

Rio Grande Sierran

NEWS OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

OCTOBER 2008

Election 2008 ☆ Time for New Energy

In a recent box-office release, Kevin Costner plays a New Mexican whose lone vote will decide the presidential election. While it's loaded with Hollywood hyperbole, the movie speaks to one truth: New Mexicans have a *Swing Vote*. Time and time again, important elections in New Mexico have come down to a handful of votes. Make yours count!

To help you make the best decisions for the upcoming elections, we've carefully screened all the candidates. Our endorsements, important voting information, and election-related articles appear on pages 1-9 of this special issue of the *Sierran*.

We've also compiled a list of all endorsed candidates in the handy pocket reference below. Clip it out and bring it with you to the polls!

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4.

Sierra Club Endorsements

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Barack Obama ☆
President
Joe Biden ☆ **Vice President**



Tom Udall ☆
U.S. Senate



See pages 7 and 8 for complete endorsements of the candidates featured here: Barack Obama & Joe Biden, Tom Udall, Martin Heinrich, and Ben Ray Luján.

Martin Heinrich ☆
U.S. Congress District 1



Ben Ray Luján ☆
U.S. Congress District 3



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Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet



Rio Grande Chapter
Sierra Club
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Albuquerque, NM 87125-5342

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Your Vote Will Shape Our Future



**You can't have my rights
I'm still using them**

—Bumper sticker seen in Northern New Mexico

For all of you registered to vote, this fall offers a chance to exercise the vital right to vote. You can choose the person who will shape the course of constitutional law for the next decades through his Supreme Court selections, the candidate who will join Jeff Bingaman to represent New Mexico in the U.S. Senate, and a freshman congressman in your district.

Your choice in these races will shape whether the Environmental Protection Agency obeys its mandate to protect our air, water, and land, or whether it shirks this responsibility in favor of polluters.

Similarly, the next President's Secretary of the Interior can either recognize the importance of the Endangered Species Act in the context of our ecosystem, or may choose to disregard the threats to species in order to promote energy and mineral development.

If you are in Albuquerque or Northern New Mexico, your ballot will contain a race for the Public Regulation Commission. Your vote can determine New Mexico's energy policy and how quickly we reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Many voters will be selecting county and city officials, the men and women with the power to shape how growth occurs, whether water availability is a criterion in allowing development.

Please review the Sierra Club candidates endorsed in this special election issue. Our endorsement process represents the work of many volunteers spending hours reviewing candidate questionnaires, interviewing candidates, and researching candidate legislative and public records. Each endorsement means that the candidate has been judged by two separate entities to have a positive environmental record (or platform, in the case of a newcomer to public office). In addition, the candidate must be judged to have a viable campaign and a real chance of winning his or her election. The Sierra Club endorsement is not one bestowed lightly or without much thoughtful discussion and consideration. I urge you to vote for the candidates endorsed in this issue as an opportunity to protect and restore the environment of New Mexico and our country.

—Susan Martin, Rio Grande Chapter Chair

General Election Calendar

- Voter registration closes on Tuesday, October 7, at 5:00 p.m.
- Absentee voting will commence on Tuesday, October 7.
- Early voting will begin on Saturday, October 18, and end on Saturday, November 1, at the county clerks offices.
- The general election will be on Tuesday, November 4. Polling places are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For more information, contact the NM Secretary of State's office: New Mexico State Capitol, 325 Don Gaspar, Suite 300, Santa Fe; 505/827-3600 or 800/477-3632; www.sos.state.nm.us/sos-elections.html.

4 Reasons to Vote Early

- Unexpected emergencies won't keep you from voting on Election Day.
- You won't have to stand in long lines.
- You will be free to help your candidate on Election Day.
- Since county clerks record who has voted early, the campaigns will no longer need to spend time or money contacting you, and you won't receive unnecessary phone calls or mailings.

Real Change Starts with You! Volunteer to Help Our Candidates Win

True Energy Independence Would Be Impossible with Big Oil's McCain-Palin

With the pick of Alaska Governor Sarah Palin for his running mate, John McCain's race towards the Bush administration's failed energy policy is now complete. Palin is not a maverick ... just another Alaskan politician with close ties to Big Oil, on the wrong side of all the important energy issues. As Americans, we want change, we want energy independence, and we want a clean energy future. Unfortunately, McCain's record, his public statements, and his choice for V.P. demonstrate a significantly different reality than the false image the campaign attempts to project for the voters.

McCain, same as Palin, has a record of opposing renewable energy initiatives when action is needed. Drilling – not renewable energy – would be the real focus of a McCain-Palin administration's energy policy. It's time to hold the McCain campaign accountable.

We want to take this opportunity to tell you how you, as a Sierra Club member, can help Senator Obama and our other endorsed candidates win election this fall.

With about five weeks until Election Day, the Sierra Club is engaging as many members in candidate campaign activities as possible. "The Obama campaign is putting together the largest and most sophisticated field operation in presidential history, and there will be meaningful ways for Sierra Club volunteers to engage," said Bob Bingaman, National Field Director for the Sierra Club.

Nationally, the Sierra Club will be working to recruit neighborhood team leaders and volunteers for the Obama campaign and for a number of pro-environmental races in seven target states – New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Sierra Club members from other states will also be encouraged to get involved by traveling to our target states to volunteer.

New Mexico is considered a battleground of battleground states. In 2000, Al Gore won New Mexico by a mere 366 votes; in 2004, George W. Bush won by less than 6,000. With over 8,000 Sierra Club members across New Mexico, we truly can make a difference in determining who will be our next President. As such, the Sierra Club will be recruiting members throughout the state to volunteer directly with the Obama campaign and with our other endorsed candidate campaigns – Tom Udall, Martin Heinrich, and Ben Ray Lujan. This may be the best opportunity of our lifetime to create a clean energy future and protect our planet.

Sierra Club staff is finding strong support for getting involved in these campaigns. We are seeing the same level of Club member activism that we put into renewable energy and conservation issues now translate into electoral work. Club members recognize that elections matter and we know that our future leaders will determine the future of our new energy economy.

Ken Brame, a member of Sierra Club's Political Committee, adds, "I hope Club members will do as much as they can for the Obama campaign and the Sierra Club-endorsed congressional and state legislative candidates. Whether you can contribute a whole month or just an hour a week, volunteer help will make a big difference."

To get involved directly in these political campaigns in New Mexico, please contact NM Sierra Club Field Director Michael Casaus (505/243-7767, michael.casaus@sierraclub.org).

—Michael Casaus

They Call This "Change"?

McCain ...

- Uses the campaign slogan "Drill, Baby, Drill."
- Wants to give the oil industry another \$3.8-plus billion tax break.
- Failed to vote for the first increase in mileage standards in over 30 years.
- Cast eight votes against a Renewable Electricity Standard or funding for clean energy – failed even to support tax incentives needed to develop wind and solar power.
- Refused to cut off the \$13 billion in existing government giveaways to Big Oil.
- Repeatedly and strenuously attacked Barack Obama's plan to tax oil companies' record profits in order to provide working Americans with a \$1,000 emergency tax rebate.

Palin ...

- Is a big proponent of drilling off our coasts and in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, something even the Bush administration admits would do nothing to help lower gas prices – today or even two decades from now.
- Does not believe humans affect global warming.
- Filed suit against the federal government and moved aggressively to halt a listing of the polar bear under the Endangered Species Act.
- Has called for "mutually beneficial" relationships with the oil industry.
- Line-item vetoed \$20 million in funding for a wind farm and numerous other clean-energy projects in Alaska are languishing for lack of funding.

New Mexico House of Representatives Endorsements

The Sierra Club endorses seven incumbent House candidates that have opposition in the general election. All of these candidates have at least a score of 86 from Conservation Voters of New Mexico (CVNM) on the 2008 environmental scorecard.

