life on

earth. There will always be disagreements about how they should be used, and that will test our ability and resolve to find solutions. The Quivira Coalition demonstrates a good way to address these issues: Get together in an atmosphere of patience and reason and refrain from pushing the hot buttons that so easily divide us. When we learn to respect each other and work together, there are no problems we cannot solve.

Sincerely,

Ray Powell, M.S., D.V.M.
Commissioner of Public Lands
New Mexico State Land Office

Serna Endorsement

Dear Rio Grande Sierra Club,

I am sending this letter instead of a donation. I have reservations about how you are spending your time and money.

Your arguments for endorsing Eric Serna seemed sound. I was surprised, but always have respected your opinion. Nevertheless, I balked. Something was not right. I had wanted to vote for Miller and then your shocking endorsement came out. I always vote and usually follow your suggestions. Nevertheless, this time I ended up not voting. I didn't know who to believe.

And now, after the election, I am very upset with the Sierra Club for endorsing Serna. Obviously Miller did have the power to pull votes, even win, had the Sierra Club not endorsed Serna. I wonder if it was the Sierra Club pulling votes away from Miller, not Miller pulling votes away from Serna that caused the Republican to win.

However, there is a much larger picture that most environmentalists are overlooking. For an organization that supports beauty and preservation of nature, the Sierra Club seems to have forgotten who is really in charge here—Mother Nature.

The money spent on expensive lawyers, crafty persuasions, and editorials are weak unless intimately supported by our sense of holiness for the Mother of us all. Our worldly pursuits towards saving the planet will have little effect if Mother Nature is not acknowledged through prayer, and through gratefulness for the gifts she bestows upon us daily. It is not enough to use our intellects and our logic. Our hearts must be involved in moments of soft, deep silence.

When we fight, our opponent becomes stronger in defense. If we follow the spiritual warrior traditions such as Tai Chi we know that the best fight is done first through prayer and spiritual inquiry, then through skill—a skill that teaches us to get out of the way so effectively that the opponent is thrown off balance, even vanquished.

The Sierra Club must continue its noble fight, of that I have no doubt. However, we mustn't forget our greatest ally—Mother Nature. She is much more powerful than any lawyer or persuasive newspaper reporter. After all it is she who created what we are trying to protect. She herself can destroy it at any time. Sierra Club lawyers, editors, lobbyists, and administrators ought to prostrate, belly down, face touching the dust, to seek her guidance before undertaking any tasks. Did anyone pray to the Mother for guidance before deciding to support Serna? Did anyone go onto a mountain top or into the woods to contemplate, and then wait to receive an answer? We must plead with Mother Earth to help us in our tasks of restoring her beauty and protecting what remains. It is not by our intellects alone that we can solve this problem. We must humbly and graciously seek her assistance if we ever hope to succeed in this critical effort towards balance in Nature.

Sincerely,
Savitril L. Bess
P.O. Box 1 876
El Prado, NM 87529
505/751-6078

Sustainability

Editor:

I was troubled as I read "Moving Toward A Sustainable Future," in the May/

(con't on page 15)

Welcome Larry!

We want to welcome Larry Hughes to the Chapter Executive Committee. He is the Outings Co-Chair for the Southern New Mexico Group and has been active in putting together many great hikes.

Letters

(con't from pag 14)

June issue. The Albuquerque effort is an exercise in intellectual fluff unless it also addresses that city's high population growth rate, which is roughly equal to that in Kenya or Zaire in Africa!

New Mexico or the nation cannot achieve sustainability with a population that many experts estimate is already twice that of what can be sustainable.

More, the United States is the third most populous nation, in total population, behind only China and India and the sixth fastest growing nation, in total population, behind only China, India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Brazil.

Couple that with our high standard of living and Americans' reluctance to live environmentally conscious lives—when did you last so much as see a shopper check to see if a food container could be recycled—and the impact of that growth is even more devastating.

It is estimated, for example, that each child in the United States will have the impact on the environment of ten children in a developing nation.

Those who are serious about sustainability must join those trying to focus attention on the fact that the United States has the highest birth rate of any industrialized nation and accepts more immigrants than all other industrialized nations combined. If we do not, today's population of 270 million may reach 400 million within our children's lifetimes, with predictable consequences to them and the environment.

Sincerely,

Kate Burnett
208 Sherwood Blvd.
Los Alamos, NM 87544-3467
Phone: 505/672-3108

A Reply to Electric Restructure by Ken Hughes

Dear Editor:

GO HYDROPOWER! The article by Ken Hughes mentions RENEWABLE RESOURCES several times without naming them. Solar and wind were tried after the oil embargo, but most of it did not work out well. Fossil fuels were still too cheap, and here yet, but time will end that, with the help of unfriendly oil-supplying nations. Water power is the most plentiful, cleanest, cheapest and dependable source we have when fossil fuels dry up.

