

Rio Grande Sierran



News of the Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club
September/October 1997

Jim Baca Endorsed for Mayor of Albuquerque

by Kathy Love

The Albuquerque Group and the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club are pleased to announce that we have voted to endorse Jim Baca for Mayor of Albuquerque. A lifelong resident of New Mexico, Baca would bring to the Mayoral post a deep understanding of public administration as well as a strong conservation ethic. In light of the recent attacks on environmental legislation, our focus as a conservation organization has been defensive. With Baca's candidacy, we have a rare opportunity to take a proactive approach to local politics and further develop a conservation ethic in government from the ground up. Jim Baca is truly "one of us."

Active in Conservation

Baca's experience in Western politics, public lands issues, and the media is highly regarded. He has been actively involved in conservation issues as New Mexico's elected State Commissioner of Public Lands, national Director of the Federal Bureau of Land Management during the Clinton Administration, as a consultant to The Wilderness Society and as a volunteer grass-roots activist. As a former television journalist who focused on political and environmental issues at KOAT-TV in Albuquerque, he understands how to work with the media

in order to obtain fair and accurate coverage of environmental issues.

Director of BLM

As Director of the BLM, Baca's conservation ethic and concern for fairness to the American taxpayer often collided with the politics of heavily subsidized mining and ranching industries which have exploited public lands in the past. Baca opposed low grazing fees, fought for reform of the antiquated 1872 Mining Act, furthered work on wilderness study areas and ensured that the BLM took the process of wilderness designation seriously. He fought to maintain the integrity of our natural heritage and hold the federal government and extractive industries accountable to the taxpayer.

State Land Commissioner

As State Land Commissioner, Baca reformed outdated land management practices, restructured royalty rates, developed innovative solutions to commercial land-use problems, and fostered land swaps which resulted in the creation of the Bisti-De Na Zin Wilderness. In that position and as General Manager of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, he worked to protect the quality and quantity of New Mexico's water supply.

Baca is a consultant on national public lands and environmental issues. He recently concluded a nationwide speaking tour in cooperation with The Wilderness Society. He focused his tour on the need to defeat so called "takings" legislation and the assault on the health and integrity of America's public lands by both the current and the infamous 104th Congress. He visited approximately 150 newspaper editorial boards across the country in the last two years in order to educate the media and the public regarding Congress's assault on environmental legislation. He is a member of the Boards of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance and is a past Council Member of the Wilderness Society. Baca also served as New Mexico State Liquor Director, News Secretary to the Governor, and Administrative

Assistant to the Mayor of Albuquerque.

Uncontrolled Growth

One of the major issues Baca's term as Mayor would address is uncontrolled growth in Albuquerque: where we are going as a city, at what cost, and most importantly, how we can best manage growth to protect ourselves from the problems of urban sprawl. "We can do better—we can be more effective in designing our communities in a balanced manner, and promote growth that is good for all. The first step is to provide leadership that will foster positive growth with the least impact on the taxpayer while enhancing our quality of life," Baca said.

One of the major issues facing the sustainability of the quality of life in Albuquerque is transportation. He opposes building a road through the Petroglyph National Monument not only because of the implications such a road would have on the city of Albuquerque and New Mexico's natural heritage, but also because of the impact it would have on the integrity of national monuments and parks around the country.

"Not Allow Gridlock"

The Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments projects total traffic gridlock in Albuquerque by 2015. Baca promises that he "will not allow Albuquerque to have the gridlock problems of Los Angeles or New York in the 21st Century." His objectives for a long-range transportation plan include increased access to transit services and facilities; creation of a Regional Transit Authority to facilitate regional transportation planning, ensuring that land use, community and business planning, and transportation are carefully balanced; and increased community input in the planning of transportation projects. "As citizens we should feel confident that the city we will pass along to future generations is one that provides the same, if not better, quality of life we enjoyed. The only way to ensure this is through planning," Baca said.

How to Help

We hope that many of you will join the Albuquerque Group Executive Committee in campaigning for Jim Baca. The essence of this mayoral campaign is grassroots. A successful campaign will require a great deal of "on the ground" work such as walking precincts, phone banking and literature drops. Campaigning for Baca will be a great opportunity to support conservation in local government and educate Albuquerque voters about the environmental issues facing the city. Please call Baca's campaign office at 262-9822 if you would like to help!

Sierran Receives Award.

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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 2.

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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...

Paseo del Norte

Dear Editor:

I am very much in favor of the proposed legislation to make it possible for Paseo del Norte Blvd. to pass through the Petroglyph Park. I feel the position of the Sierra Club is poorly taken.

Sincerely,

Ralph Loken

411 Aliso Dr. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108-2604

Instream Flow

Dear Editor:

To John Buchser:

Here is my suggestion for a phrase to replace "instream flow":

"Non-diverted Beneficial Use."

In other words, "leave it in the stream for the benefit of the critters and the people who love them."

Sincerely,

Harold C. Reynolds

1817 College Ave.
Alamogordo, NM 88310-4712

Reading List

To all the folks at Rio Grande Sierran:

I strongly suggest that you take time out of your busy schedule and read a book. The book I have in mind is "Unintended Consequences" by John Ross.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS DESIRING TO PETITION FOR ELECTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

By press time for this issue of *The Sierran*, the Nominating Committee will have completed the preparation of its proposed slate of 1998 candidates for election to the Executive Committee. Accordingly, the Nominating Committee advises the membership of the following:

Any member in good standing of the Rio Grande Chapter as of September 1 may run for election by a petition presented to the Nominating Committee no later than October 17 of this year. The petition must contain the signatures of at least 50 members in good standing of the Rio Grande Chapter as of the date of signing the petition. Petitioners must also include a statement to be published in the *Rio Grande Sierran* detailing their conservation philosophy and goals for the Chapter.

Members of the Nominating Committee are:

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: hshs2@riolink.com

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

There are 3 positions open on the ExCom, each of which is a 3-year term.

If you have questions, please call.

It is a rather long book, about a thousand pages. However, your reading of this book could very well have a profound effect upon the future of this country and your own life, especially if you pay close attention to what you're reading.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Anderson

P.O. Box 1164
Silver City, NM 88062

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.

We'll try to plan breaks to explore and absorb the natural beauty of the area. (This makes for clearer discussions and better decisionmaking!) Martin reports that bear, cougar, bobcat and fox tracks have been spotted so expect the unexpected! Bird watching is spectacular, too.

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.

The facilities are rustic cabins for 6 which have bunks and mattresses so bring a sleeping bag or bedding plus a towel, please. Heat comes from fireplaces in each cabin so bring your warm PJ's in case its nippy.

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).

All Sierrans are invited to this special Chapter meeting. We extend a special invitation to Sierrans in the Western part of New Mexico.

The cost for the whole weekend, including all meals on Saturday plus Sunday breakfast is \$50 per person. Bring your own adult beverages.

Please RSVP to John Buchser at 505-820-0201, jbuchser@aol.com by September 5.

Somehow, I thought this would be a bit more strenuous



"That which is taken by force must be maintained by force."
Winston Churchill

Two years ago, when I began this column, I promised myself three things: one, to be open-minded about the causes of the Congressional assault on environmental laws; second, to be willing to level blame at ourselves if we deserved it; and third, to shut up after a reasonable period of time. Having stuck to the first two promises as best I could, I now keep the third.

Before I go, however, I would like to revisit a few of the points discussed previously, and offer a final recommendation or two. The roller coaster ride called "perpetual vigilance" never ends, of course; but there are ways to make it more effective.

Reinventing Our Roots

The environmental movement must broaden its focus, rearticulate its message, and find more eloquent heralds. It must get away from its current "ecology uber alles" approach by looking to its roots, which are grounded in the humanities, not science. It must reincorporate human needs into its paradigm, such as physical and mental health, spiritual questing, aesthetics, relaxation, and contemplation. After all, the two goals, ecology and human need, are connected at the root and can harmonize with little effort.

The Environmental Justice movement is a good example. It attacks the exploitation of people AND land, insisting that both are suffering from a common ailment. National environmental organizations, however, have been very slow in addressing EJ issues, mostly as a result of their continued ecological focus.

Our goal should be this: since human beings are predisposed to short-term environmental abuse, we must devise strategies that encourage long-term behavioral change. We must get people to look at the Big Picture. People must learn to accept limitations to their appetites and think about sustainability in the long-term. Ecological damage is just one manifestation of our perpetual short-sightedness. We must change fundamental behavior.

To do this we must find eloquent and creative leaders. Our movement has suffered from the recent deaths of passionate and articulate fighters, Edward Abbey, Wallace Stegner, Ansel Adams, among them.

Their shoes lie vacant. We are losing ground as a result; while we can promulgate an avalanche of letters and phone calls to stave off a Congressional crisis, we need philosophers and motivators to keep our fires burning for the long haul. Some exist, but we need more, and we need to encourage their activism.

Persuasion

Long-term change in human behavior will only occur if it is done voluntarily. People will change the way they conduct their daily business only if they are persuaded to do so, not arm-twisted into compliance. Recycling is a great example; a long, and thoughtful campaign to change people's attitudes toward their daily garbage has succeeded beyond most people's dreams. Recycling now appears to be embedded in our national psyche.

Unfortunately, environmentalists are increasingly abandoning their persuasive powers in favor of the sledgehammer lawsuit. Moral, ethical, and economic arguments for changing our destructive ways are replaced by legal opinion and law enforcement. We are achieving narrow ecological victories at the expense of long-term change. We have stopped being teachers, and become bullies instead.

The Club's new "zero-cut" policy, which calls for a ban on the commercial sale of public timber, is a good example. It has all the persuasive power of a guillotine. It abandons argument in favor of arm-twisting; it pushes people into a corner and tells them to stay there—or else. It creates resentment and anger, as guillotines do, instead of voluntary change.

On the other hand, we must not abandon the "big stick" when exploiters do damage to the land. Lawsuits, letters-to-the-editor, protests, public denunciations will always be a part of the toolbox of "perpetual vigilance," and rightly so. But we need a carrot to go along with our stick, otherwise things will never change substantially.

We need to persuade people as to the moral, ethical, economic, and spiritual "rightness" of our cause. Theoretically, everyone should already be on board. After all, who in their right mind could oppose clean air, clean water, open space, or the protection of wildlife? Well, SOME could, and do; but the majority of Americans are with us. Or should be.

Yet, polls say that "environmen-

talist" has become a dirty word. Why? Because we have stopped trying to convince people to change their lives through articulate argument, compassionate action, and meaningful solution. Instead, out of frustration, cynicism, and despair we are leaning more and more heavily on sledgehammers and forest theatre. We've abandoned the debater's podium in favor of the back alley.

Face it, our message is not getting through in a meaningful way anymore.

Creative Solutions

We need, as a movement, to generate new ideas to solve old fights. We're stuck in a rut. Sledgehammer lawsuits and eco-theatrics are not getting the job done anymore. While they remain narrowly, and temporarily, effective, they are having a decreasing impact on the hearts and minds of Americans. Witness the steep decline of membership in Greenpeace (from 1.2 million in 1991 to 400,00 today).

Fortunately, creative solutions to complex problems are beginning to appear. I am excited by a recent effort called "Green Wood." This is a certification process by which environmentally sensitive timber practices will receive a Green Seal-of-Approval, allowing consumers to vote with their pocketbooks. If activists involved in this collaborative process can work things out satisfactorily, Green Wood holds genuine promise for change.

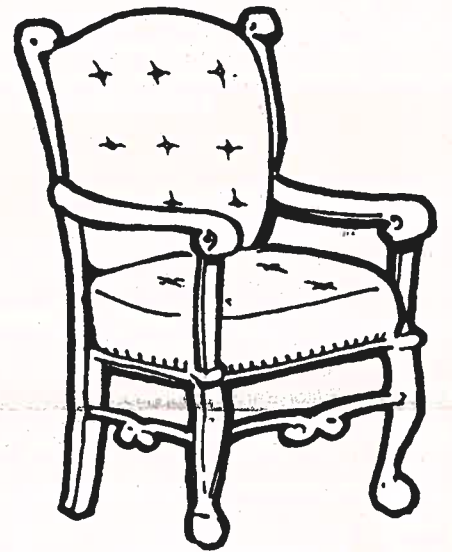
Personally, I am putting my words into action by devoting large chunks of time and energy to an effort to bring ranchers and environmentalists together over a new ranching technique that protects ecosystems while allowing ranchers to make a living. The response to this effort, called the Quivira Coalition, has been extremely positive, and nearly overwhelming.