We encourage you to contribute money to and volunteer in the campaigns of these fine legislators.

The Rio Grande Chapter decided this year to focus our endorsements only on strategic, highly contested races. We are including these CVNM scorecards so readers can check the rating of their local candidates, and to show our appreciation of long-term environmental friends, many of whom are in uncontested races but whose efforts over the years to pass good legislation are much appreciated.

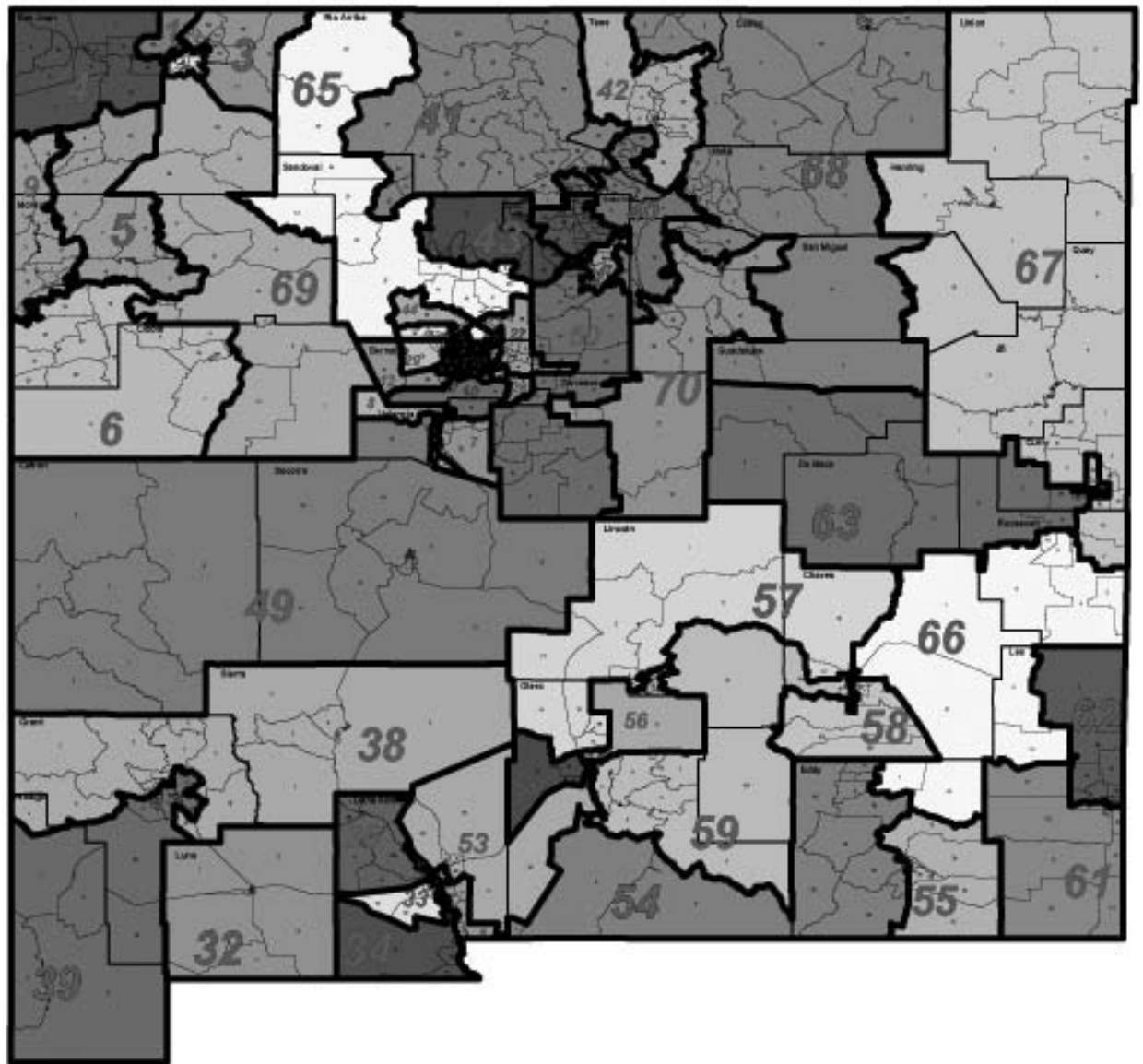
The CVNM prepares an environmental scorecard each year on the state legislature. The scorecard is based upon actual votes on bills that are important to our environment. For example, the 2008 scorecard is based upon 11 votes on issues including health, land use, water, energy, wildlife, and wilderness. For more information, take a look at www.cvnm.org.

The House scorecard is on page 4. See page 4 for additional House endorsements.

All House candidate photos by Carolyn Wright, The Photography Studio.

District map courtesy of NM Legislature website. For complete district information, see <http://legis.state.nm.us/lcs/districts.asp>. For a map of Albuquerque districts, see <http://legis.state.nm.us/lcs/DistrictMaps/courtorderedabqcolormapprt.pdf>.

New Mexico House Districts



Elias Barela (D) ★ District 8, Belen

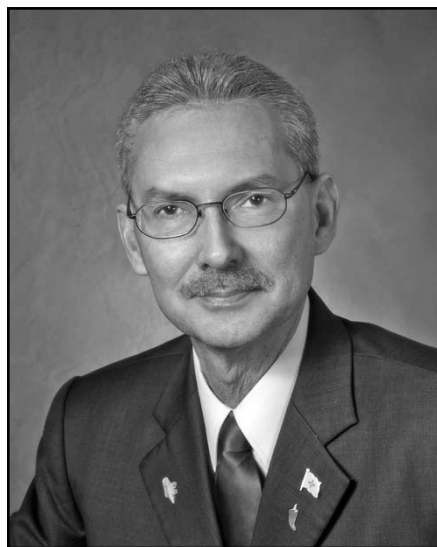


Elias is an attorney in his first term. He is a member of the Water and Natural Resources Committee. Elias compiled a CVNM voting score of 90.

Elias introduced HB 451 in 2008. This bill proposed significant improvements to the use of TIDDs (tax increment development districts), which are now being manipulated to promote sprawl.

If you would like to contribute, contact:
Elias Barela for State Representative
PO Box 2416
Los Lunas, NM 87031
To volunteer, call: 505/866-1254

Miguel Garcia (D) ★ District 14, Albuquerque



Miguel, an educator, has served as a state representative since 1997. His CVNM score is 86. He is a member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

In 2007, Miguel introduced HB 888, "NM Environmental Health Act," and HB 1213, "Alternative Energy State Vehicle Purchase." In 2008 he introduced House Memorial 62, which requests the State to assess its honeybee population and recommend responses to colony collapse disorder.

If you would like to contribute, contact:
Committee to Re-Elect Miguel Garcia
1118 La Font Road SW
Albuquerque, NM 87105
To volunteer, call: 505/877-8131

Mimi Stewart (D) ★ District 21, Albuquerque



Mimi, a public school teacher, has served in the legislature since 1995. She has a CVNM score of 90. Mimi has been a leader in the environmental arena. She chairs the Health and Government Affairs Committee.

In the 60-day session in 2007, Mimi introduced several water bills, including HB41, "Statewide Aquifer Mapping Project." She also introduced several solar bills, including HB 610, 611, and 677.