At 95, I have been trying to interest President Clinton and others in HYDROPOWER, but the minority groups at object to harnessing our streams are a political roadblock. So we will wait until a national emergency hits us and then really mess up the streams in an emergency effort to get electric power from the enormous overflow now going to waste. So it goes.

Wind is being installed east of El Paso, so I read, and still being used in California. I don't know of a solar unit still being tried, though an enormous amount goes to waste. But the sun does not shine all the time. Water does flow, night and day, and solar could back it up in daytime. The president says he is doing all he can through his research committee. I can't find out if no effort is made to harness the streams. This can be done without big dams and get more power by run-of-the-river units, without so much scenic change. Why not go hydropower??

Sincerely,
Alan Simmons
1-241 Pan Am Fwy NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113
0142

Growth obviously affects more than the physical side of the equation; certainly the economy is greatly affected by how we grow. Here are some economic development options that go beyond slash-and-burn; neither do they settle for rust.

1. **Analyze economic development options with a cost-benefit model.** Incentives should be tailored to different local circumstances by using performance criteria such as: wages relative to the local area; impact on affordable housing; capacity of existing infrastructure; environmental impact; tax base impact; and locally adopted targeted industries. In addition, cost-benefit analysis tools should be made available to local decision makers for development that does not seek state incentives.

2. **Incorporate economic development into any growth management package.** To compete economically means competing globally. Spending scarce public or private dollars on unsustainable growth patterns takes money away from the kinds of infrastructure that can really allow a community to compete. As adopted from Portland, elements of an effective economic development portion of a growth management policy include:

Protect quality of life. This has been and can continue to be the draw for New Mexico;

Be choosy. New Mexico's quality of life is limited; spending it to attract growth that ultimately does not raise the state's capacity to generate wealth is shortsighted at best, money squandering at worst. Unzipping the tax break purse should be a very conservative exercise;

Invest in higher education. Beyond scratching New Mexico's lottery tickets (whose proceeds go for college scholarships), we must do all we can to invest in the tremendous human potential that lies within our borders; and

Raise the productivity of the low-wage service sector. While the top of the economic ladder usually gets most of the attention, it may be the bottom where most productivity gains can be made. Wishing away (or in land use parlance zoning away) the poor will not make them go away. Recognizing their value and essential nature to community life, steps need to be taken to find ways to change low-wage jobs into jobs that pay a living wage, even if it means finding out how people can do things just a little better.

3. **View environmental quality and quality of life as economic assets.** New Mexico needs to recognize that recreation, tourism, new business development, in-migration of new residents and related economic sectors (retail trade, services, construction, etc.), which are all significant forces in the state's economy, depend to some extent on protecting and enhancing the natural resources and environment of the region. Those concerned with the environment and those concerned with the economy must find common cause in protecting the foundation of both—the very natural and cultural resources which bind the region together. Economic activity must occur within a framework of protection of natural and cultural assets if the economy is to be environmentally sustainable. Policies and practices should ensure that economic development protects the economy's fundamental bases, such as sustainable use of renewable natural resources; minimization and substitution of the use of nonrenewables; protection of our air, water, soils and open spaces; plugging leaks in the economy; and adding as much value as possible to all products and services.

4. **Promote diverse small**

businesses. By its very nature, small business tends to promote diversity, strengthen the economy from shocks and employ local people. Economic development planners and officials should re-evaluate the emphasis on big wins in business recruitment, and focus adequate effort on encouraging and strengthening the homegrown businesses that are all around us. Public policies on zoning, economic development, community design, community services as well as private sector attitudes toward growth and business development, help determine patterns of change. Existing development policies should promote healthier communities and economies for diversification of jobs, income sources and business entities, and for development of a work force and community conditions that will be competitive in the 21st Century.

5. **Put a premium on human resources.** Keys to a healthy community and healthy economy include an educated and talented workforce, dynamic educational institutions, and an ability to adapt to changing economic and technological conditions. Students need to learn cutting-edge skills and abilities, and gain knowledge to become active citizens. If they do not get these skills, they will be a burden on the economy rather than an asset.

6. **Recognize that growth and development are not synonyms.** Growth is about getting bigger, development is about getting better. Like slow release fertilizer, a slower but steady increase in economic activity can be more beneficial to the community than growth which overwhelms. A focus on development strategies which diversify and deepen the economy is more likely to provide increases in jobs, income and overall wealth. Managing the substance and pace of economic change is not anti-growth, and it need not be contrary to the aspirations and values of the majority of residents. It does require a clear understanding of the economy and which way it is headed. This means broader community and regional discussion of growth and development, of quality of life, of carrying capacity, and of desired futures.