Quivira's goal is long-term, voluntary change in behavior on the part of everyone—ranchers, environmentalists, agency folk, and the general public. We're not twisting anyone's arm. Instead, we're letting the power of our idea do the talking. Through workshops, site tours, and lectures we hope to educate and persuade people to change their attitudes. Already it is working. A few ranchers and environmentalists have put down their swords and begun talking about cooperating. It's a great first step down a long road.

I go with my fingers crossed.

The Uneasy Chair

by
Courtney White



NEW ORGANIZATIONS FOCUS ON WILDERNESS PRESERVATION

by Phyllenore Howard

Wilderness activists have formed one new organization and reorganized another to focus on preservation of wilderness in New Mexico.

The new New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, an individual membership organization, is an outgrowth of the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee of the 60s and 70s and the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition. Many of the activists of the new organization are leaders in the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, and other established environmental organizations. A key objective of the Alliance, however, is to activate people from throughout New

Mexico without regard for organizational affiliation. The Alliance is nonprofit and is acquiring foundation grants to enable activists to study and protect wild areas and educate the public about the values of wilderness preservation.

The New Mexico Wilderness Coalition is being reorganized as strictly a coalition of organizations and governmental entities committed to the preservation of wilderness. The steering committee is composed of representatives of the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, Sky Island Alliance, and The Wildlands Project. The primary purpose of the Coalition

will be to support Congressional designation of Public Lands as Wilderness, to work for effective management and protection of existing Federal Wilderness Areas, and to protect potential but undesignated wilderness.

The first member activity of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance was a campout in the San Mateo Mountains in mid-August. More than 30 people gathered to enjoy beautiful surroundings, to renew old friendships, and to recharge their enthusiasm for wilderness preservation. Another campout is planned the weekend of October 25 in the Socorro area in conjunction with the next Alliance membership

and Board meeting. Non-members are most welcome. Recent members of the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition are automatically current members of the Alliance.

Check the Alliance Web Site for information about the campout and about how you can become involved (<http://www.sdc.org/nmwa>), or call an Alliance Director in your area: Bob Howard, 466-6719 (Santa Fe); Nancy Morton, 237-8631 (Albuquerque); Rick Aster 835-4596 (Socorro); Greg Magee, 525-9424 (Las Cruces); Wes Leonard, 915-747-6649 (El Paso).

Las Conchas/El Cajete
Pumice Mines

Mining Issues Report

by Abe Jacobson

The Chapter's Mining Issues Committee has been pursuing fruitful collaborations with two entities whose interests are not primarily environmental. The Sierra Los Pinos subdivision, across State Road 4 from the proposed El Cajete pumice mine, is becoming increasingly organized and effective in pressuring the Forest Service and the State to ensure that the mine is operated in the least-irresponsible, least community-hostile way possible. The Committee is working with the Sierra Los Pinos Homeowners Association and with the Jemez National Recreation Area Homeowners Association both in documenting and publicizing problems with the mine and in representing before the Mining and Minerals Division the strong case against this mine as the mine has been proposed. Mining and Minerals is considering the El Cajete mine as a "new unit" of an existing operation (Las Conchas), rather than as a new mine. The Rio Grande Chapter emphatically believes that to do so would abuse and distort both the Mining Act and the associated Rules, in a manner systematically favoring the interests of the commercial permittee over the poorly represented interests of the general public.

Unsafe Truck Traffic

Likewise, the Los Alamos County Council is now pursuing means to protect county residents and public motorists from the illegal and grossly unsafe truck traffic which is proposed for El Cajete. The Mining Act requires Mining and Minerals to assess and to consider the impacts of a proposed mine on local communities. The Sierra Club believes that the proposed El Cajete mine is likely to cause the most tragic "impact" imaginable to nearby communities: maiming and killing motorists on State Road 4.

State Road 4 is a narrow, winding, steep mountain road. It is to be the route for transport of the mined pumice from El Cajete mine to Copar plants in either San Ysidro or Espanola. The transport is to be done in 80,000-pound-class, articulated 18-wheel trucks. There are several corners on Route 4 at which such trucks are physically incapable of staying entirely on their own side of the double solid centerline.

"Encroachment"

In the parlance of highway design, this is called "encroachment." Encroachment is not necessarily illegal in all circumstances, although it is in certain cases. The State highway laws and the Los Alamos traffic ordinances (which apply to that portion of Route 4 in Los Alamos County) treat this in detail, and we shall return to this matter below.

The transport of pumice from the mine to the processing plants, and the return trip empty, will result in 20 round-trips per day, or 40 one-way transits per day, for each of an estimated 250 operating days/year, for an estimated 10 years. This amounts to 50,000 round trips,

or 100,000 one-way transits during the decade of mine operation. Three-quarters of this traffic, or about 75,000 one-way transits, will be on the east side (to/from Espanola), one-quarter on the west side (to/from San Ysidro.) Thus most of the impact on the driving public will occur to the East of the mine.

This Traffic Not Legal

We question whether, in fact, the traffic will be legal. State Road 4 between the junction near Ponderosa Campground and the Dome Road contains several extremely sharp curves, on which the proposed truck traffic will necessarily lead to encroachments. The worst of these is located a couple of hundred meters from the lower junction, but there are several others. We have examined the road carefully, and we believe five such curves exist. Thus, given 75,000 truck passages in a decade, we can look forward to a 375,000 foreseeable encroachments. These curves have been the sites of several near-crashes over the last decade, during which oncoming traffic had to exit into the ditch on their side of the road. The traffic laws of the State of New Mexico carefully delineate what is, and what is not, allowed in the case of encroachments. Specifically, the law does not allow encroachments that are concealed by a curve so that oncoming vehicles cannot be seen in advance, and reacted to, by either the driver of the encroaching vehicle or the driver of an approaching vehicle. We cite item 66-7-313, which states:

"66-7-313. Further limitations on driving to left of center of roadway

"A. No vehicle shall at any time be driven to the left side of the roadway under the following conditions:

"(1) When approaching the crest of a grade, or upon a curve in the highway where the driver's view is obstructed within such a distance as to create a hazard in the event another vehicle might approach from the opposite direction; . . ."

We are convinced that several of these turns on State Road 4 are of the type referred to in clause 66-7-313. That is, we are convinced that there is impeded vision by the drivers of the two vehicles toward the other vehicle, approaching the very curve where the encroachment is taking place. Recent research by Robert Sebring and other residents of Sierra Los Pinos confirms that the trucks are transiting these turns in a grossly unsafe and illegal manner. He has documented these truck transits of the curves on video for all to see.



HELP PROTECT THE JEMEZ NATIONAL RECREATION AREA AND THE SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST!

The Jemez National Recreation Area (NRA) receives hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, providing important recreation opportunities including auto touring, hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, sightseeing, rock climbing, and wildlife observation. The Santa Fe National Forest has an unprecedented opportunity to protect the entire Jemez National Recreation Area from mineral exploitation by acquiring the mineral rights to nearly 100,000 acres of national forest lands, as well as to protect of over 2,000 acres of land in the Jemez through acquisition of three critical parcels.

Jemez Mineral Rights--A private landowner currently owns the mineral rights to approximately 100,000 acres in the Santa Fe National Forest. Most of the property lies within the Jemez National Recreation Area. The Jemez Mountains are mineral rich, including potential for pumice, gypsum, gold, silver, copper, and uranium mining. New Mexico is the second largest producer of pumice in the nation, with the vast majority mined from the Jemez Mountains. According to the U.S. Forest Service, one of the main reasons Congress established the NRA was to protect the area from mineral exploitation.

Elk Meadows--The National Park and Conservation Association, the Sierra Club, and the local Pueblos have long been concerned about this 90-acre parcel which abuts both the Santa Fe National Forest and Bandelier National Monument. The property is located at the headwaters of Alamo Spring, a critical watershed in this area. Earlier this year, the Sandoval County Commission approved an eight-home subdivision for Elk Meadows. If the property is not acquired, it will most certainly be developed. The U.S. Forest Service has offered to acquire the property this year to prevent its development. Senator Bingaman has introduced a bill in the Senate for acquisition of this property. We are looking for someone to introduce a similar bill in the House.

Jemez Springs--This 1,000-acre tract of land represents the entire viewshed of the village of Jemez Springs. Spectacular high mesa bluffs with significant natural and archeological value run north-south along both sides of State Highway 4, a state-designated Scenic Byway which is currently being considered for designation as a Federal Scenic Byway. Virgin Mesa is located on the west side of the property, and Cat Mesa on the east side. The nearby Jemez Pueblo is very concerned about protection of Virgin Mesa. These cliffs are on the USFS list of Historic and Prehistoric Heritage Resource sites.

This area also has been identified as sensitive habitat for Peregrine Falcon and Goshawk, and potential habitat for the Mexican Spotted Owl. The USFS is extremely interested in acquiring this parcel to protect the viewshed from Jemez Springs and to

(con't on page 5)

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 Dominici (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

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Senator_Bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov
Newt Gingrich:
georgia6@hr.house.gov
The White House:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov>

Help Protect Jemez National Recreation Area

(con't from page 4)

preserve its natural and cultural resources. Jemez Springs has been experiencing explosive growth, with houses being built on the steep slopes adjacent to the Jemez River. This property, the east side in particular, is highly developable and preservation would protect it from future subdivision.

Blind Canyon—This 444-acre parcel on the southern edge of Cat Mesa contains scenic bluffs which have been identified as sensitive habitat for Peregrine Falcon and Goshawk. Blind Canyon comprises the viewshed from State Highway 4 for those entering the Jemez National Recreation Area from the south. This area, like Jemez Springs, is also experiencing extreme growth pressure and is subject to possible development.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The federal money to purchase these properties comes from the Land and Water Conservation Fund — not tax dollars. This fund, established by Congress in 1964 to protect America's natural and cultural resources and provide outdoor recreational opportunities, is endowed with revenue from off-shore oil and gas leasing. In the past few years, LWCF has been seriously underfunded. This year, however, Congress allocated an unprecedented \$700 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund over the FY98 President's Budget level. Already, these funds have largely been reallocated to other projects across the nation. Your help is needed to let Congress know the importance of allocating funds for the Santa Fe National Forest to protect the Jemez Mountains.

Ask your members of Congress to submit a request to the Interior Appropriations subcommittee to earmark \$5 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the Santa Fe National Forest. Let them know that you want to see the Jemez Mountains protected. Also give them support for rightfully appropriating off-shore oil and gas lease revenues to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Remind them that these monies should be allocated to protect America's natural and cultural resources and provide recreational opportunities, as it was intended. The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides for significant, forward-thinking investments for our children.

YOUR ACTION WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE IN THIS CRUCIAL EFFORT!

Congress will begin making funding decisions on individual projects right after Labor Day, so please write or call your Senators and House represen-

tatives as soon as possible.

The Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Pete Domenici
(202) 224-6621 (DC)
(505) 766-3481 (Albuquerque)
(505) 623-6170 (Roswell)
(505) 988-6511 (Santa Fe)
(505) 526-5475 (Las Cruces)
Email: SENATOR_DOMENICI@DOMENICI.SENATE.GOV

Sen. Jeff Bingaman
(202) 224-5521 (DC)
(505) 766-3636 (Albuquerque)
(505) 523-8237 (Las Cruces)
(505) 988-6647 (Santa Fe)
Email: SENATOR_BINGAMAN@BINGAMAN.SENATE.GOV

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Steve Schiff (1st District)
(202) 225-6316 (DC)
(505) 766-2538 (Albuquerque)

Rep. Joe Skeen (2nd District)
(202) 225-2365 (DC)
(505) 527-1771 (Las Cruces)
(505) 622-0055 (Roswell)

Rep. Bill Redmond (3rd District)
(202) 225-6190 (DC)
(505) 599-1460 (Farmington)
(505) 892-0901 (Rio Rancho)
(505) 988-7230 (Santa Fe)

Important note: If you live in the 3rd District, you will have the opportunity to make this one of the first issues Congressman Redmond addresses. If you live in the 1st District, please thank Congressman Schiff for his past efforts to protect Tres Pisas in the Cibola National Forest. For those in the 2nd District, please ask Congressman Skeen, who serves on the Interior Appropriations subcommittee, to use his influence to support this project. Please thank both Senator Domenici and Senator Bingaman for their consistent efforts to protect New Mexico's natural and cultural resources through appropriations for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Thank you!

Plan to Attend a Mayoral Forum...

Mayoral Forums provide voters with a golden opportunity to learn what the candidates think. Select one from the list that follows and GO!

Here are suggested questions you might ask:

What are the greatest challenges to be met to ensure Albuquerque has a sustainable water supply?

Should we do more to conserve water? If so, suggest specific actions we should take.

What actions should be taken to ensure that we have clean air?

What is your position on the proposed extension of Paseo del Norte through Petroglyph National Monument?

What will you do to make sure the State Legislature passes the RTA enabling legislation? When the legislation is passed, what actions will you take to implement the Regional Transit Plan?

Do you support the Albuquerque Sustainability Indicators Project and the public education and participation program proposed by the City Sustainable Community Committee?

Do you support City participation in regional planning projects such as Focus 2050 and the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan?

Mayoral Forums

- Sept. 5 3:00 - 4:00 PM--Senior Forum, 131 Monroe NE
- Sept. 9 12:00 - 1:30 PM--Assoc. of UNM Cont. Ed Retirees, 1634 University NE
- Sept. 9 7:00 - 9:00 PM--Human Rights Comm., City Council Chambers
- Sept. 10 7:00 - 8:30 AM--Economic Forum, Sheraton Old Town
- Sept. 10 12:00 - 1:30 PM--Assoc. of Builders & Contractors, El Pinto Restaurant
- Sept. 10 7:00 - 9:00 PM--League of Women Voters & Shared Vision, Inc., Immanuel Pres. Church, 114 Carlisle SE
- Sept. 11 7:30 - 8:30 AM--NAIOP, Marriott
- Sept. 11 7:00 - 9:00 PM--Lesbian & Gay Pol. Alliance, Lovelace Med. Center Aud.
- Sept. 16 7:00 - 9:00 PM--Arts Alliance, Lovelace Med. Center Auditorium
- Sept. 17 7:00 - 9:00 PM--Jones Intercable, Sheraton Uptown
- Sept. 18 7:00 - 8:30 PM--North Valley Coalition
- Sept. 20 10:00 - 11:30 AM--Older Women League, Bear Canyon Sr Center, 4645 Pitt NE
- Sept. 21 9:30 AM - 12:55 PM--Congregation Albert, 3800 Louisiana NE
- Sept. 22 12:00 - 1:45 PM--Rotary, Albuquerque Country Club
- Sept. 23 12:00 - 1:00 PM--Albuquerque Press Women, Petroleum Club
- Sept. 24 7:00 - 8:30 AM--Economic Forum, Sheraton Old Town
- Sept. 25 7:30 - 9:00 AM--1000 Friends of NM, Smith Brasher Hall, TVI
- Sept. 25 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM--Albuquerque Economic Dev., Hyatt
- Sept. 25 7:00 - 9:00 PM--S. Valley Chamber, TVI S. Valley Campus
- Oct. 1 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM--Kiwanis, Radisson

Don't miss "Thinking Regionally!"

A challenging topic and innovative format, engaging mayoral candidates in discussion of vital issues which reach beyond municipal boundaries! The League of Women Voters and Shared Vision, Inc. are jointly sponsoring a mayoral candidates forum which will focus on issues of regional importance.

Candidates will be asked to address regional concerns such as water

quantity/quality, land use, transportation and economic development.

When: Wednesday, September 10, 7:00 - 9:30 PM

Where: Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 114 Carlisle SE.

Forum will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Open house with refreshments beginning at 6:30 PM. Parking—east side of the building and on the corner of Hermosa and Silver. For more information, contact Shared Vision, Inc., 505-768-3292.

Club Endorses Robbins in District 5 Council Race

by Richard Barish

The Sierra Club has endorsed incumbent ANGELA ROBBINS in her bid for reelection to the Albuquerque City Council. Robbins represents Council District 5 in the near northeast heights.

For the last four years, Robbins has been the one reliable environmental vote and our strongest environmental advocate on the Albuquerque City Council. She has been a leader in the fight on a range of issues, including the extension of Paseo del Norte through Petroglyph National Monument, the Westside Strategic Plan, funding for open space acquisition, and Monta Cuo Bridge.

Robbins is a planner by training and emphasizes the environmental and fiscal necessity of stopping sprawl development. Robbins has pledged to work in her next term to keep capital spending focused on repairs and maintenance in the interior of the city, which will not only limit sprawl development, but will also stop the growth of Albuquerque's \$1 billion deferred maintenance bill.

If you live in Albuquerque District 5, please vote for Angela Robbins for City Council.



Sustainable Living Workshop For Stayers

If you want to stay where you are and create a more earth friendly lifestyle, this workshop is for you!

When: Saturday, October 11, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Where: Friends Meeting House, 1600 5th Street NW

The workshop will feature roundtable discussion about . . .

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Restore

The City of Albuquerque generates 6000 tons (12 million pounds) of municipal solid waste each week! And then there's hazardous waste like old paint and oil. What can you do to reduce your contribution to this mountain of trash?

Beyond Low Flow

After you've installed that low flow shower head, what else can be done to reduce water use?

Energy Efficiency

Energy related pollution affects air, water, soil and is changing the world's climate. Plus energy bills account for a good part of your household budget. What can be done to use less?

Sustainable Building Workshop Part 2

Do you want to be a critical consumer? Come learn about buying and building sustainable homes:

When: Saturday, November 1, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Where: Friends Meeting House, 1600 5th Street NW

Solar Designs

Members of the New Mexico Solar Energy Association will share their experience with slides, discussion and group exercises. Topics will include passive and active solar designs, home-energy rating systems, and a comparison of different sustainable building systems (straw bale, adobe, cob, rammed earth, etc.).

Building Green

Representatives from the Homebuilders Association of Central New Mexico will talk about their Green Building Program.

For Each Workshop: We'll share sun oven-cooked munchies and potluck lunch. Cost for each workshop is \$10.00 including munchies and resource materials.

Call the Hotline at 265-5506 to register and check the Homepage at <http://www.nm.org/~sierra> for more information.

These are the 2nd and 3rd of a series of workshops sponsored by the Sierra Club, Albuquerque Group.

Learn to Xeriscape

Help Beth Xeriscape Her Yard!

Beth MacDonald wants to convert her yard to xeriscaping and she has a plan developed by Judith Phillips, a leading xeriscape architect. She is offering folks a real experiential education opportunity! Learn about the principles of xeriscape by helping Beth with this conversion. To volunteer, call the Hotline, 505-265-5506!

CALENDAR

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

Sept 1	Deadline for agenda items for Group ExCom. Call Jack Humphrey at 243-5319
Sept 8	Group ExCom Meeting, 7:00 PM
Sept 9	Sustainable Albuquerque Meeting, 7:00 PM. Call Susan Gorman, 265-3231
Sept 12-14	Chapter Getaway at Cottonwood Gulch. See story, page 2.
Sept 22	Sustainability Indicators Forum, 7:30 PM, Friends Meeting House. See story above.
Sept 25	1000 Friends of New Mexico Breakfast Forum, 7:15 AM. Call 848-8232 for location.
Oct 6	Deadline for agenda items for Group ExCom. Call Jack Humphrey at 243-5319
Oct 7	City Election-VOTE!
Oct 11	"Stayers" Workshop. See article above.
Oct 13	Group ExCom, 7:00 PM
Oct 14	Sustainable Albuquerque Meeting, 7:00 PM. Call Susan Gorman, 265-3231
Oct 15	Deadline for articles for Nov/Dec Rio Grande Sierran
Oct 23	1000 Friends of New Mexico Breakfast Forum, 7:15 AM. Call 848-8232 for location.
Nov 1	Sustainable Building Workshop, Part 2. See article above.

Attention! New date and location!

Special Topics Forum

To Plan is Human; to Implement is Divine! Moving Toward a Sustainable Future

When: September 22, 7:30 PM
Where: Friends Meeting House 1600 5th Street NW

The Albuquerque area has plenty of plans and studies: Transportation Evaluation Study, Westside Strategic Plan, Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Comprehensive Plan, Long Range Transportation Plan, Regional Transit Plan, Sector plans. . . .

But sprawl and traffic congestion and bad air days continue.

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 has just been submitted to the Mayor and City Council.

The Indicators are measuring systems, designed, developed and researched by the a group of citizens who represent a broad base of community and industry organizations, including the Sierra Club. They provide us with clear and honest information about past trends, present realities and help us to set our course for the future. By creating indicators, we acknowledge that we need new ways to track progress that help us to balance economic, environmental and social concerns and outcomes.

Susan Gorman, Chair of Albuquerque's Sustainable Community Committee and Leader of the Sierra Club's Sustainable Albuquerque Team, will give an overview of the indicators and lead a discussion about what they tell us about our community and how we can become more sustainable.

Bring a friend and a cup for refreshments, too.

Calling All Editors!

Anyone with editing or newsletter production experience (or anyone who wishes to learn) who would like to help produce a newsletter for the Albuquerque Group should contact Jack Humphrey, 243-5319. This is one of the most important functions of the Group. We need your help to do it effectively. Thank you!

Group Directory

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

Jack Humphrey, 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 Grebošky	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	OPEN	
Petroglyph National Monument	Ike Eastvold	255-7679
Petroglyph Protection Coalition	Julie Hicks	345-7832
Sustainable Albuquerque	Susan Gorman	265-3231
	bblairb@aol.com	
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

Sustainable Building Workshop A Success!

by Barbara Ford and Susan Gorman

A good group of builders and dreamers gathered at Truffula House to share knowledge about building sustainable homes. Eco-builders Harvey Day and Joe Matesi talked about what's involved and how to get started.

Joe reminded us that we are living beyond the means of the earth's ability to sustain itself. He suggested that we must create new sustainable paths and re-think human habitats by designing with nature instead of ignoring natural patterns.

Material selection criteria must encompass durability, harmony, spirituality and regional identity. Using locally produced materials is best because this creates jobs and saves transportation costs (which include the cost associated with air pollution from burning fossil fuels).

Designs that retain resources within the community, take advantage of local and on-site energies, reuse water and compost wastes make a home more sustainable. Joe demonstrated the process he uses to design the home to fit the site, considering the land contours, natural vegetation and drainage. There was so much more—but you had to be there!

Harvey talked about the importance of acknowledging the effects of earth energies and electromagnetic fields on human well being. Many conventional homes actually make people sick, even if the symptoms are initially very subtle. Therefore, we need to identify these energies and potential hazards (using dowsers and pendulums) and plan our houses such that the negative earth and electric energies from computer screens, TV, electric wiring and other electronic devices do not affect us.

For example, there are electric grid switch-off systems to make bedrooms free of electrical charge at night so we can sleep peacefully and recharge our immune systems. The ancient Chinese practice of Feng Shui and the more recent European building research called "Baubiology" help us design healthy, sustainable homes, taking into consideration energy patterns and the health and durability of different materials, among other considerations.

We took a break to share a wonderful lunch that featured chicken and nachos cooked in Sun Ovens and discussed, talked, shared, debated and informed each other.