If you would like to contribute, contact:
People for Mimi Stewart
313 Moon Street NE
Albuquerque, NM 87123
To volunteer, call: 505/275-2355

New Mexico House of Representatives Endorsements

Al Park (D) ★ District 26, Albuquerque



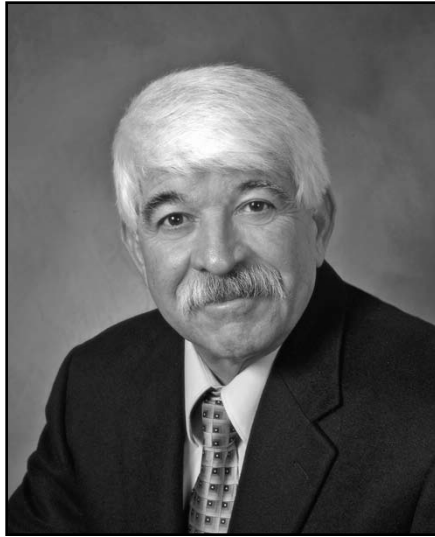
Al is an attorney. He has represented this district since 2001. He chairs the Judiciary Committee. Al has a CVNM score of 90.

In 2007, Al sponsored HB 283, "Dee Johnson Clean Indoor Air Act." This enacted bill regulates indoor cigarette smoking statewide.

If you would like to contribute, contact:

People for Park
PO Box 7428
Albuquerque, NM 87194
To volunteer, call: 505/234-1408

Antonio Lujan (D) ★ District 35, Las Cruces



Antonio works as a consultant. He has served since 2003. He is a member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee. His CVNM score is 88.

In 2007, Antonio introduced HB 80, "Farm and Ranch Workers' Comp Coverage," which would cover our agricultural workers under the workers comp system.

If you would like to contribute, contact:

Committee to Elect Antonio Lujan
429½ San Pedro
Las Cruces, NM 88001
To volunteer, call: 575/524-9519

Jeff Steinborn (D) ★ District 37, Las Cruces



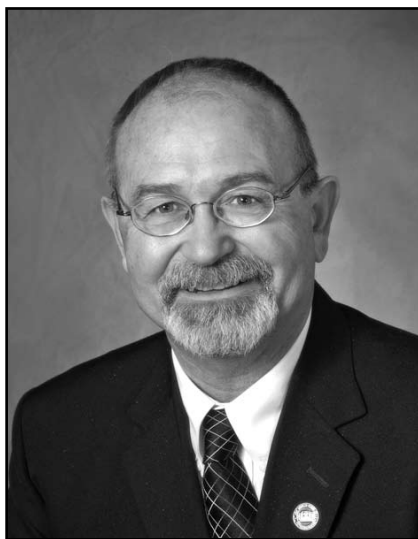
Jeff is in his first term. He works for the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, and has fought to protect Otero Mesa. His CVNM score is 88. He is a member of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

In 2008, Jeff introduced HB 403, "Sustainable Ag Research Education Programs." In 2007, he introduced HB 364, "On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Improvements," and HM 93, "Agriculture Water and Productivity."

If you would like to contribute, contact:

Jeff Steinborn for State Representative
PO Box 562
Las Cruces, NM 88004
To volunteer, call: 575/635-5615

Nate Cote (D) ★ District 53, Organ



Nate is serving his first term. He is a college administrator. Nate has a CVNM score of 89. He is a member of Transportation and Public Works.

In 2008, Nate introduced HB 443, "Animal Cruelty Task Force." In 2007 he introduced HM 39, "Complete Continental Divide Scenic Trail."

If you would like to contribute, contact:

Nate Cote Re-Election Committee
PO Box 537
Organ, NM 88052
To volunteer, call: 575/202-1872

House CVNM Scores

	Party	Avg.	2008	2007		Party	Avg.	2008	2007
Barela, Elias	D	95.0	90	100	Rodella, Debbie	D	54.5	44	65
Stewart, Mimi	D	95.0	90	100	Garcia, Mary Helen	D	53.5	50	57
Lujan, Antonio	D	94.0	88	100	Begaye, Ray	D	50.0	50	50
Wirth, Peter	D	94.0	88	100	Lundstrom, Patricia	D	50.0	50	50
Garcia, Miguel	D	93.0	86	100	Vigil, Richard	D	50.0	44	56
Steinborn, Jeff	D	91.5	88	95	Saavedra, Henry "Kiki"	D	46.0	25	67
Park, Al	D	88.5	90	87	Wallace, Jeannette	R	46.0	50	42
Maestas, Antonio "Moe"	D	88.0	90	86	Nunez, Andrew	D	45.0	33	57
Gutierrez, Joni Marie	D	87.5	75	100	Berry, Richard	R	40.0	57	23
Miera, Rick	D	87.5	75	100	Bandy, Paul	R	39.0	63	15
Chasey, Gail	D	83.5	100	67	Arnold-Jones, Janice	R	38.0	56	20
Varela, Luciano "Lucky"	D	83.5	75	92	Larranaga, Larry	R	35.5	25	46
Picraux, Danice	D	81.5	88	75	Pena, John	D	33.0	33	
Cote, Nathan	D	80.0	89	71	Hall, Jimmie	R	31.5	25	38
Hanosh, George	D	75.0		75	Rehm, William	R	31.5	30	33
King, Rhonda	D	75.0	75	75	Williams, W.C. "Dub"	R	30.5	25	36
Martinez, W. Ken	D	74.5	56	93	Gardner, Keith	R	30.0	33	27
Cervantes, Joseph	D	74.0	75	73	Vaughn, Gloria	R	30.0	36	24
Garcia, Thomas	D	72.5	56	89	Hamilton, Diane Miller	R	29.5	38	21
Salazar, Nick	D	71.0	50	92	Tripp, Don	R	29.5	25	34
Luján, Ben	D	70.5	56	85	Crook, Anna	R	29.0	25	33
Gonzales, Robert "Bobby"	D	68.0	44	92	Tyler, Shirley	R	26.0	25	27
Stapleton, Sheryl Williams	D	64.5	50	79	Gray, William	R	24.5	33	16
Swisstack, Thomas	D	63.0	57	69	Ezzell, Candy Spence	R	24.0	38	10
Trujillo, Jim	D	63.0	44	82	Youngberg, Eric	R	23.0	25	21
Chavez, Ernest	D	61.5	50	73	Foley, Daniel	R	21.5	30	13
McCoy, Kathy	R	59.5	50	69	Moore, Brian	R	20.0	25	15
Madalena, Roger	D	59.0	29	89	Espinoza, Nora	R	19.5	25	14
Campos, Jose	D	57.0	38	76	Strickler, James	R	19.0	38	0
Sandoval, Edward	D	57.0	50	64	Zanetti, Teresa	R	18.0	22	14
Barreras, Andrew	D	56.0	33	79	Anderson, Thomas	R	17.5	25	10
Martinez, Rodolpho "Rudy"	D	56.0	56		Taylor, Thomas	R	17.5	22	13
Heaton, John	D	55.5	38	73	Bratton, Donald	R	15.5	25	6
Irwin, Dona	D	55.5	38	73	Powdrell-Cuthbert, Jane	R	9.0	11	7
Silva, Daniel	D	55.5	43	68	Fox-Young, Justine	R	8.5	11	6

New Mexico Senate Endorsements

The Sierra Club endorses three challengers in the State Senate. All three have strong environmental credentials, and they're running against incumbents who have not been supportive of our environmental goals.

The three challengers all have websites, so we encourage you to read up further about them. You can make a contribution online. We are also providing information so that you can send them a check or volunteer on their campaign.

The Rio Grande Chapter decided this year to focus our endorsements only on strategic, highly contested races. We are including the Conservation Voters of New Mexico (CVNM) scorecards so readers can check the rating of their local candidates, and to show our appreciation of long-term environmental friends, many of whom are in uncontested races but whose efforts over the years to pass good legislation are much appreciated.

The CVNM prepares an environmental scorecard each year on the state legislature. The scorecard is based upon actual votes on bills that are important to our environment. For more information, take a look at www.cvnm.org.

For district map and information, see the New Mexico Legislature website (<http://legis.state.nm.us/lcs/districts.asp>).