7. **Develop an economy without growth.** Becoming more locally self-reliant, through producing locally what had previously been purchased from outside the community, is important to a thriving economy and healthy community. For example, a program for energy conservation financing and installation for schools and communities throughout New Mexico is available through the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department and the Local Government Division. The program has great potential to stop not only energy leaks but also the dollars that go with it: recycling captured dollars in the local economy can create three times as many jobs than if spent on fuel bills. Community-supported agriculture (as in Pena Blanca in Sandoval County and Rowe Mesa in San Miguel County) preserves farmland and farmers while offering fresh produce to consumers through farmer's markets, which is not only good as a loop closer but also for downtown redevelopment (as in Las Cruces). A third example is a revolving loan fund to encourage employee-owned businesses, which are considered more stable and more likely to hire, train and promote local residents. The North Central Economic Development District and the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments (through Farmington's Enterprise Center) administer revolving loan funds.

8. **Put technological change to work to dissuade sprawl rather than**



Growth in New Mexico: Economic Development Options

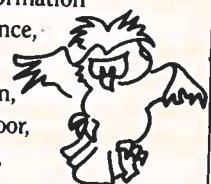
by Ken Hughes

This is the fifth 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.

encourage it. Highways often have encouraged fringe development, requiring expensive after-the-fact government action of questionable value (such as ridesharing requirements). Today the information superhighway offers the opportunity for many New Mexicans to work at home. This can improve land use patterns rather than further destroy them, if public and private policies encourage the use of telecommunications. Public investments should be used less for fringe industrial parks and more for fiber optics and other communications infrastructure needed for tomorrow's business market. With such improvements New Mexico businesses can better compete globally.

Legacy

What will yours be? You joined the Sierra Club because you are concerned about the well-being of the Earth. Continue your involvement by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. 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.



Jemez Management Plan

(con't from page 1)

purposes of the Act" and "provide(s) for a comprehensive trails system for dispersed recreation while minimizing impact on significant archaeological and religious sites."

Citizen Input Desired

The Forest Service would like input from concerned citizens on the kinds of recreational opportunities or "environments" they should manage for, unique features or places that individuals value most, and the kind of interpretive/educational opportunities desired. They would also like comments about existing roads, trails, and trailheads, and information about currently existing problems or conflicts.

The Forest Service will be working with interested individuals and groups over the next 2 months while developing the plan. They have held several townhall-type meetings in Canon, Santa Fe, Bernalillo, and Los Alamos. John Bruin, planning team leader, met with the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club on June 17th, and will meet the Pajarito Group on August 6th. Martha Anne Freeman of the Santa Fe Group will lead a tour of the JNRA with John Bruin on August 9 (for details, see the Santa Fe Group Outings on page 11).