Then Rebecca Henderson and Gary Gritzbaugh told their home building stories. Rebecca's straw bale cottage is still in process and she shared her quest to find chemical-free materials, design a water collection system on the roof and a built-in solar oven. She shared her sources of information and materials with us.

Gary's home, in Hillsboro in the Black Range, is designed to look like the other Victorian homes on Main Street. Below that normal exterior are bales of straw all carefully cut and placed with care by Gary. He shared some of the unique design features like windows that are wider inside than out to let in more light and plastered inside walls to provide the spaces for shelves and cabinets.

We had so many folks who wanted to come that we have asked the presenters to come back again and they all agreed. We'll plan a repeat performance in November, so stay tuned.

Sustainable Albuquerque Team

Come to the regular meeting, September 9, 7:00 PM, Sierra Club Office, and help develop a Vision for Albuquerque in 2050! The Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments has initiated this visioning process which will be used for their Focus 2050 Regional Plan. Steve Burstein of MRGCOG will facilitate a discussion with us so we need plenty of folks to participate. If you haven't come to one of our meetings, yet, this is the one to attend!

Need more informaton? Contact Susan Gorman TEL: 505-265-3231, FAX 505-256-0373, EMail bblairb@aol.com



We're planning a Groundwater Festival for Albuquerque's kids !

The purpose of the Festival is to educate students about groundwater and its relationship to other human and natural resources in a fun and interactive atmosphere.

Students will learn:

- ◆ What is groundwater?
- ◆ Why is groundwater so important to life?
- ◆ How much water is down there?
- ◆ What is the water cycle and where does groundwater fit?
- ◆ How are trees, plants, animals, people, soils, and water interdependent?
- ◆ How do our actions affect water and all nature?
- ◆ What can we do to protect and conserve our groundwater?

The Festival will be held on **October 16, 1998** for students in the 4th through 6th grades in schools in the Albuquerque area.

How you can help....

Join us! We are inviting others to participate in the organization and implementation of this project.

For more information, contact:

Susan Gorman ◆ 2226B Wyoming NE, Suite 272 ◆ Albuquerque, NM 87112
TEL: 505-265-3231 ◆ FAX: 505-256-0373 ◆ EMail bblairb@aol.com

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.

Sun 14 Sep 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

Sun 12 Oct Leisure
Miles: 3 Car: 3

Hike - Oxbow

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

Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat 19 Oct - Sun 20 Oct Tres Piedras Service Project

The Tres Piedras Ranger District is proposing to incorporate several existing closed roads into trails. Besides increasing recreational opportunities, this will help to reduce erosion. Hiking and cross country skiing will be readily available after this conversion to trails. If you volunteer to work, you are not required to work both days. Your help is needed for this project and working either Saturday or Sunday (or both) would be greatly appreciated. Please contact either of the leaders for further information.

Leaders: Stan Kauchak (839-4301) or Georgia Jannuzzi (881-9365)

Sat 25 Oct Leisure-Moderate
Miles: ? Car: ?

Mystery Hike

We will take a hike somewhere—most likely in a National Forest within driving distance of Albuquerque. The exact location of the hike will be dependent upon whether or not snow is flying by the date of the hike. Of course, you must call the leader for all the details.

Leader: Tom Leck 256-7217

Please note: Leading an outing is strictly voluntary. Your current Outings Chairperson has a long list of potential outings leaders who are being contacted bimonthly. Your current Outings Chairperson, however, absolutely refuses to coerce or cajole anyone into leading a hike. Hence there will be times when the outings list will be rather short. As you can probably tell, both September and October fall into this category. Anyone out there who may be interested in leading hikes is encouraged to give me a call and I will add your name to the list of those to contact. Rest assured that your arm will never be twisted by me. If no one wishes to voluntarily lead a hike, there will be no hikes. If lots of you wish to volunteer to lead hikes, there will be lots of hikes. What there is or isn't, with regard to the frequency of hikes, is strictly up to each of you. Tom Leck - 256-7217.

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.

Upcoming Meetings

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

September 2: Inner City Outings.
Contact Richard Rheder at 544-5659 (H).

September 3: Executive Committee.
Contact Gary Williams at 593-3624 (H).

September 10: Conservation Committee.
Contact John Sproul at 532-9645 (W).

The annual picnic has been changed to Friday, September 26 at 5:30.

Bring a salad, chips, veggies or dessert to share.
Bring your own table service and lawn chairs.

Donation of \$2 for hamburgers & hot dogs.
Nominal charge for soft drinks and beer.



Outings

Sep 6: Three Rivers Day Hike

Place: Lincoln National Forest

Class: Moderate to Strenuous

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

Covering almost 11 miles, this hike involves an elevation gain of about 3,000 feet.

Sep 18-21: Holt Gulch Trail Maintenance Trip

Place: Glenwood Ranger District, Gila National Forest, NM

Class: Easy to Moderate

Leader: Rollin Wickenden: 534-6594 (W)

We plan to depart El Paso on Thursday evening and drive to our camp site at Sheridan Corral. On Friday, we will drive to the Glenwood, NM Ranger Station where we will board a Forest Service vehicle for transport to our base camp in Holt Gulch. Over the next 2½ days, we will cut back brush, level trail tread, and build waterbars. We'll work under the direction of Steve Brown, trail boss of the Glenwood District. Besides working on maintaining the trail, there will be opportunities for hiking from one of the Gila's most remote trail heads. Reports from Laurence are that the trail is beautiful, with fields of yellow Columbines.

The Forest Service will provide tools, water and hard hats. Participants should bring work gloves, day packs, camping equipment, and lots of energy for trail work. We will drive back to El Paso on Sunday afternoon. Call early for details and reservations.

Sep 27: Tom Mays "Sampler" Day Hike

Place: Franklin Mountains State Park, West El Paso

Class: Easy+

Leader: Ann Falknor: 833-9162 (H)

This is a great hike for beginners in good shape, newcomers, and prospective members. Come inspect recent improvements and a new route over familiar terrain. On this 4± mile semi-loop you will visit three of the park's best known highlights: Aztec Caves, Mundy Gap, and West Cottonwood Springs, followed by a short car shuttle back to the starting point.

Sep 28: Robledo Peak Dayhike

Place: Robledo Mountains, NM

Class: Easy

Leader: Alice Anderson: (505) 523-5179

We will walk up the easy west side of this limestone peak to look over the rugged east side at the Rio Grande below. This is a BLM Wilderness Study Area with outstanding scenic and biologic values. You must see it to appreciate it!

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

Oct 25: Trail of 1000 Steps/Comanche Peak Loop Dayhike

Place: Franklin Mountains

Class: Moderate

Leader: Richard Rheder: 544-5659 (H)

We will meet at the head of Robinson Street. We'll follow a bicycle trail to a large metal reflector, then go up the Trail of 1000 Steps to the ridge below Ranger Peak. We'll walk the road back to our starting point.

Nov 8-9: McKettrick Canyon Dog Canyon Loop Backpack

Place: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Class: Moderate to strenuous

Leaders: Rollin Wickenden 534-6594 (W)

Laurence Gibson 594-7342 (H)

Nov 15-16: Williams Ranch Backpack

Place: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Class: Strenuous

Leader: Alice Anderson: (505) 523-5179

Nov 28-30: Big Hatchet Car Camp & Day Hikes Thanksgiving Special

Place: Big Hatchet Mountains, NM

Class: Moderate

Leader: Alice Anderson: (505) 523-5179



The deadline for the El Paso LORAX is the 10th of the month.
Submit your listings to editor Sally Savage: 833-6899 (H)

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
	Miriam Oudejeans	672-0414

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

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		

Upcoming Meetings

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

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 members are encouraged to attend.

Elections for 1998 Group ExCom: A Nominating Committee has been formed consisting of Walter Matuska, Janet Gerwin, and John Bartlit. Members interested in running for one of the 3 two-year term positions should contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

General Meetings

October 1: Dr. Denny Erickson, Division Director, Environment, Safety, and Health, Los Alamos National Laboratory. The title of Dr. Erickson's talk is *An Overview of LANL With Respect to the Environment*.

Nov. 5 General Meeting, Joe Keesecker, Director of Ghost Ranch, *Issues in Northern New Mexico and the Chama River Valley*. Joe will discuss particular issues such as cattle grazing and riparian areas, the damn dam, and the concerns of small ranchers around Abiquiu Reservoir. Several small, traditional ranchers may also speak.

Outings

Michael Smith plans to lead some more lunch hikes this fall, and has organized another outing with Ranger Bill Armstrong. Several members have been on previous outings with Bill and urge more of you to join him, as he is a wonderful resource.

Friday, September 19. Easy/Moderate Lunch Hike to Canada Bonita (near Pajarito Ski Area). Meet at west end of parking lot at 11:45 AM. Contact Michael Smith (662-2380) for more information.

Sunday, September 21. Moderate/Hard Hike with Ranger Bill Armstrong of the Forest Service to view and discuss the use of prescribed fire in the Mesitas Area near Abiquiu. Possible trail maintenance. Bring lunch, work gloves. Meet 7:30 AM at the Espanola Ranger Station. Call Michael Smith (662-2380) for

reservation.

Friday, October 3. Easy/Moderate Lunch Hike along East Fork of the Jemez River. Meet at west end of Sullivan Field parking lot to carpool at 11:45 AM. Michael Smith (662-2380).

Friday, October 17. Moderate Lunch Hike in the Jemez Mountains, west of Los Alamos. Meet 11:45 west end of S-site parking lot or call for directions. Michael Smith (662-2380).

Friday, October 31. Easy/Moderate Lunch Hike to the Arch (off the Mitchell Trail). Meet at trailhead at 11:45. Call Michael Smith (662-2380) for directions.

Joint Pajarito Group-Santa Fe Group Retreat/Outing

Why? So that members of the Pajarito and Santa Fe Groups can spend time getting to know each other, hiking, learning about some of the issues that concern Northern New Mexico and the Chama River Valley, and becoming acquainted with this 23,000 acre community-centered study center.

Ghost Ranch Gathering, Friday evening, October 24th through Sunday, October 26

Rates are: Room with private bath	\$60/person, including meals
Semi-private bath	\$55/person, including meals
Dorm style room	\$44/person, including meals
Campground, no electricity	\$12/camp unit/day
Campground, w/electricity	\$14/camp unit/day
Meals:	Bkfst. \$5.00; Lunch \$6.50; Dinner \$7.00

There may be additional charges for musical performances by local musicians and for the use of an AV-equipped break-out room for discussions, should it be required.

Tentative Program**Friday evening**

Get acquainted gathering, orientation to Ghost Ranch.

Saturday

Before Breakfast - Hike to Chimney Rock.

After Breakfast - Ranchlands tour, including:

Ruth Hall Museum of Paleontology

Museum of Anthropology

High Desert Research Farm

Orientation to winter grazing program

Water recycling system.

After Lunch: Tour of Abiquiu Dam site (The damn Dam)

Tour across ranch range to cliffs over Abiquiu reservoir

Visit to Ghost Ranch Living Museum.

After Dinner: Possible local Hispanic music group and local ranchers to mix with our group so one-on-one perspectives can be gained by Sierrans on how the locals view issues. Some food and drinks will be served.

Sunday

Before breakfast: Hike the red hills south of the Ranch Center, ending at the dining hall.

After breakfast: (if desired) a short ecumenical service.

A one-hour meeting to share our questions, perspectives and insights.

Hike to Kitchen Mesa, and beyond.

Possible horseback hike across the colorful geography of Ghost Ranch.

Lunch or possible long hike (taking lunch) to Mesa Montrosa.

Final meeting, 3:00PM, for one hour round up and comment on what we have learned.

Trip Organizer: Warren Lieb (662-7966). Because Warren will be out of town from September 26 through October 10, please contact Jennifer Johnson (662-3023) for reservations. Reservations must be made and the full cost of the outing paid by check (made out to the Sierra Club) by October 10.



**You have
more
to give
than you know**

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

For more information and confidential assistance, contact the Sierra Club Planned Giving Program, 85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105, (415) 977-5639.