Senate CVNM Scores

	Party	Avg.	2008	2007		Party	Avg.	2008	2007
Feldman, Dede	D	96.0	100	92	Ryan, John	R	45.0	57	33
McSorley, Cisco	D	96.0	100	92	Carraro, Joseph	R	38.0	43	33
Grubestic, John	D	92.5	100	85	Harden, Clinton, Jr.	R	38.0	43	33
Sanchez, Michael	D	91.5	100	83	Beffort, Sue Wilson	R	35.5	50	21
Ortiz y Pino, Gerald	D	89.0	86	92	Snyder, H. Diane	R	34.0	43	25
Pinto, John	D	87.5	100	75	Komadina, Steve	R	33.0	33	33
Nava, Cynthia	D	78.0	71	85	Ingle, Stuart	R	30.5	11	50
Lopez, Linda	D	74.0	88	60	Kernan, Gay	R	29.5	17	42
Martinez, Richard	D	73.0	71	75	Duran, Dianna	R	29.0	22	36
Lovejoy, Lynda	D	70.5	83	58	Jennings, Timothy	D	29.0	22	36
Campos, Pete	D	67.5	50	85	Rawson, Leonard Lee	R	23.0	17	29
Rainaldi, Lidio	D	67.0	43	91	Neville, Steven	R	21.0	17	25
Garcia, Mary Jane	D	66.5	50	83	Asbill, Vernon	R	18.5	0	37
Rodriguez, Nancy	D	63.5	83	44	Payne, William	R	18.5	13	24
Sanchez, Bernadette	D	63.0	57	69	Adair, Rod	R	18.0	13	23
Robinson, Shannon	D	62.5	75	50	Leavell, Carroll	R	15.5	0	31
Griego, Phil	D	60.5	63	58	Boitano, Mark	R	11.5	13	10
Taylor, James	D	59.5	56	63	Sharer, William	R	11.0	0	22
Cisneros, Carlos	D	58.5	67	50	Cravens, Kent	R	9.0	0	18
Papen, Mary Kay	D	58.5	50	67					
Ulibarri, David	D	51.5	33	70					
Morales, Howie	D	50.0	50						
Smith, John Arthur	D	46.0	50	42					

Jeff Carr (D) ☆ District 7, Eagle Nest



Jeff is a history teacher at Taos High School and a Sierra Club member. He says, "I teach environmental issues as part of every class I teach." Jeff collected 1,000 signatures to stop the gas drilling on the Valle Vidal.

On his website, Jeff writes, "Clean and plentiful water is in precious, short supply and we must do whatever is necessary to protect and preserve this natural resource."

On the Sierra Club questionnaire, Jeff wrote, "I would work toward developing a renewable energy program in our schools where our students would learn how to install and maintain wind turbines, solar voltaic and geothermal."

Jeff is running against incumbent Clint Harden, who has a CVNM score of 43.

If you would like to contribute, contact:
Carr for Senate 7
PO Box 313
Eagle Nest, NM 87718
To volunteer, call: 505/377-7012
<http://votejeffcarr.com>

Tim Eichenberg (D) ☆ District 15, Albuquerque



Tim is serving his third term on the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority, where he has advocated successfully that projects enhance environmental quality and provide recreational opportunities.

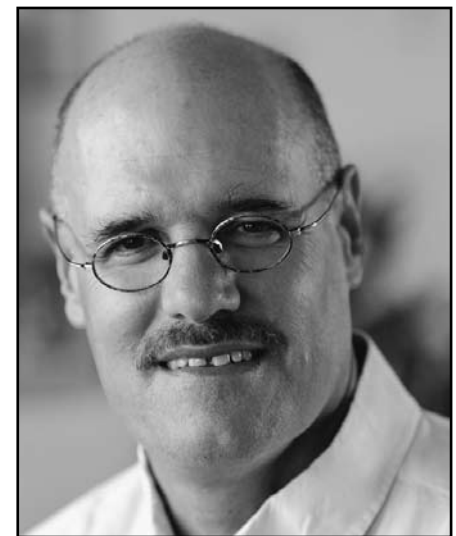
Tim's website states, "I will work to make New Mexico a leader in addressing global warming and reducing fossil fuel dependence. The economic benefits of developing our state's renewable energy resources are many – new jobs, more revenues, increased savings and a cleaner environment."

On the Sierra Club questionnaire, Tim wrote, "I support instream flow. It is critical to the health of the river ecosystem as well as the preservation of wildlife and enhancement to our quality of life."

Tim is running against incumbent Diane Snyder, who has a CVNM score of 43.

If you would like to contribute, contact:
Committee to Elect Tim Eichenberg
7800 Charger Trail NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
To volunteer, call: 505/710-1305
<http://eichenbergfornewmexico.com>

Steve Fischmann (D) ☆ District 37, Las Cruces



Steve is very active in environmental issues. He is a board member of the Southwest Environmental Center, and chair of the Southwest Energy Alliance. Steve was instrumental in delaying a 25-year franchise agreement with El Paso Electric until the terms could be understood and improved.

On his website, Steve talks about his involvement in the Vistas at Presidio project. "In the process, the lack of public participation in important public decisions was highlighted, and the advantages of planning for future development came to the fore."

On the Sierra Club questionnaire, Steve writes, "Legislation requiring meaningful inclining block rates from all energy utilities would go a long way towards encouraging conservation, and lowering long term energy costs. I would also suggest legislation requiring fair payback to distributed solar and wind users."

Steve is running against incumbent Leonard Lee Rawson. Rawson has a CVNM score of 17.

If you would like to contribute, contact:
Campaign to Elect Steve for Senate
PO Box 2580
Mesilla Park, NM 88047
To volunteer, call: 575/635-9582
<http://stevefornewmexicosenate.com>

Public Regulation Commission Endorsements

The Public Regulation Commission (PRC) controls many aspects of our lives, but operates in relative obscurity. The PRC regulates corporations, investor-owned electric and gas utilities, telecommunications companies, transportation companies, transmission and pipeline companies, and insurance companies. A major role of the PRC is to prevent the abuse of monopoly power.

The laws of New Mexico state that “the public interest, the interest of consumers and the interest of investors require the regulation and supervision of such public utilities to the end that reasonable and proper services shall be available at fair, just and reasonable rates, and to the end that capital and investment may be encouraged and attracted so as

to provide for the construction, development and extension, without unnecessary duplication and economic waste, of proper plants and facilities for the rendition of service to the general public and to industry.”

Because all of the issues in front of the PRC affect economic development and public infrastructure in New Mexico, it is very important that voters understand its job, and take an engaged and active role in electing qualified commissioners. For citizens concerned about the development of clean energy, it is doubly important that good candidates are elected who will ensure that New Mexico continues to expand efforts to develop energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Santa Fe County Commission Endorsements



Kathy Holian ★ District 4

Kathy Holian was appointed to the County Development Review Committee in 2001, where she has served since then, making land use recommendations to the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners.

Kathy’s vision for the future of Santa Fe County is that each community be fully engaged in the process of planning for water use, energy use, and future growth. Water protection and quality-of-life considerations need to take precedence over drilling for oil and gas or any other kind of invasive activities. Water conservation, including catchment and runoff management, has to be the top priority. County programs for affordable housing will enable the people so vital to the well-being of the community – firefighters, police force, nurses, teachers, etc. – to live in the neighborhoods they serve.

Though winning the primary by a lot of door knocking and mailings, Kathy ended up with a campaign debt of \$20,000. Please consider sending a donation to Elect Kathy Holian, 4 Camino Cielo Azul, Santa Fe, NM 87508.



Liz Stefanics ★ District 5

Elizabeth “Liz” Stefanics has committed to work with residents in the various communities on a variety of issues including protection from gas and oil drilling, continued comprehensive health services at our hospital, clean and adequate water supply, public safety, social services, and transportation – roads, commuter buses, rail, and much more.