Schedule

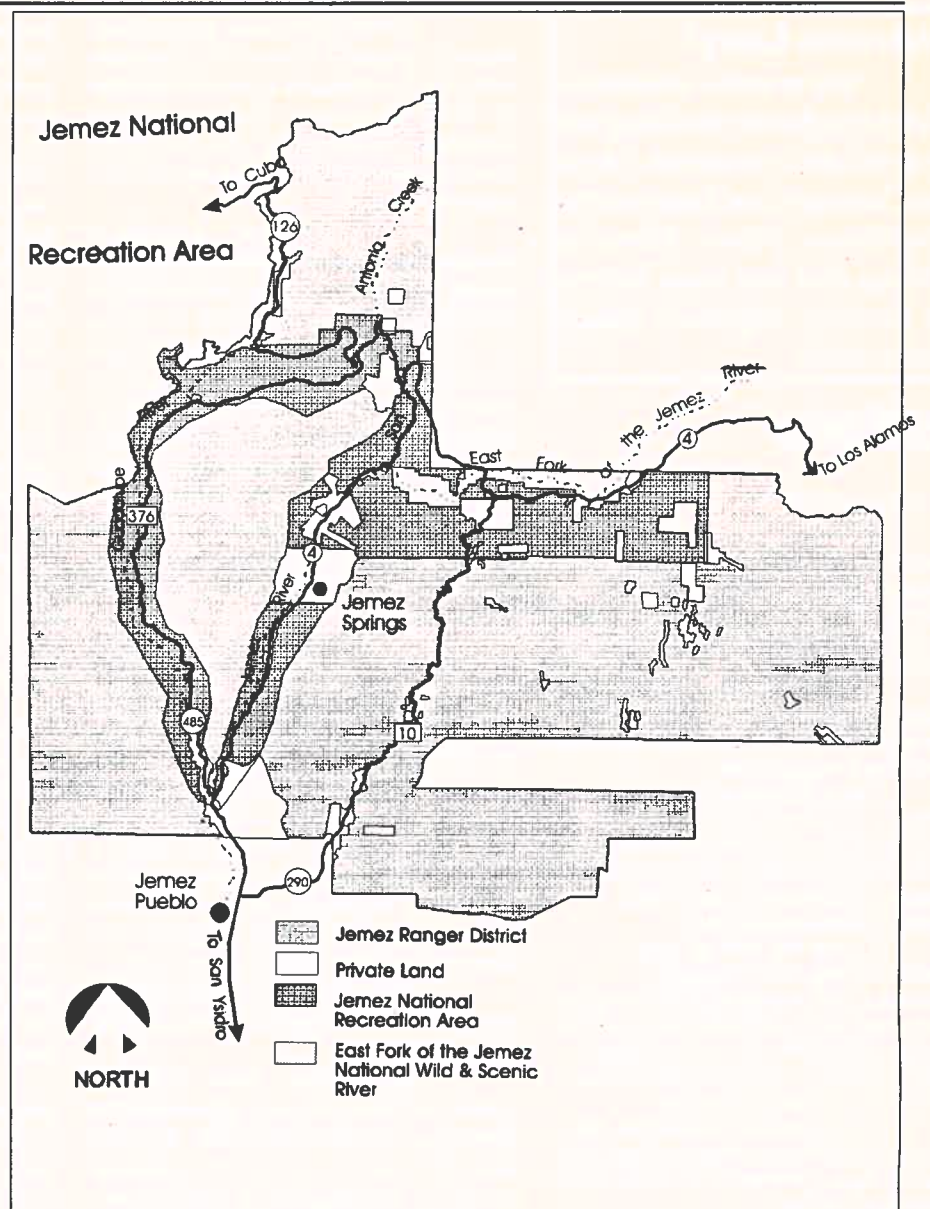
The Forest Service will release a document in mid-July outlining a plan based on the comments received, and a

proposed plan will be released by early September. This plan will probably be different than the current Forest Plan for the Santa Fe National Forest. The Forest Service will then follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), if necessary, to identify and evaluate alternatives to the proposed plan. Leonard Atencio, Supervisor of the Santa Fe National Forest, will make a decision by October 1998 concerning the proposed plan and alternatives. The final plan will be amended to the Forest Plan, replacing the current management direction for the JNRA. The public will be able to comment at all stages of the process.

Your Input Is Needed!!

The process represents a unique opportunity for environmentalists, conservationists, hikers, and campers to help define the future direction of the JNRA and Santa Fe National Forest. Individuals and groups representing commercial and recreational interests that are incompatible with the purposes of the Act are making themselves heard, and they pose a significant threat to the tranquillity of the JNRA, its wildlife and cultural sites. Please comment and help protect the JNRA and the Jemez.

For more information, or to submit comments by letter, fax or phone, contact John Bruin, Santa Fe National Forest, PO Box 1689, Santa Fe, NM 87504, phone: 505-438-7806, fax: 505-438-7834.



In-Stream Flow: The Time is Here!

by John Buchser, Chapter Chair and Water Issues Chair

In 1986, our snowpack was about half of normal. This resulted in major attention to water conservation issues, with at least one article per day about water appearing in the daily New Mexico newspapers.

Further, both city and county governments took notice. They made major steps towards dealing with short-term water resource planning. Many entities also took steps to accelerate the planning process for the future. This year, many of these plans are being presented to the public for comment. Understandably, these plans focus on alternatives and costs. These plans, as they are being presented to the public, are seeking input on how to proceed. This feedback process includes the public's evaluation of aesthetic and cultural values, which is a necessary part of the process.

Man--the Only Beneficiary

One aspect of these plans that should not have to be out of the "cultural and aesthetic" category is that of protecting fish, wildlife, plants, and ecosystems that depend upon a steady flow of water in our streams and rivers. A peculiarity of water law in this state is that water is allocated to be distributed to "beneficial uses." The problem is in the way "beneficial" is defined. Man is the only beneficiary of the water. The critters and plants don't count.