SANTA FE GROUP MEETINGS

PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT

Tuesday, September 16, 7 PM

Ike Eastvold, recipient of the Sierra Club's Special Achievement Award for his leadership in creating Petroglyph National Monument, will present a slide lecture comparing the symbolism of the Monument petroglyphs and New Mexico kiva murals in the context of new information from Pueblo Indian religious elders which illuminates for the first time how these sacred images function in a sacred space.

Ike will explain alternatives to road construction through Petroglyph National Monument and how we can get involved to defeat the Congressional legislation to authorize these roads.

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

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



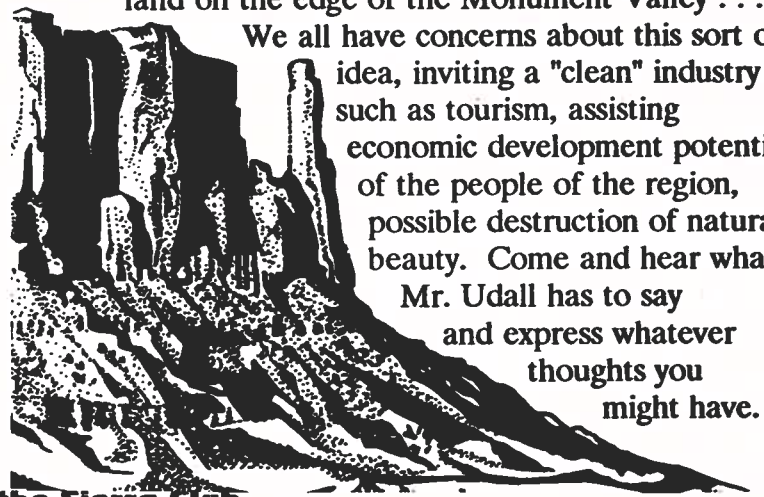
AMERICA'S SCENIC CIRCLE Opening Up the Beauty of the Southwest

Tuesday, October 21, 7 PM

Stewart Udall, Secretary of the Interior during the administrations of Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, Santa Fe resident and a leading architect of the environmental movement, will speak to us about his proposal to create a "world-class hub in Indian Country."

He says, "The Navajo Nation's Monument Valley is one logical site for a world-class hotel which could serve as the needed new hub . . . nestled unobtrusively into the land on the edge of the Monument Valley . . ."

We all have concerns about this sort of idea, inviting a "clean" industry such as tourism, assisting economic development potential of the people of the region, possible destruction of natural beauty. Come and hear what Mr. Udall has to say and express whatever thoughts you might have.



Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club

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

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Doug Fraser

CONGRATULATIONS, BRANT !!

For those of us who have followed the protracted litigation (not that further appeals are unlikely) against Brant Calkin and the Club's Foundation over a 1970 donation, good news! A California jury both vindicated their actions and awarded the Foundation compensation for all the years of scurrilous accusation and wasted energy.

Brant Calkin, for those who weren't around in the early years, ran, along with Harvey Mudd, the environmental advocacy group Central Clearing House. From there, Brant ran our Group and Chapter, became Southwest Director, then Sierra Club National President and on the Board of Directors. In 1984, he won the Club's highest honor, the John Muir Award. More recently, he was director of Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, which gave us our most recent protected area. Incidentally, by the closest of margins, he almost was our NM Land Commissioner in the 1986 election. Quite a record for a great environmental fighter who started in the City Different.

NED SUDBOROUGH TO ATTEND CONFERENCE

The Group's Political Chair, Ned Sudborough, is off to Washington, D.C., to become more astute (not possible!) in all matters related to elected officials at a Sierra Club conference.

WEEKEND RETREAT

Santa Fe Group members are invited to a weekend retreat sponsored by our adjoining Pajarito Group at Ghost Ranch on October 24-26, 1997. It should be very educational and entertaining, with horseback riding, local food and music, etc. Please call Pajarito's Outing Co-Chair by October 10, Jennifer Johnson, 662-3023.

THE QUIVIRA COALITION *Is Ecologically Sensitive Ranching Possible?*

Rancher Jim Winder, former Chapter Executive Committee member, and now one of the founding members of the Quivira Coalition, will host a four-hour tour of his ranch on September 6, beginning at 10 AM at his house, two miles north of Nutt.

Tour participants will see rejuvenated Macho Creek, learn about cattle rotation, range ecology, biodiversity and economics.

Take I-25 to Hatch, drive 19 miles west on Highway 26 to Nutt (or 29 miles east from Deming). Bring lunch, water, a hat and plenty of sunscreen. For more information, call Jim at (505) 267-4227.



IMPORTANT OUTING NOTES

ATTENTION: Local newspapers do not always provide information (accurate or otherwise) about upcoming hikes. If you intend to go on a Sierra Club outing, keep the facing page as reference.

◆ ◆ SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS ◆ ◆

Chair — Doug Fraser *	474-7615	Membership — Ned Sudborough*	474-4055
Vice-Chair — Barbara Johnson *	466-4935	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	John Buchser *	820-0201
Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson	982-3926		
Publicity — Kay Carlson	982-3926		
Outings — Norbert Sperlich	983-1962		
— Norma McCallan*	471-0005		
Political Committee — Ned Sudborough*	474-4055		
Phone Tree — Norma McCallan*	471-0005		

* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee

Terms expire
12/97: Buchser/Goldman/McCallan/Soracco
12/98: Fraser/Johnson/Regenold/Sudborough

... ON SQUIRRELING AWAY ...

Thanks again to all who contributed to our highly successful yard sale on May 31. As you clean out your closets and/or receive charming, but unwanted, gifts, remember that we will be doing a Silent Auction during our annual Holiday Potluck and, very likely, a spring yard sale, probably May.

Group Conservation Committee meets:
Tuesdays — Sept. 23 and October 28
Group Executive Committee meets:
Tuesdays — October 7 and November 4

SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS

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 Corvaise (466-3479) Moderate Hike probably in Taos area. Leave 7 AM. CANCELED~~
- 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 second 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.
- 27 John Buchser (820-0201) Extremely Strenuous Hike to Truchas Peak via the Dome. Leave 7 AM. No water — bring at least 2 qts., 18 miles, all above 10,000'.
- 28 Victor Atyas (438-9437) Easy Hike to Tent Rocks. Leave 9 AM.

Sat Sun October

- 4 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. An opportunity to see how and to what extent this area is being used & voice an opinion on what actions you would like to see administered. Jemez Ranger John Peterson & Dennis Trujillo, Recreation Forester, are our guides. Space is limited, call Martha Anne by October 2 for reservation.
- 5 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Easy Hike on Aspen Vista Road. Aspen viewing time!! Kids welcome. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 5 Sherry Evans (473-9632) Moderate Hike to La Vega. Aspen viewing time!! 7 miles RT, 1500' elevation gain. Leave 8:30 AM. Call leader if not familiar with hike.
- Friday, October 10, to Tuesday, October 14
- Norma McCallan (471-0005) Exploratory Backpack in area of Robbers Roost Canyon and Dirty Devil River, Utah. A beautiful bedrock, little visited Wilderness Study Area. Call for reservations. Leave Thursday afternoon.
- Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike to Tent Rocks. Meet leaders at the Villa Linda Mall in front of Walgreens. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 12 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Strenuous Hike Pedernal. 9 miles RT, 1900' up, one rock scramble. Call for reservation. *Hunting season — wear red.* Leave 7:30 AM.
- Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike to Capulin Peak by way of Santa Fe Baldy. 18 miles RT, 4000' elevation gain. Dogs allowed. Call leader for reservation.
- 19 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Moderate, Slow Hike to Glorieta Ghost Hotel. 6.5 miles RT, 950' uphill hiking. Call if not familiar with hike. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 25 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate/Strenuous Hike on Otowi Ruins — Bayo Canyon Loop near Los Alamos. 8 miles, 900' elevation gain. Call leader for reservation.



Santa Fe Search and Rescue Group Needs Volunteers

by Dick Reynolds

The Santa Fe Search and Rescue (SAR) Group was formed in early 1994 by Eldorado resident Dave Burdett who also served as its first President. Since that time, the Group has expanded steadily. Today, we have seventeen men and women members, mostly Eldorado residents. Three persons are emergency medical technicians and most of the members are qualified in First Aid and CPR.

Sometimes we are confused with another fine group of citizens that comprise the Eldorado Fire and Rescue Service. They are the ones with the ambulances and fire engines; we are basically "ground pounders" that respond to the State Police in each of the four seasons. We like to form search teams from our own Group and are equipped with cross-country skis and snowshoes for winter searches, plus handheld radios that operate on the State's SAR radio frequency.

Our meetings are held monthly at 7:00 PM on the second Thursday of each month at the Eldorado Community Center. In the past, guest experts have spoken to us on helicopter operations, the Incident Command System, communications, map compass, clothing for SAR missions, tracking, and the prevention and treatment of hypothermia. Additionally, once a month we have an outdoor training exercise, usually during the the fourth weekend of the month. It could be a hike to gain familiarity with a like search area, or could be a fully operational but simulated search.

During 1996, we participated in nine actual SAR missions. On November 16, Hank Hughes and Glenn Saums responded to a search mission for a lost male hunter. The hunter had been caught in a snowstorm and was not prepared for being out overnight. Hank and Glenn joined up with a two person dog team from Los Alamos and hiked north in the Pecos area east of the Glorieta Conference Center. Shortly after daylight the next morning, they heard replies to their calls and whistles and found the lost hunter, in excellent shape but cold and wet. The entire group reversed their heading and were able to walk out successfully.

We are a friendly group and welcome anyone who would like to join us. For more information, call me at 466-8776.

October continued ↓

- 26 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Hike to Ancho Rapids via Ancho Canyon. 7.5 miles RT, 1000' elevation gain. Some rough terrain. Wear sturdy boots. Call for reservation. Meet leader at 9 AM at Smith's Supermarket in White Rock or carpool from Santa Fe at 8 AM.

Sat Sun November

- 1 John Jasper (466-8572, 986-4613w) Moderate Hike in SF National Forest. Call for details/reservations.
- 2 Art Judd (982-3212) Moderate Hike in Bandelier National Monument. Leave 8 AM. Split parking fee.
- 8 Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike in the Cerrillos Hills. Leave 9 AM from Villa Linda Mall.
- 9 Lee Sullivan (662-6185) Moderate Hike in the Jemez Mountains, 8 miles. Carpool from Santa Fe office at 8 AM, or meet leader 9 AM at the Los Alamos National Bank, across from McDonald's, on Trinity Drive.
- 15 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Easy Hike up La Bajada. Slow pace. Leave 9 AM.
- 16 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Hike in Bandelier National Monument. Call for details. Carpool from Santa Fe office at 8 AM or meet leader at 9 AM, Smith's parking lot in White Rock.
- 22 Ned Sudborough (474-7044) Easy Hike in the near foothills of Santa Fe. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 23 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Moderate Loop Hike on D.O.E. land near Bandelier. Dogs allowed. Leave 8 AM.
- 29 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate/Strenuous X-Country Ski Tour wherever the snow is good, or hike if no snow. Call leader!!
- 30 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate Hike into Alamo Canyon in Bandelier National Monument. Leave 8 AM. Call leader if not familiar with hike.

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.

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) hshs2@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

Saturday, September 6 - Three Rivers Dayhike

Place: White Mountain Wilderness

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 Three Rivers Trailhead we will hike up Three River Canyon to the junction with Dry Canyon. Then we will hike the Dry Canyon Trail to the Crest Trail. We will hike along the Crest Trail for a couple of miles to the junction with the Three Rivers Trail and follow the Three Rivers Trail back to the cars. About 13 miles with 3500 ft elevation gain. Call for more information.

Saturday, September 27 - Lookout Peak Dayhike

Place: Ski Apache/White Mountain Wilderness

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

Fall colors trip. Starting from Ski Apache, we will hike up to Lookout Peak. About 7 miles round trip and 2000 ft elevation gain. The trailhead is about 9600 ft and Lookout Peak is about 11,600ft. We hope to hit it right to see the fall colors. Call for more information.