She believes that there is great opportunity for the city and county to work collaboratively for the future benefits of the residents of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County.

Her leadership and experience are exhibited in her past positions in health policy, county open space, risk management, human services, national government relations, NM State Senate, SF Community Foundation Board, university faculty, nonprofit management, and state administration.

Contact Liz Stefanics at 505/827-6264, or write Friends of Liz Stefanics, PO Box 720, Cerrillos, NM 87010.

**Jason Marks ★
PRC District 1**



Commissioner Marks was elected to his first four-year term in 2004, and he has served as the Commission Chair since early 2008. He provides leadership and enormous commitment to the details of creating policies and rules to ensure that we will have strong development of energy efficiency and renewable energy in New Mexico. His legal knowledge and analysis are extremely thorough, which is critical in the regulatory world, where corporations with much at stake are able to pursue legal challenges against orders and policies which they oppose.

Commissioner Marks has rapidly become an expert in energy efficiency and renewable energy, as well as climate change, and regularly contributes to the fine details of new rules about energy that other commissioners more often leave to agency staff. Commissioner Marks also listens well to input from a variety of experts and makes informed decisions. Since taking office in 2004, his notable accomplishments in support of clean energy include the following:

Commissioner Marks was a leader in promoting distributed generation and rooftop solar through his advocacy in developing the rules for how to meet the Renewable Portfolio Standard. He also took the lead in directing utilities to explicitly consider the future risks of costs associated with carbon regulation.

The Marks campaign is publicly financed but welcomes volunteers. To volunteer, call: 505/280-3223.

**Rick Lass ★
PRC District 3**



Rick Lass has been involved in state politics since 1995. He is currently a director at Voting Matters, a nonprofit organization working to improve our elections and increase voter participation.

Rick believes that New Mexicans deserve a smart, forward-looking clean energy policy that reduces costs and creates jobs. Conservation and efficiency are necessary components of any policy to reduce cost and consumption. The PRC can help by promoting energy-saving practices and technologies, and by working with the legislature to make it easier for consumers and small businesses to invest in more efficient appliances and equipment that will reduce long-term energy costs.

Rick believes the PRC should do what it can to encourage higher fuel efficiency and to encourage better mass transit systems throughout the state. The Rail Runner, Park and Ride, and existing local transportation systems are assets to our state. These systems need to be expanded to cover more New Mexicans, and to link with existing and expanded operations by private companies to ensure safe and affordable transportation options for all as well as employment opportunities for more New Mexicans.

If you would like to contribute, contact:
Elect Rick Lass
PO Box 4764
Santa Fe NM 87502
To volunteer, call: 505/507-3000
<http://ricklass.net>

Barack Obama & Joe Biden ★ President & Vice President – Bold, Transformational Leadership Ready to Solve Our Energy Crisis

The Sierra Club has officially endorsed Senator Barack Obama for President. We want to take this opportunity to tell you why.

Simply put, we believe Obama shares our concerns, values, and vision for a clean energy future. He agrees with us that it's not time for half steps; that what America needs is bold, transformational action that will break the chokehold Big Oil has on our economy and Washington politics, and provide short-term relief for American families and long-term solutions for our energy and economic problems.

Some of the highlights of Obama's energy strategy include the following:

He wants to provide relief for families struggling to pay their energy bills. His plan is to provide families with a \$1,000 tax credit and stimulus checks paid for by taxing oil companies' record profits.

He wants to invest \$150 billion over the next 10 years in alternative sources of energy – wind and solar power, and advanced biofuels – in the commercialization of plug-in hybrid cars, and in developing a new digital electric grid. This investment will create up to 5 million good-paying jobs that cannot be outsourced and will create the billions of dollars in new economic activity that will put America back on the path to prosperity.

He will require 25% of U.S. electricity to come from renewable sources by 2025 and increase energy efficiency in the United States by 50% by 2030.

In attacking global warming, Obama has presented a bold and comprehensive plan, which includes a "cap and auction" system that would cut our carbon dioxide emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

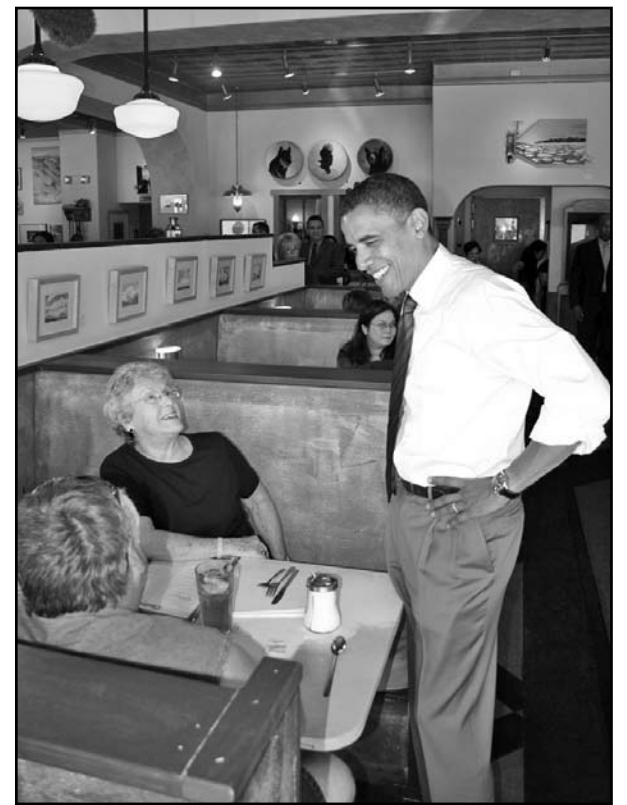
He rejects drilling as the answer to our energy woes. He knows that drilling off of our beaches and destroying our last special places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in order to pad Big Oil's bottom line won't do anything to lower gas prices today, tomorrow, or even a decade from now.



A staunch supporter of clean energy, Joe Biden practices what he preaches by commuting every day by train from Washington D.C. to his home in Delaware. (Photo courtesy of BarackObama.com)

The Sierra Club praises Barack Obama's choice of Senator Joe Biden as his Vice Presidential running mate. With a lifetime commitment to environmental protection and clean energy, Joe Biden is an invaluable addition to Barack Obama's ticket. Senator Biden has an overall rating of 83% from the League of Conservation Voters. He has been calling for the U.S. to act on global warming for over 20 years, and in his role on the Foreign Relations Committee has taken the Bush administration to task for failing to engage the rest of the world on climate change.

Senators Obama and Biden share the common goals of putting America back to work by building a balanced clean energy economy, taking on Big Oil, and meeting the challenge of global warming. Under their leadership, our economy can become stronger, and our world cleaner and safer. Together they will make the strongest executive team for clean energy in American history.



Barack Obama stopped for lunch at the Range Cafe in Bernalillo on September 18. Afterwards he spoke to a crowd of nearly 10,000 in Española (see photo on page 1), where he promised to help make New Mexico a center for renewable energy. (Photos courtesy of BarackObama.com)

If you would like to contribute, contact:

Obama for America
PO Box 8102
Chicago, IL 60680

To volunteer, call: 505/266-3556

Also visit these websites to donate and volunteer online, and to find local Obama campaign offices:

<http://nm.barackobama.com>
www.barackobama.com

Tom Udall ★ U.S. Senate – Fighting for NM and the Environment

Tom Udall has been endorsed by the Rio Grande Chapter due to his leadership in conservation, environmental protection, and renewable energy during his 10 years as a U.S. Representative, and his reputation as a principled, responsible leader both then as as NM Attorney General.