As New Mexico continues to grow, we are seeking ways to minimize the effects of limited supplies of water during drought years. Most of our communities lie in places where, many decades ago (and in many cases centuries ago), there was a stream nearby, or a water table which was near the surface. The water tables have dropped--in many

cases, from the original 5 or 10 feet, to the present time, where it is rare to find a water table under 100 feet from the surface. Understandably, our leaders and planners are seeking ways of stopping this mining of a limited resource. One of the quickest and cheapest solutions to come to mind is that of using water from the Rio Grande. Part of this water actually comes out of the Colorado River basin drainage, through a tunnel system which deposits the water in Heron Lake, a major recreation destination near Chama.

At first glance, this looks like a viable solution. The engineering to do this is not hard. The water is there (at least during most years!), and if we don't start to use it, someone else will likely put it to use (as I fully expect the reality is that the water is over-allocated). A major potential advantage of this solution is that we can discontinue mining of our water table--we can use the River water as our primary source of water. This has the advantage that during dry years, the water will be there, underground, to use as our water supply.

Invitation to Growth?

However, we believe many developers will see this "new" supply of water from the River as an invitation to continue a fast pace of growth. The point in time will be quickly reached where we depend both on River water and a level of groundwater use that lowers the water table, even during normal years. Continued hydrologic studies are needed to further document how much water we can use from a given water table before we establish permitting processes for additional growth. In the longer term, we probably need to institute monitoring of all wells, so we can be fair to all users.

Then we have the protection of our fish, critters, and plant life to consider. If we cause many of our water courses to go dry (as we already do in many places during most years), the impact to the ecosystem is dramatic. We must allocate minimal amounts of water to our streams and rivers to keep them alive. The State Engineer's Office and the Interstate Stream Commission are two agencies that should be tasked to make recommendations on how exactly our laws should be changed to accomplish this goal.

The Tasks at Hand

There are several tasks at hand for us. On the creative side, the term "in-stream flow" has been so extensively used by environmentalists over the years, that the policy makers barely take notice. We may need a new term. Those creative folks out there--let me know what you think! On the policy side, we need to continue to be involved with the planning processes in our local communities. And we need all of the environmental community to come together with a strategy to change our water laws to allow for protection of our river ecosystems!



Calling all editors!

Anyone with editing or newsletter production experience who would like to help produce the Rio Grande Sierran should contact Barbara Johnson at (505) 466-4935 or by email at barbara.johnson@sierraclub.org

The Chapter newsletter is one of the most important communications tools we have to keep in touch with our members and to let non-members know who we are and what we do. Your help is needed so that we may continue to use that tool effectively. Thank you!

RAINBOW EXPEDITIONS II BACKPACKING TO BEAUTIFUL PLACES

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Terry Gustafson (303) 239-9917

SUMMER - HIGH SIERRA

Aug 9-16 **Kings Canyon National Park, CA** \$465
Kearsarge Pass, Kearsarge Basin, Charlotte Lake, Gardiner Pass, Gardiner Basin, Sixty Lakes Basin, Rao Lakes, Baxter Lakes, Baxter Pass, and down the east scarp of the Sierras. **Strenuous. 42 miles. 7 lake basins & 3 high passes.**

Sep 7-13 **Mineral King & GW Divide, CA** \$510
Franklin Lakes, Franklin Pass, Little Claire Lake, x-country to Upper Soda Creek Bench & Amphitheater Lake, out via backpack col and Cobalt Lakes. Time enough to climb high peaks, and enjoy solitude, sunshine and early autumn colors. **Moderately Strenuous. 22 miles. High, some x-country.**

FALL - SOUTHWEST

Sep 28 - Oct 4 **Rainbow Plateau, Navajoland** \$520
A loop down Navajo Creek then north through slickrock country, and east to day hike in beautiful West Canyon. Skirt Cummings Mesa, then south on a sheep trail near Jayi Creek. **Moderately Strenuous. 24 miles. All x-country, slickrock.**

Oct 12-18 **Paria Canyon Wilderness, UT & AZ** \$490
Red rock, narrows, blue sky, fall colors and maybe a condor sighting. Explore lower Buckskin Gulch, the granddaddy of all slot canyons, and visit Wrath Arch along the way. **Moderate. 36 miles. Gentle downhill, crossing stream.**

Oct 19-25 **Fools-Escalante Canyon-Coyote, UT** \$525
A loop through three distinctly different canyons and over bare sandstone slickrock. The grandest of the Escalante Canyons are here, just north of Lake Powell. **Moderate. 31 miles. Minor scrambles, 6 mi. of river x-ing.**

Nov 9-15 **Superstition Wilderness, AZ** \$480
From saguaros to oaks, a variety of rugged Sonoran Desert scenes in this extensive wilderness near Phoenix. **Moderately Strenuous. About 30 miles. Rough country.**