Saturday, October 4 - Hueco Tanks Rock Art Fieldtrip

Place: Hueco Tanks State Park

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

We will take a ranger-guided tour of the rock art in Hueco Tanks State Park. We will take the 2:00 p.m. tour which takes about 2 hours. After the tour we will have a midafternoon snack in the park. Call for more information.

Saturday, October 18 - Black Range Dayhike

Place: Black Range

Class: Strenuous

Limit: 20, Reservations and leader approval required

Leader: Ben Zerby 526-6207 or Larry Hughes (H) 521-1152 (W) 522-4600 ext 270, email: larry@tcisoft.com

This hike will be a key exchange. One group starts from Emory Pass and the other from Broad Gate Saddle. Total distance is 14-15 miles along the Crest Trail of the Black Range. This should be a great hike. Call for more information.

Saturday, October 25 - Rabbit Ears Plateau

Place: Organ Mountain

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 Topp's Hut, we will hike Rabbit Ears Canyon up to the saddle and then up Rabbit Ears Plateau. Strenuous with off trail scrambling. Call for more information.

Saturday November 1 (Tentative) Carlsbad Caverns caving trip

Place: Carlsbad Caverns

Class: Strenuous

Limit: 8, Reservations and leader approval required

Leader: Larry Hughes 522-4600 ext 270, email: larry@tcisoft.com and Lolina Alvarez 521-1152

We are interested in organizing a trip to go on one of the Ranger-guided tours of one of the primitive caves in Carlsbad Caverns National Park. This would involve wearing helmets and headlamps (provided by the Park Service) The trip involves crawling through narrow passages including a tight squeeze of 21 in x 13 in. The tour takes about 4 hours and the Park charges a \$12 fee for these tours. They also have an age limit of 12 and older. These tours are limited to 8 people, are reserved on a first come-first served basis and must be prepaid. If interested, call within the next couple of weeks (by Sept. 20) and we will try to make reservations.

Wayne Suggs, Jr.

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

I want to take this opportunity to brag about an accomplishment of the Southern New Mexico Group. (I am so proud that my buttons are poppin'.) As of July, we have the first official Inner City Outings program in the State of New Mexico. Our Group has worked very hard for over a year to achieve this goal. Not only Inner City kids, but any child that would not normally have a chance to have a wilderness experience will now have this available to them through the ICO program. Our short-term goal is to provide a healthy and productive outlet for these kids. Our long-term goal is to make these kids aware of the natural earth around them and how important it is to preserve and protect it.

In becoming Chair, one of my top priorities was to start an ICO program. I happen to know personally that God is on the Sierra Club's side because he sent us Mario Ruiz to become the ICO chair. This man is tireless, well informed, experienced, and above all, good with kids. He and Lesa Wilson have put in countless hours of phone calls, meetings and letters. Lesa and Mario are both on the ExCom. I am very pleased with the way we all work together. I want to thank them both for all their efforts. Mario has already led numerous ICO outings. If there is anyone in the area who would like to help and get involved, we could sure use it. We can also use equipment of any kind (backpacks, tents, sleeping bags, daypacks, stoves, etc., etc.). Mario and Lesa, thanks from me, the kids, and the wild places.

Warm Springs Section Report

The Warm Springs Section and our National Forests Need You

I recently read an article by the chief of the Forest Service, Mike Dombeck. It was about the land management revision plans taking place currently on over half of our National Forests and Grasslands. The tone of this article suggests that, at last, the Forest Service is recognizing that National Forests belong to everyone: hikers, campers, anglers, hunters, wildlife and birdwatchers and not just ranchers and timber companies. The Forest Service is calling on us as individuals to get involved by writing letters and calling our local Forest Service Office to find out what is going on and to let them hear our comments and concerns.

The Cibola National Forest is among those in the planning revision process. So far, they've gotten over 550 written comments and these are guiding how the Cibola will be used in the future. They have published a sample of comments they've received and many encourage enhancing wildlife habitat, preserving and repairing riparian areas and building more trails. But there are also a number of disturbing views like these:

"We are opposed to Federal Listings and oppose a set aside of lands for wilderness and primitive areas."

"... (I want) lots of cattle and more water development."

"I don't see not using any of the mountains just because there might be endangered something living there. To me people, the RIGHT people are much more important than an endangered animal, bird or whatever."

"The National Forest land must NOT become a public recreational area..."

This is your chance to help ensure that the Forest Plans provide for healthy, functioning and self-sustaining ecosystems. Have you ever been backpacking in YOUR Forest and found the spring you were depending on reduced to a muddy muckhole by cattle? Have you ever had a rancher tell you that you couldn't hunt there, on YOUR land, because you'd spook his cows? Have you passed through YOUR forest and not seen one animal except the domestic variety? Have you come upon a clear cut where not a living tree could be seen or found a clear cut conveniently hidden by a screen of trees between it and the road? Maybe you just like the notion of wildlands existing out there even if you don't get to visit them that often.

If you won't do something, the National Forests will continue their policy of giving extractive industries and commodity production first priority on YOUR land. The Forest Service needs to hear your experiences and YOUR desires. The Cibola can be reached at:

Cibola National Forest
2113 Osuna Rd. NE, Suite A.
Albuquerque, NM 87113-1101

(con't on page 13)

Warm Springs Report

(con't from page 12)

(505) 761-4650

If your favorite places are in other Forests in the State, call the Forest Service to find out where they are in the planning process and how you can get involved.

The Gila National Forest: (505) 388-8201

The Carson National Forest: (505) 758-6200

The Santa Fe National Forest: (505) 438-7840

The Lincoln National Forest: (505) 434-7200

Mr. Dombek concluded his article as I'll conclude this one, with a quote by Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

WARM SPRINGS SECTION OUTINGS

September 6: Tour the Bosque del Apache with John Taylor to view riparian restoration. We will leave the Forest Service Office at 7:00 A.M. The tour begins at the Bosque's visitor's center at 8:30. Bring lunch and your binoculars. Call Margot at 744-5860.

October 4 & 5. Mary Katherine Ray will take us elk bugling on the evening of the 4th, and the next morning we will follow the elk on foot. We will leave the Forest Service Office at 1:30 P.M. on Saturday, and camp out in West Red Canyon, returning Sunday afternoon. Call Margot.

October 25 & 26: Chet Warwick, 894-6427, will lead an outing to Black Mt. We will leave the Forest Service Office at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday and camp out at Wolf Hollow Campground. We will have a moderate hike on Sunday, returning to T. or C. on Sunday afternoon.

October 2 in Santa Fe Help Create Future for Grand Staircase

by Martin Heinrich

On October 2, a "workshop" will be held in Santa Fe to gather ideas as to how the new Grand Staircase National Monument should be managed. This is fantastic opportunity for us to create the future of the Monument. Specific topics that need to be addressed are:

1) No mining or drilling for fossil fuels! The BLM is being very loose with what it considers "valid existing rights" and, as a result, we have the Conoco situation. (An Environmental Assessment for the Conoco drilling has been completed by the BLM, but no decision has yet been made. The BLM has received over 700 letters, most opposing the drilling.)

2) Do not harden or pave any unimproved roads.

3) Do not develop restaurant, lodging and other tourist facilities inside the Monument. These can be placed in existing communities, thereby protecting the Monument's wilderness values and contributing to the economies of local communities.

4) Maintain the wilderness characteristics of all the current roadless country in the Monument.

The "workshop" will be held at the Santa Fe Community College on 6401 S. Richards Avenue. Please organize your friends to attend and testify.

Autumn activist trips:

Sat Sept 6 BOSQUE DEL APACHE - Margot Wilson 505-744-5860. John Taylor, Bosque staffperson, will show participants the effects of riparian restoration at the Bosque. Easy walk, great birding possibilities. Bring lunch & binoculars. Meet at Visitor's Center, 8:30 am.

Sat Sept 6 JIM WINDER RANCH TOUR - Sponsored by the Quivira Coalition 505-257-4227. Come see a New Ranch in operation! Jim will lead a four-hour tour of his property, including an opportunity to see the recently rejuvenated Macho Creek. Learn about cattle rotation, range ecology, biodiversity, economics, and other cool stuff. Enjoy the open space and blue skies of southern New Mexico. We will assemble at 10 a.m. at Jim's house, located two miles north of Nutt, NM. Take I-25 to Hatch, then drive 19 miles West on Highway 26 to Nutt (or 29 miles East from Deming). Bring a lunch, water, a hat, and plenty of sunscreen.

Sun Sept 7 MCGREGOR RANGE ANNUAL FIELD TRIP - Marianne Thaeler 505-522-3421. Reservation deadline Sept 1 (but there might be cancellations).

Sat Sept 27-TOUR OF THE USDA'S JORNADA EXPERIMENTAL STATION - Sponsored by the Quivira Coalition, Courtney White 505-982-5502. Tour the premier rangeland research station in New Mexico! This large tract of land, located squarely on the historic Jornada del Muerto, was closed to uncontrolled cattle grazing 85 years ago. A long-term research station was then established to provide data on the effects of grazing on arid environments. Tour this cutting-edge research institution with Kris Havstad, Director and Chief Scientist of the Jornada station. We will assemble at 10 a.m. at the south boundary of the Jornada property. From I-25, turn East on Highway 70 (just North of Las Cruces) at a Shell Station, drive three miles, then turn north on the Jornada Road (dirt), drive 12 miles to the boundary fence. Bring a lunch, water, and a hat.

Sat Oct 4 JEMEZ NATIONAL RECREATION AREA FIELD TRIP - Martha Ann Freeman 505-538-0697. Dennis Trujillo, Recreation Officer &

John Peterson, Ranger, Jemez Ranger District, will show participants how, and to what extent, this popular area is being used, and will solicit suggestions for future Forest Service management. This is a good chance to visit a beautiful area, and make your opinions heard. Call for reservations by 10/2. [Note, this trip was originally scheduled for 8/9.]

Sat Oct 4 HUECO TANKS ROCKART FIELD TRIP - Larry Hughes 505-522-4600, ext 270(w). Ranger guided tour of this unusual Texas State Park near El Paso. Easy walking. Call

for reservations.

Fri Oct 10 - Tues Oct 14 ROBBERS ROOST/DIRTY DEVIL RIVER, UTAH EXPLORATORY BACKPACK - Norma McCallan 505-471-0005. A seldom visited magnificent red rock WSA near Hanksville. Call for reservations.

Sat/Sun Oct 19/20 TRES PIEDRAS RANGER DISTRICT TRAIL MAINTENANCE - Stan Kauchak 505-839-4301/Georgia Jannuzzi 505-881-9365. Help the Forest Service turn closed roads into hiking & cross-country ski trails, increasing recreational opportunities & slowing down erosion. Work either or both days.

Fri Nov 28-Sun Nov 30 BIG HATCHETS CAR CAMP - Alice Anderson 505-523-5179. Good time of year to explore this remote WSA. Moderate day hikes. Call for reservations.

Sun Nov 30 BIG BEND NAT'L PARK GET TOGETHER WITH LONESTAR CHAPTER - Alpine, TX - A special event sponsored by the Lone Star and Rio Grande Chapters will be held on Sunday, November 30th in Alpine, TX to welcome the new Big Bend Regional Group to the Lone Star Chapter. Members from both Chapters will meet in Alpine for the afternoon to get acquainted, socialize and share a meal. The event has been planned to coincide with outings already scheduled to take place in Big Bend National Park over the Thanksgiving holiday. There will be special guest speakers and workshops on the issues facing this part of Texas and New Mexico. A registration fee of \$10 is requested to cover the cost of the BBQ dinner and refreshments. (Reservation form below.) If you want to join the Texans in Big Bend on Thanksgiving Weekend for hiking and other communal activities, call Todd Nichols for details, 817-472-0710.