Tom Udall was born in 1948 in Tucson, Arizona. His roots in New Mexico run deep, though. His grandmother, Louise Lee, belonged to a ranching family that lived during territorial times in what is present-day Catron County. Tom's childhood love of the land was instilled in him by his father, Stewart Udall, who served as Secretary of the Interior under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson.

Tom earned his bachelor's degree from Prescott College in 1970. After earning his Bachelor of Law degree in Cambridge, England, in 1975, Tom chose to make New Mexico his permanent home. He married Jill Cooper and has one daughter. Tom attended UNM Law School, graduating in 1977. He then served as law clerk to Chief Justice Oliver Seth of the U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. Tom then became a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's criminal division. Following that, he worked as Chief Counsel to the New Mexico Health and Environment Department, where he fought for stronger environmental and health protections.

These experiences helped Tom to realize that he could personally make a difference for New Mexi-

cans through a career in public service. In 1990, New Mexicans chose Tom as their Attorney General. Elected with broad support, he stood up and did what was right by protecting consumers against fraud and fighting for our state's most vulnerable citizens. He made fighting DWI and domestic violence a priority and, in tandem with the legislature, helped enact tougher laws against offenders. He also worked to protect consumers, especially senior citizens, from rampant telemarketing and other forms of fraud. Additionally, Tom made ethics a trademark issue, increasing transparency in government and prosecuting corrupt politicians, including members of his own party.

In 1998, Tom was elected to represent the Third Congressional District of NM in the U.S. House of Representatives. There, Tom passed a bill to establish a national renewable energy standard that required utilities to produce 15% of their electricity from renewable energy sources by 2020, which will help create good jobs, reinvigorate our economy, and reduce global warming. Tom also stood with conservationists, hunters, outdoorsmen, and ranchers to write and pass legislation to protect both the Ojito Wilderness Area and the Valle Vidal. Because of Tom's efforts, these areas will still be around for future generations to enjoy and appreciate.

As U.S. Senator, Tom has pledged to work for shifting to alternative energy sources, increasing investment in these sources, promoting greater



Tom Udall has spent decades standing up for all New Mexicans and the environment. As U.S. Senator, he will tackle global warming and push for new energy technologies. (Photos courtesy of TomUdall.com)

vehicle and appliance efficiencies, and enacting a comprehensive energy policy. As long as we rely on foreign energy sources, our national security is at risk. Tom will also work to eliminate subsidies for Big Oil. Consumers are now paying the highest gas prices in history and Big Oil is reaping record profits. Tom plans to push for stronger legislation to fight price gouging at the pump. He also will work to introduce legislation that will rein in greedy hedge fund speculators who are currently driving gas prices up beyond reasonable levels.

(continued on page 8)

Martin Heinrich ★ U.S. Congress District 1 – A True Conservationist

New Mexicans have a rare opportunity this November to elect a true conservationist to represent us in Congress. Before Martin ran for Albuquerque City Council, he was a Central Group ExCom member and activist, particularly on land conservation issues. He also served on the board of directors of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, including some time as President. Martin has also held a board position with Albuquerque's Open Space Advisory Board. In 2006, Governor Bill Richardson appointed Martin Natural Resources Trustee for the State of New Mexico. The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance named Martin as the 2007 Conservationist of the Year.

Martin and his wife, Julie, have two children, Carter and Micah. Martin earned a Bachelor of Science and Engineering degree from the University of Missouri and has taken several graduate courses in the University of New Mexico's Community and Regional Planning program. Immediately after graduating college, the first decision Martin made as an adult was to make New Mexico his home. He fell in love with our state's natural beauty, rich history, fascinating people, and delicious food (especially the green chile enchiladas!).

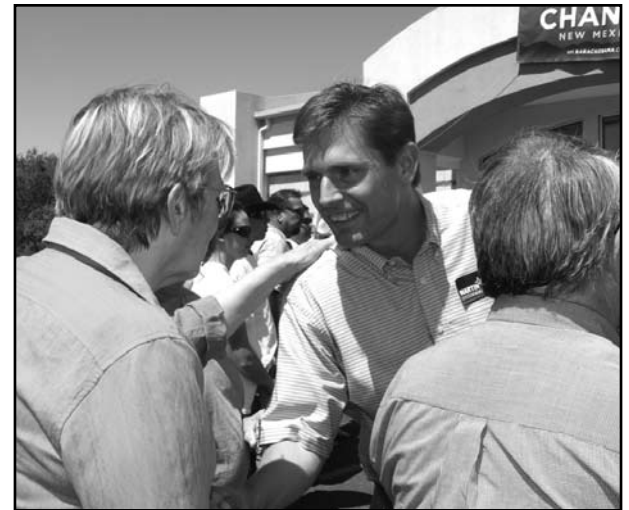
In his professional life, Martin has dedicated his life to the public good. A small businessman, he founded his own public affairs consulting firm serving not-for-profit and education clients. As a nonprofit executive, Martin served as Executive

Director of the Cottonwood Gulch Foundation, an organization dedicated to providing young people with natural science and environmental education experiences through wilderness expeditions.

During his single term on the Albuquerque City Council, Martin was a leader on natural resource and conservation issues. He sponsored two City Council resolutions (R-07-260 and R-06-129), providing city funding of over \$1 million for the purchase of open space threatened by development, much of which is a crucial wildlife linkage area between the Sandia and Manzano mountains. In 2007, the Trust for Public Land ranked the City of Albuquerque first place nationally for its percentage of land devoted to open space. Martin sponsored the "High Performance Building Ordinance" (O-07-073), requiring new commercial and residential buildings to meet higher LEED standards of energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He also sponsored legislation (OC-07-11), establishing a contract with the Trust for Public Land to create a modeling tool for prioritizing the protection of conservation sites in Albuquerque.

In addition, Martin was the primary organizer in the successful campaign to protect the Ojito Wilderness Area, gaining the support of New Mexico's congressional delegation and overcoming early opposition by local ranchers.

Martin believes in an "everything" approach to moving America toward energy independence. In



Martin Heinrich has an proven track record on urban and public land conservation issues. (Photos courtesy of MartinHeinrich.com)

Congress, Martin plans to take steps to reduce gas prices right now. He also plans to explore and invest in alternative technology, in the belief that the more efficient the technology, the more energy we can produce from these sources.

If you would like to contribute, contact:

Martin Heinrich for Congress

2118 Central Ave. SE, #71

Albuquerque, NM 87106

To volunteer, call: 505/244-0022

www.martinheinrich.com

Ben Ray Luján ★ U.S. Congress District 3 – Committed to a Green Energy Economy

Ben Ray Luján is running for Congress in the Third Congressional District. He has been endorsed by the national Sierra Club because of his strong environmental values and record. As Chair of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC), Ben has pushed solutions to global warming and has been a strong advocate for renewable energy.

In 2006, Ben signed on to the Joint Action Framework on Climate Change on behalf of the state. This was part of a regional strategy to deal with the issue because of the lack of action by the Bush administration. Ben strongly supports a cap-and-trade program on greenhouse gas emissions. Cap and trade has worked successfully in the past to deal with acid rain, and is now the main recommendation of the Western Climate Initiative. Ben writes on his website, "The United States should set an example for other nations and take the lead on international agreements to reduce global warming and address the challenge of climate change."

Ben has also worked to increase the viability of alternatives to fossil fuel energy. He fought to pass legislation to raise New Mexico's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). By 2015, 15% of electricity must come from renewable sources, including solar and wind. The percentage increases to 20% by 2020. The RPS is responsible for the great increase in wind generation, and the serious effort to build a large-scale solar power generating station. Also, under Ben's leadership, New Mexico has one of the most attractive net-metering rules in the country, helping to propel the photovoltaic solar industry.

Ben writes, "Instead of giving billions in tax breaks to Big Oil, we can shift these benefits to businesses that produce and develop renewable sources of energy. Instead of relying on foreign oil, we can create a green-energy economy right here in New Mexico."