On Sat Sept 27 the National Sierra Club Group & Chapter Outings Committee (of which I am a member) will be holding its semi-annual meeting in San Francisco. If anyone, especially any of the outings leaders, has any issues or questions which you wish me to bring up to the Committee, formally or informally, please let me know.



Chapter Outings Notes from Norma

by Norma McCallan

HELP SAVE THE RIO GRANDE!

An Evening on the River, for the River

Come to a gala fundraiser to support the Southwest Environmental Center's efforts to restore the Rio Grande. The event will be September 13 from 6pm-11pm at Binn's Winery, 3910 W. Picacho, in Las Cruces.

Enjoy a gourmet dinner, music by the Big Band on the Rio Grande, dancing, river raft rides and door prizes (the Grand Prize is a two night stay at the San Sofia Inn in Telluride, Colorado!). Tickets are \$50 per person and \$75 per couple. Come have fun and support the health and future of the Rio Grande.

Major underwriting provided by The Sisbarro Dealerships.

For tickets or more information, call the Southwest Environmental Center at (505) 522-5552.

"Big Bend Bash"

sponsored by Lone Star and Rio Grande Chapters

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone Number: _____

Registration Fee

Number Attending: _____

X \$10.00 = _____

Registration Deadline: November 14th

Make checks payable to:

"Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter"

Mail to: Big Bend Bash

P. O. Box 1931

Austin, TX 78767

The Realistic Threat of Global Climate Change

by Michael G. Smith Ph.D.,
Chairman, Pajarito Group

(NOTE: This editorial was printed in the August 17, 1997 edition of the Albuquerque Journal North.)

Responding to scientific data and with one ear cocked to the majority, pro-environment electorate, President Clinton has reignited the global climate change debate with the pronouncement that the United States would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. With the other ear cocked to the business community, he wouldn't commit to specific levels of reductions. The dilemma faced by global citizens is apparent: How does a growing, energy-intensive global economy deal with increasing greenhouse gas emissions and the potential effects of global climate change?

The business community argues that the data isn't complete, climate processes are poorly understood, global warming may not be anthropogenic (human caused), and imposing limits on emissions is premature and may halt economic growth. However, the accumulated data and better climate modeling have convinced most climatologists that climate change is real, is due to the effects of industrialized society, and that it would be unwise to do nothing while waiting for obvious signs.

The major culprit is carbon dioxide, a by-product of burning fossil fuels. The atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide has fluctuated between 180 and 280 parts per million (ppm) during the past 160,000 years with the low concentrations corresponding to ice ages, and the higher concentrations to warmer periods. For the past century it has been increasing at the rate of 0.5% per year. The current concentration is approximately 360 ppm. If trends continue the concentration will be greater than 600 ppm by 2040, more than twice the pre-industrial level.

Average global temperatures have risen by 0.5 - 1.1

degrees Fahrenheit since the mid-19th century, and the changes are not uniform over the planet. The average global surface temperature is determined by compiling data from thousands of planetary sites. For each site the data is compared to a previous period at the same site, yielding a measurement of the change in surface temperature, called surface temperature anomalies, accurate to 0.1 degrees F. The sum of all the sites worldwide provides the global average.

Analysis of surface temperature anomalies yields interesting results. In general, the oceans are cooling and land masses are warming. During 1981-1990, with respect to the period 1951-1980, the North Pacific and North Atlantic have cooled 0.5 to 1.4 degrees F and parts of North America have warmed 0.5 to 1.8 degrees F.

Why are land masses warming and oceans cooling? Land warming is confined to a few centimeters of soil depth because of the weakly penetrating power of the Sun's rays. Energy exchange between soil and the atmosphere is a daily event. The energy is released at night, but instead of escaping to space, it is absorbed by the atmospheric greenhouse gases.

The precise reasons for ocean surface cooling are unknown. Solar rays penetrate the ocean much deeper, resulting in less warming. Energy exchange depends on the thousand-year cycle of deep water circulation. One possibility is increased cloud cover over the oceans and a larger reflection of sunlight. Others are more subtle. Injection of massive quantities of fresh water from polar melting may retard current circulation.

The major danger of climate warming is that changing temperatures result in redistribution

of moisture. Possible consequences over land masses include altered weather patterns and increases in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as of floods, droughts, and heat waves. Vegetation type and patterns will change, with a likely trend from forests to grasslands. Wetlands will decrease. Depletion of critical habitats will hasten species extinction.

Climate change may have severe social and economic consequences. Rich nations will have to devote significant resources to protect their populations and infrastructure; in doing so they will exacerbate the effects of climate change. Coastal flooding will devastate poor nations. Are the consequences serious? Ponder the fact that the National Science and Technology Council is conducting workshops in the Great Plains states to examine the region's vulnerability to climate change.

Greenhouse gases remain in the atmosphere for long periods (decades to centuries). Economic and population growth with a reliance on fossil fuels will surely increase atmospheric concentrations. Given the possible consequences it is prudent to begin taking steps while they remain inexpensive and doable. However, due to the influence of big business, mitigation at national levels is not certain.

Global climate change is a threat to which we are all accountable. Our moral duty is to demonstrate that we care about the global community—including the plant and animal kingdoms—and work towards the preservation of the intricate web of life. Humans may be able to adapt to climate change; the rest of the global community may not, and this may ultimately be mankind's undoing.

Chapter Makes Oral Comments on DEIS for Southwest Regional Spaceport

by Marianne Thaeler, Military Issues Chair

We fear that THIS NEPA process makes a mockery of the National Environmental Policy Act, its intents and purposes. The NEPA process is NOT for Concepts, it is for specific federal actions in specific locations, and an EIS must analyze all specifically defined potential environmental impacts that may result from a proposed federal action. Again, what is proposed is a Concept. Thus the mockery.

This EIS is for the proposed action to License "SRS," Southwest Regional Spaceport, to operate a commercial launch site in the United States, and the completion of a review to ensure the safe and efficient utilization of airspace.

This DEIS does not clearly state who or what "SRS" is, whether they are qualified to hold a License, the terms and conditions of the said License, and who will be held liable under the License for what.

Since there is no known certified licensee, and no known presently available site, the FAA is required, has no other choice, but to deny a License as

a Record of Decision based on this DEIS and the Final EIS.

Instead of licensing issues, this DEIS presents Alternatives for a site that emerged from a selection process, but was not chosen by it. Based on this DEIS, a License should be denied.

The NEPA process requires that all potential environmental impacts be disclosed and analyzed. Remembering that this is a Concept with no available technology with no established known needs, it is still obvious that a spaceport DEIS requires the analysis of airspace utilization issues as a major potential source of environmental impacts. The site that emerged has severe known airspace overcrowding problems which are not analyzed or reviewed in this DEIS, nor are potential impacts to interstate commerce from potential closures of Interstate Highways analyzed. Both need to be analyzed and included in a DEIS, and they are not. A License must be denied.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, once begun the Environmental Impact Statement

process must be followed in good faith to its completion on a set time schedule. A Finding of No Significant Impact and Record of Decision will flow from the EIS. There are no meaningful analysis of know environmental impacts for the Alternatives presented. Based on this EIS a License must be denied.

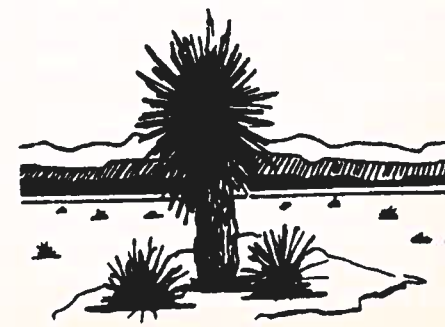
There is no meaningful analysis of licensing or airspace environmental impacts, the stated "Federal action." Therefore, we believe this DEIS is inadequate, and the EIS will be inadequate as it does not, cannot, and will not include analysis of environmental impacts from any known spaceport operations on: lands resources, biologic resources, Threatened and Endangered species, archaeological, paleontologic, and historic resources, water and air quantity and quality, waste, and known impacts from existing and potential, airspace use.

We believe the required Record of Decision must be to DENY a License to SRS, the stated proposed action, and a FONSI is impossible. A Record of Decision made on the Alternatives

provided would be improper.

In closing, we continue to question the meaning and intent of this NEPA exercise as the NEPA process was initiated by New Mexico State University and its Physical Sciences Laboratory under contracts with the US Department of Defense and NASA.

[Note: Marianne went to the August 20 hearing on the DEIS for the licensing of a Southwest Regional Spaceport proposed to be located on 524 sq. miles of BLM and State land in New Mexico east of Hatch. She noted that her comments were well received by those in attendance.]



New Mexico needs to confront the following growth-related questions before it goes on throwing away its heritage:

What are known and suspected costs and benefits of growth?

What are methods of assessing impacts?

What gaps and inconsistencies are there in existing data and research?

What do current trends portend?

How can we integrate social, fiscal and environmental impacts of growth?

How can growth management account for immigration and fertility patterns which affect the population size?

Can one measure intangible factors that draw one to stay in or move to New Mexico?

Can local governments manage growth by themselves? Can they work with other entities on a regional basis?

Which kinds of growth affect communities in which ways?

Is it sufficient to front costs by one generation to pay for another generation's infrastructure, with the risk of substantial investment in oversized infrastructure?

When should local governments guide the location of growth so as to maximize the use and minimize the costs of public service delivery?

What is the vision for the future of New Mexico?

Can growth management and better land use planning help achieve sustainable development and pass on to future generations more livable com-

munities?

Should present residents help pay for services and facilities to new housing areas?

Would self-sufficient satellite communities (physically separated from existing communities with their own employment, shopping and recreational opportunities) help prevent or reduce urban sprawl?

Growth: Friend, Enemy

Growth can be a best friend and worst enemy, at the same time. On one hand, growth brings economic vitality, more and better jobs, increased cultural offerings and additional tax revenue for public services. On the other hand, it strains infrastructure, challenges traditional land uses, stresses natural resources and changes the social fabric of the community. At its best, growth can catapult a community to a higher level of activity, opportunity and achievement. At its worst, it can rob a community of its character, hurt the environment, send housing prices soaring and lead to more crime, congestion and urban sprawl. Growth has become one of the biggest concerns in New Mexico, and in some arenas, a highly divisive issue.

How we develop as a state is very much dependent on the approaches we take to managing growth. How wisely we choose policy options will determine how well New Mexico flourishes in the 21st Century. A community can be seen as a triangle comprised of economic development, stewardship of natural and cultural resources, and the civic capacity to resolve differences between the two. A community's many facets are ultimately all interconnected. The same applies to the state. To emphasize growth in

population and jobs without recognizing impacts on cultural and natural resources is shortsighted; so, too, is an inordinate emphasis on preserving natural resources without taking into account economic needs. Recognition of all sides of the triangle and the need to balance them is an increasingly urgent need as we prepare for over 600,000 more New Mexicans by the year 2015.

Five Lessons

At one point, most New Mexicans owed their livelihood to an economy based on mining, logging or agriculture. Land and water as *ejidos* and *acequias* served as a common bond. Today, much of New Mexico's economy is based on silicon and scenery. Urban, rural and suburban interests do not always coincide in an era of a larger and increasingly diverse population. The glue that binds together our society and culture is under great challenge from growth and change. How can New Mexico best wrestle with that challenge? Oregon's Ethan Seltzer offers five lessons:

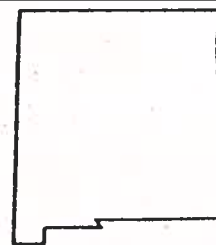
1. Planning matters, but especially about things that really matter, such as patterns that affect our future.

2. Participation of citizens matters, and we need to be around the table in ways that represent everyone.

3. Leadership matters, with a top-down call for planning and a commitment to do planning-based action.

4. Good things take time. Choices made today may take decades to pay off, but our children will benefit.

5. Quality of life cannot be mandated by regulation. Changes in behavior coming from the heart, rather than the law, are ultimately the bottom line.



The Question of Growth

by Ken Hughes

This is the seventh 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 we have been addressing.

George Grossman, John and Linda Buchser

Three Sierrans Honored with V.P. Al Gore Hammer Award

George Grossman and John and Linda Buchser received the Vice President Al Gore Hammer Award at a ceremony August 16 in Truchas. George John and Linda were among a number of Forest Service employees and community leaders who received the award for their "contribution to building a government that works better and costs less."

The Hammer Award is a special award given by the Vice President to people who have participated in a team effort that has contributed dramatically to improving the way government works. It recognizes special achievements in at least one of the four main themes of reinventing government: improving customer service, cutting red tape, empowering employees, or getting back to basics. The final decision as to who is honored rests with the Vice President.

The Hammer Award originated in an appearance by the Vice President on David Letterman's show, where he explained the government criteria for an acceptable ashtray. If it broke into more than 23 pieces when smashed with a hammer, it was unacceptable to be purchased by the U.S. Government. Gore pledged to "reinvent" government to reduce that type of wasteful regulation. That, of course, left a lot of hammers without "jobs,"

so he has found a use for them to honor people who help the government work better.

The honorees on August 16 were members of the Carson National Forest Core Team, part of a Forest Service strategy called "collaborative stewardship." This project, the brainchild of Camino Real Ranger Crockett Dumas (one of the honorees), came about as district managers realized in the 1990s that implementation of forest plans was not working out as hoped. It seemed the plans failed to address the concerns of the people who used the forest. Dumas decided to conduct a door-to-door survey of residents in the communities adjacent to the forest to find out what they wanted to see done with the forest. At the same time, Dumas and his staff divided the district into nine "ecological management zones," based on topography and vegetation. They then mapped the areas, showing their existing watersheds, fisheries, roads, vegetation, wildlife, fire concerns, recreational opportunities, and customs and traditions. Factoring in the information from the door-to-door survey, they projected the "desired condition," i.e., what the people wanted the area to look like and how they would like it used. They created what Dumas and his staff call "working documents" of

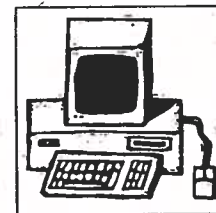
management strategies to achieve the desired condition.

Max Cordova, president of the Truchas Land Grant, and another Hammer honoree, believes that the Collaborative Stewardship program offers an unparalleled opportunity for communities to get involved in the forest management process. "Not only does it provide for the resource needs of our community, it addresses the overall health of the forest and promotes sustainable practices." The key issue, he says is "getting to know each other and breaking down old adversarial relationships."

Dumas believes that this collaboration allows him and his staff to spend more time in the field, monitoring the health of the forest, and less time in court, litigating citizen concerns not adequately addressed in some forest plans.

George has worked with the Carson National Forest Core Team in NEPA compliance and Linda and John have been active in the preservation and maintenance of trails.

Note: Thanks to Crockett Dumas and Kay Matthews and Mark Schiller of *La Jicarita*, a community newspaper for the Jicarita watershed, and Hammer honorees, for the information for this story.



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

Matt Allen, New Editor

Sierran Changes Hands, Possibly Format

With the November/December issue, the *Rio Grande Sierran* will change editors. The new editor is Matt Allen of Albuquerque.

Matt is a professional editor and a long-time Sierra Club member. He and his wife recently moved to Albuquerque from Virginia where Matt was editor of *Foothills*, newsletter of the Piedmont Group of the Virginia Chapter from 1990-1996.

In addition to the change in editors, there may be some format changes. In July, a committee met over dinner to discuss the *Sierran*. This committee was comprised of: Barbara Johnson, outgoing newsletter editor; Doug Fraser, Santa Fe Group Chair; Blair Brown, Albuquerque Group Representative; and Chapter Chair John Buchser.

Possible Ways to Change

The Committee's conclusions focused on decreasing the burden on the Chapter newsletter editor. Several ways to do that were suggested:

1. Reduce the frequency of the *Sierran*. The Committee agreed that 6 times a year is optimum, but that, if that proves to be too much, the Chapter newsletter needs to continue at least on a quarterly basis. We are only required to do two issues per year, but that is insufficient to keep our members adequately informed.

2. Each Group could produce and mail its own newsletter, on whatever schedule it wants. Savings from *Sierran* production could be distributed to the Groups to help fund these newsletters. (El Paso already produces their own newsletter—which they fund themselves.) The Group newsletters would include local outings, meetings, the directory, and any other information the Group wants.

Under this scenario, the *Sierran* would include only Chapter news and be 8-12 pages long, either quarterly (12) or bimonthly (8). It might also include a page of Group News, but this would only include substantive stories of what the Groups are doing, like reports by the Sustainable Albuquerque team or a report on El Paso's Project Act.

Under this scenario, we might also publish a quarterly Chapter Outings Schedule. The outings information available from the Group newsletter editors can be compiled quarterly by an Outings editor into a publication that can be distributed to those people who want to know about outings all over the Chapter. Copies of the Outings Schedule can be available through the Groups to anyone who wants one—at Group meetings, or by phoning the Group and having it mailed out. This could be quite inexpensive. [This Schedule could also be placed in local bookstores (either free or at a nominal cost) so that this information could get to non-members, who might want to go on a hike and then might join the Club. In other words, this could be looked on as a recruiting tool.]

3. Another option would be to have the *Sierran* continue to contain Group information, but editors from each Group would be responsible for compiling that information and producing camera-ready pages to insert into the *Sierran*, so that the *Sierran* editor would not have to do anything to complete the Group sections. Currently, both Santa Fe and El Paso do this.

Finances

The Committee also discussed finances. It was felt that the Chapter should consider a project which will have long-term income possibilities for the future to help fund the newsletter. We could, for example, consider publication of a state-wide hiking book, modeled on Santa Fe's *Day Hikes in Santa Fe*. This would, of course, take several years to accomplish, but would subsequently produce steady income for the Chapter (and the Groups, if they decide to mail out their own newsletters). Each year printing and postage costs go up, while the amount of money we receive from dues and the National Sierra Club does not necessarily go up proportionately.

The Committee emphasized that the newsletter is a major function that the Rio Grande Chapter needs to take an active role in so we continue to keep our membership informed. We are fortunate to have so many competent contributors, and we need to continue to give them a forum in which to present this information.

Under the two scenarios discussed above, 6 or 7 people would be doing the job currently being done by 3. This is a good way to spread the work around, but it is also an opportunity to get more people involved in the Chapter and possibly a way of attracting new activists.

Tell Us Your Suggestions

We want to make the newsletter more manageable without compromising its quality. Decisions about changes to the *Sierran* will be made at the September 13 and 14. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the *Sierran*, please contact Barbara Johnson, (505) 466-4935 or email: barbara.johnson@sierraclub.org, or Chair John Buchser, (505) 820-0201 or email: jbuchser@aol.com.

Sierran Named Best Chapter Newsletter

Each year, the National Sierra Club honors a chapter or group newsletter for excellence. This year, the *Rio Grande Sierran* has been selected as recipient of the Club's Newsletter Award. According to the letter received by editor Barbara Johnson, "The Honors and Awards Committee was most impressed with the quality of your newsletter and the amount of time that must go into this volunteer effort!"

Barbara will pick up the award at the Club's annual awards banquet in San Francisco on September 20.

Congratulations!

by Doug Fraser, Chair, Santa Fe Group

We should all be deeply proud of Barbara Johnson on her receipt of the 1997 Newsletter Award for her work on our *Rio Grande Sierran*.

Ever since she took over the editorship in 1994, our bimonthly publication has been consistently superior to those I've had occasion to see from other Chapters. For those of us who have long felt this, it is good to have National headquarters validate us.

Thanks to Courtney White and John Buchser for organizing and submitting the paperwork necessary for consideration for this award.

And to think that besides many kudos, Barbara also gets a free awards breakfast with national dignitaries!

A Word from the Outgoing Editor

Thank You!

by Barbara Johnson

When I started doing the *Sierran* three years ago, I didn't know any of the people involved in the Chapter, I didn't know about any of the issues, and I was still new enough to New Mexico that I didn't really know that Raton and Carlsbad were at opposite ends of the state.

I thought I would volunteer to do the newsletter because I've been an editor for... well, let's not discuss how many years. But I thought my experience would allow me to contribute something even though I was a little short on knowledge.

What I didn't know was how much I would learn and how much I would gain from the experience.

Now, before we get carried away, there are obviously times when producing a newsletter with contributors over two states on a tight deadline can be about as enjoyable as a root canal. But maybe the analogy should be to childbirth—because you usually forget the pain when you hold your "product" in your hands.

But, by and large, my three years on the *Sierran* have been overwhelmingly positive, and the reason for that is the great many wonderful people who help me produce this newsletter every other month.

First, I want to say that I have had the complete support and encouragement of all three Chapter Chairs I have worked with—Gwen Wardwell, Van Perkins, and John Buchser. And the same can be said for the Rio Grande Chapter ExCom. They have always made sure I had everything I needed, yet they never second-guessed me or "looked over my shoulder" while I produced the *Sierran*.

Second, I want to thank all the guys at Printworld in El Paso, our printer, for getting the newsletter out on time—even when I've given it to them late. Special thanks go to Larry Sutton, who has been more than helpful—checking the negatives before they get printed, walking me through format and software changes, and always looking for creative ways to save us money!

Then there are the Group newsletter editors or contact people, who do most of the work for half of the paper—Kay Carlson in Santa Fe; Sally Savage, Michael Bromka, and Betsy Julian in El Paso; Marianne Thaeler, Jim Winder, and Wayne Suggs in Southern New Mexico; Edwina Lieb and Michael Smith in Pajarito; Susan Gorman in Albuquerque; Margot Wilson of Warm Springs and Barbara Leonard of Western New Mexico.

Last, but definitely not least, are the many contributors who are the ones who make sure the membership is informed about all important issues affecting New Mexico and West Texas. These authors always manage to find time to write a story, even if they get a very last minute request from the editor: Richard Barish, Blair Brown, Doug Fraser, Susan Gorman, George Grossman, Martin Heinrich, Julie Hicks, Ken Hughes, Abe Jacobson, Georgia Jannuzzi, Cliff Larsen, Barbara Leonard, Norma McCallan, Sue McIntosh, Craig O'Hare, Roger Peterson, Gary Simpson, Michael Smith, Ned Sudborough, Marianne Thaeler, John Turnbull, Gwen Wardwell, Courtney White, Margot Wilson, Elizabeth Winter, John Wright.

Thanks to everybody for making my job easier and for making me look good.

RAINBOW EXPEDITIONS II	
BACKPACKING TO BEAUTIFUL PLACES	
7125 W. 27th Ave., Wheat Ridge, CO 80215 Terry Gustafson (303) 239-9917	
FALL BACKPACKS	
SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK	
Sep 7-13	Peaks of the Great Western Divide \$510 Time enough to climb high peaks, and enjoy solitude, sunshine and early autumn colors in the country above Mineral King. Franklin Lakes, Franklin Pass, Little Claire Lake, x-country to Upper Soda Creek bench & Amphitheater Lake, out via an imposing backpack col and Cobalt Lakes. <i>Moderately Strenuous. 22 miles. High, some x-country.</i>
ARIZONA AND UTAH	
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. <i>Moderately Strenuous. 34 miles. All x-country, slickrock.</i>
Oct 12-18	Paria Canyon Wilderness, UT & AZ \$490 A good hike for experienced backpackers or able beginners. Red rock, narrows, blue sky, fall colors and maybe a condor sighting. Explore lower Buckskin Gulch, the granddaddy of all slot canyons, and visit Wreath Arch along the way. <i>Moderate. 36 miles. Gentle downhill, crossing stream.</i>
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. <i>Moderate. 31 miles. Minor scrambles, 6 mi. of river x-ing.</i>
Nov 9-15	Superstition Wilderness, AZ \$480 From saguaros to oaks, a variety of rugged Sonoran Desert scenes in this extensive wilderness near Phoenix. <i>Moderately Strenuous. About 30 miles. Rough country.</i>