Ben realizes the importance of green-collar jobs



Ben Ray Luján's strong environmental values and economic sense make him an excellent successor to Tom Udall (third from left). (Photos courtesy of BenRLujan.com)

and the necessity for educational opportunities. He is strongly supportive of the recently approved Solar Energy Research Park at Northern New Mexico College.

Ben has been an ally to New Mexico environmental groups on many issues. He worked with the Sierra Club to help create its light-bulb exchange program. This program, paid for by PNM, allows residents to receive free energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs when they turn in their old incandescent bulbs.

Ben is running for the seat currently held by Tom Udall. The district covers most of the northern third of New Mexico, and includes Farmington and Santa Fe.

If you would like to contribute, contact:

People for Ben

PO Box 31129

Santa Fe, NM 87594

To volunteer, call: 505/988-2442

www.benrlujan.com

Udall for Senate (continued from page 7)

Tom believes that New Mexico can become the nation's leader in new energy technologies such as wind, solar, and geothermal power. This will create many new highly skilled jobs here. Tom will promote workforce development so that our universities and community colleges will be training the needed engineers, scientists, and designers in these new alternative energy industries. Tom will also work to effectively manage our existing energy resources, particularly water, and to ensure that New Mexico receives its fair share of the Colorado and Rio Grande river flows.

In another effort to curb global warming, Tom plans to promote programs to install efficient lighting and appliances, efficient cooling and heating systems, and water-conserving devices in homes and offices. He will work to make sure that small businesses that invest in "green building" technologies will quickly be able to deduct their expenses from their taxes. Tom also plans to support a tax credit for companies that maintain or increase the number of their workers, while ending tax breaks for companies that outsource American jobs.

Tom also plans to continue to work for ethics and lobbying reform, greater accountability for members of Congress, fiscal responsibility, and a return to a balanced budget. Tom is committed to improving our schools through supporting existing programs that have proven to make a difference for our students. Tom voted against the Iraq War from the beginning because he felt that it was not focusing on capturing terrorists. He will also care for veterans by seeking better health care and striving to pass a new GI Bill.

If you would like to contribute, contact:

Udall for Us All

3311 Candelaria NE, Suite B

Albuquerque, NM 87107

To volunteer, call: 505/884-3055

www.tomudall.com

Your Vote Can Help Wildlife; Your Voice Can Help Save the ESA

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) was signed into law over 30 years ago and it has proven to be wise and effective. In New Mexico there are 15 species of animals and 17 species of plants that are federally listed as being endangered. Some of the animals are small and seemingly insignificant, like the Socorro isopod, which is a tiny freshwater crustacean found in only one place on earth – a thermal spring near Socorro. Some are magnificent, like the jaguar, which occasionally wanders into New Mexico from south of the border. The Endangered Species Act not only protects these animals and plants as a legacy for the future, but it also protects the places where they live.

Given that this issue of the *Sierran* is about the upcoming election, let us consider how our choices can affect laws like the ESA. It is no secret that as a group, this generation of Republicans has a disdain and disregard not only for the Endangered Species Act but for environmental laws in general. As I write, Republican appointee Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne is attempting to go around Congress and weaken this law administratively by essentially no longer requiring that agencies considering a project consult with experts at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding how their actions might impact endangered species. Instead, the agency proposing the project would have the power to decide how it would affect wildlife. We're talking about projects like timber sales, mines, road building, and dams. Sometimes these agencies do not have the experts to make a decision based on science and sometimes there is a clear conflict of interest that doesn't consider wildlife. Moreover Secretary Kemp-

thorne arbitrarily slashed the public comment period from 60 days to 30 days. Does this sound like someone who wants to protect wildlife or someone on a mission to bulldoze those protections?

Senator Obama's office has been quoted as calling this 11th-hour ruling "highly problematic" and that we should be "looking for ways to improve not weaken the law." When Senator McCain was asked, he offered no comment on the revisions. The Republican nominee for vice president has vowed to sue to stop the listing of the polar bear. She also opposes and is actively stonewalling the listing of Beluga whales because it might interfere with oil projects. New Mexico Representative Steve Pearce, who is running on the Republican ticket for U.S. Senate, stood on the floor of the House arguing to not just reduce but to end funding for the Mexican wolf reintroduction program. He was unsuccessful but the Republican party line has been to repeatedly and consistently weaken, ignore, and even try to repeal the Endangered Species Act.

As you vote this fall, wildlife might not be at the top of your list of concerns with the economy, employment, the wars, the energy shortage, climate change, the housing crisis, rising debt, a weakening currency, and national security, but remember that when the travails of modern life crash in upon us,



one place we can go for solace and sanity is the natural world. How tragic to not be able to gaze on a bald eagle soaring above it all or to be inspired by a wolf howl as it echoes down the canyons. Without strong protections both could be lost. And how ennobling of the human spirit that despite our bungling, we have made the commitment to share the world with these creatures. Consider how your vote best honors that commitment.

Because of intense public pressure, the deadline for comment on the proposed weakening of the Endangered Species Act has been extended to October 15. Please send your comment to Public Comment Processing, Attention: 1018-AT50, Division of Policy and Directives Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 222, Arlington, VA 22203. You may also comment easily online by following links from our Chapter home page (<http://riogrande.sierraclub.org>). Please add your voice in support of leaving the Endangered Species Act alone.

—Mary Katherine Ray

Above: Without a strong Endangered Species Act, our forests would not be as protected from destructive logging practices and Mexican spotted owls might disappear from our mountains. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)

“Drill, Baby, Drill”? That’s Not What My Baby Wants

As a mom and environmentalist, I find that everything about McCain-Palin-Pearce scares the bejesus out of me. I am particularly horrified by their deceptive “drill here, drill now” slogan.

First of all, we are drilling here, drilling now. In New Mexico alone, there are over 21,000 oil wells in operation, which pumped out 60.7 million barrels in 2005, according to the most recent numbers from the state's Oil Conservation Division (OCD). But OCD's statistics indicate that despite the increase in the number of wells drilled, the large oil deposits in the state are starting to go dry.

Offshore drilling was never banned outright. It is occurring on all coasts, and is only prohibited in particularly sensitive areas where the local economy would be seriously damaged by oil spills. Even if we opened all coastal areas to drilling, it would take up to 14 years before any new oil made it to market.

If we drilled in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, it'd take decades before any of that oil would hit the pumps. And it is estimated to produce at most 3% of the U.S.'s current oil needs.

Meanwhile, this year's exports of U.S. refined gasoline and diesel have increased by 33% over 2007's number. Thanks to the international commodities market, whatever petroleum is here doesn't necessarily stay here to help lower fuel prices.

To all those critics who tout NM's oil and gas revenues as a boon to our economy and education



system, data shows that tourism is actually a more profitable industry for the state, and other states have funded much better schools without money from dirty energy.

Despite all the heart-tugging media ads about how more domestic drilling would help to ease the financial problems of low- and middle-class Americans, the truth is that only the burden – and none of the benefits – would befall those who can't afford to leave when the drilling rigs roll into town. In fact, the only ones who stand to profit from domestic

drilling are the multinational energy corporations. ExxonMobil posted a \$12 billion profit for its second quarter of this year. And oil and gas companies enjoy taxpayer-subsidized tax breaks and incentives – to the tune of \$18 billion in the past few years. The politicians whose campaigns are bankrolled by the oil and gas industry wouldn't suffer, either.

And there's another population we're putting at risk with this short-sighted, hysterical push for domestic drilling: my son and all your kids. There's a little thing called climate change that many seem to be inconveniently ignoring. Everyone except the far-right fringe agrees that human-caused global warming is happening here, happening now. The drive to produce and burn more carbon-emitting fossil fuels is threatening the very survival of our children. In 15 years, when those few barrels of oil from a new offshore rig finally hit the market, when my son is of

age to get his driver's license, I doubt he'll have the luxury of complaining about high gas prices. Persistent drought, deadly heat waves, destructive hurricanes, massive fires, rising sea levels, crop failures and food shortages, and tropical diseases could very well be the hallmarks of his teen years. Not exactly what I worried about in high school.

High gas prices are creating hardships for millions of Americans who are already hurting financially. But no amount of domestic oil will ease their pain today or in the near future. And the long-term costs of oil and gas drilling on our land, water, health, climate, and children aren't worth whatever will hit the market years from now. Politicians and industry want to “drill here, drill now” to get elected and increase their profits. But the people deserve real solutions that will get us off fossil fuels altogether.

Local, organic agriculture alone can cut greenhouse gas emissions by 30% and cut global energy use by one-sixth. We have to rethink the ways in which we use energy, build our vehicles, create our fuels, design our homes and buildings, generate and transmit our electricity, and determine the prices of so-called commodities. But all this can be done – and is being done on scales both small and large throughout the world. The United States has the ability to make renewable, affordable energy for its own people. All it takes now is for Americans to demand “clean energy here, clean energy now” with their votes.

—Ellen Cavalli

Above: The author's 14-month-old son Benjamin implores you to join his Mama for Obama in voting for clean energy candidates this fall. (Photo by Ellen Cavalli)



NORTHERN GROUP NEWS

Tuesday, October 21, 7 PM

REI Community Room, 500 Market Street, Santa Fe Railyard

THE RAIL RUNNER'S COMING. NOW WHAT?

How we move around changes how we plan our cities and vice-versa. Both impact energy use, health, our budgets and, most importantly, climate change. Two agents of urban environmental change will speak on the imminent arrival of the Rail Runner commuter train to Santa Fe.

Chris Blewett, Rail Runner Project Manager for the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG), will speak about what the Rail Runner's arrival will mean for Northern New Mexico's transportation choices, natural resources, the economy and environment. Information about schedules, fares, stations and funding will also be covered.

Urbanist Roy Wroth brings a visionary component to the program. Using multiple visual examples, Wroth will explore how Santa Fe's planning and built environment could enhance and extend the benefits brought by the Rail Runner and how longer-term zoning and planning decisions can be the next step in going "deep green."

NORTHERN GROUP COMMITTEE MEETINGS Sierra Club Office, 1807 Second Street, Unit #45

Group Executive Committee: Tuesday, October 7, 7 PM November – TBD

Group Conservation Committee: Tuesday, November 25, 7 PM

Northern New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club
1807 Second Street, Unit #45, Santa Fe, NM 87505
505 • 983 • 2703 ◇ website <http://riogrande.sierraclub.org/santafe/>

GROUP CHAIR

John Buchser

Tiring of the election? Don't poop out yet! We have the opportunity of a decade to make *significant* changes. Give myself or Norma a holler. We are knocking on doors in Albuquerque to talk to voters every Saturday between now and election day in support of Obama, Udall, Heinrich, and Marks.

Ready to help, but not with the election? We have plenty of opportunities. PNM has given us another 20,000 compact florescent light bulbs. That presents no small task for our team of energetic volunteers. Look thru the list of opportunities elsewhere on these pages.

Not sure you have the time to volunteer? Any of our endorsed candidates can make good use of your donations.

And don't forget to energize yourself in the fine New Mexico outdoors! Pull out our hike book and go for it.

SPEAKING OF VOTING

The Northern Group nominating committee – Norma McCallan, Norbert Sperlich, and Carol Raymond – have nominated the following candidates to run for election to the Northern Group Executive Committee for a two-year term that begins in January:

Jean Watts • Dexter Coolidge • Tom Gorman • David Van Winkle

The ballot will appear in the November/December issue of the *Sierran*, with the opportunity to vote for four members, who can be nominated, write-in, or petition candidates. If you seek to be on the ExCom, please contact a member of the nominating committee no later than mid-October or you may seek inclusion on the ballot by petition, which requires signatures of 3% of group members. Please submit any questions to election committee chair John Buchser.

◆ ◆ NORTHERN NEW MEXICO GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS ◆ ◆

Chair – John Buchser * ‡	jbuchser@comcast.net	820-0201
Vice-Chair – Norma McCallan * ‡	nmccallan@mindspring.com	471-0005
Secretary – Jean Watts *	jeanwatts@comcast.net	989-5010
Treasurer – Anne Stauffer	arsinm@comcast.net	986-1412
Office – Joann Lucas	joannlucas@comcast.net	466-6691
Book Distributors – Keith Grover	darkvern@comcast.net	466-4278
Joe Lewis	jcoulterlewis@yahoo.com	505-216-7529
Book Mailer - Gail Bryant		757-2576
Chapter Rep – Dexter Coolidge *	dextercoolidge@yahoo.com	988-1197
Membership – Alice Cox	auntialice@pecosplaza.com	757-2145
Newsletter – Kay Carlson	kcarlsonwp@earthlink.net	982-3926
Sierran Distribution – Marcia Rodda		986-0449
Outings – Norbert Sperlich	bsperlich@cybermesa.com	474-4354
Tobin Oruch	oruch@lanl.gov	820-2844
Political Committee – Susan Martin	smartin31@comcast.net	988-5206
Tom Robey	trobey@cybermesa.com	955-9578
Phone Answerer – Bebs Taylor		983-9129
Publicity – Kia Mudge 474-6697 and Mary Thomson 982-5486		
Social Cohesion – Jean Watts *	jeanwatts@comcast.net	989-5010
Las Vegas contact – Betty Quick	bettydquick@gmail.com	505-454-9123
Taos Branch – Scott Estep	wetmtm@rmi.com	575-770-7969

Tuesday, November 18, 7 PM

WELCOME TO THE ANTHROPOCENE: Notes on the Vegetation of the Southwest, Past and Future

Local author and conservationist William deBuys tells us that, although the landscapes of the Southwest appear to most of us timeless and unchanging, they have been the scene of enormous dynamism over the years, especially in historic times. Their legacy of change is hardly at an end. A warming and increasingly variable climate promises to usher in a period in which the limits of change become increasingly unbounded and the changes themselves become harder to predict, harder to live with, and, for many of us, harder to accept.

Bill is the author of four books: *Enchantment and Exploitation*, *River of Traps*, *Salt Dreams: Land and Water in Low-Down California*, and *The Walk*. He has also co-authored and edited *Valles Caldera: A Vision for New Mexico's National Preserve* (with Don J. Usner).

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

NOTE: OCTOBER MEETING AT REI IN THE RAILYARD

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

(Acting) CONSERVATION CHAIR

Norma McCallan

The Forest Committee, thanks primarily to Roger Peterson and Dale Stahlecker, submitted comments during the recent Scoping process in the Santa Fe National Forest's ongoing Travel Management Planning process.

Robb Thomson, as our NM representative, has been heavily involved in the Western Climate Initiative, organized the September program with the Governor's environment advisor Sarah Cottrell, and is awaiting the publication of an outline for a New Mexico cap and trade program.

Sig Silber and Norma McCallan visited the Alcalde Experiment Station in August to learn more about its research into local, sustainable agriculture.

There has been a lot of discussion about the Buckman Diversion project and whether we can convince the city to use solar power to get the water uphill – a very energy intensive task.

The most important thing that all readers can do right now to further our conservation goals is get out and work for our endorsed candidates, some of whom are in very tight races, and VOTE.

NORTHERN GROUP IS LOOKING FOR OFFICE SHARING ARRANGEMENT

The Northern Group has been sharing office space for the last year; however, two of our three partners have departed, leaving us with an infrequently-used large and cheerful space that we would love to share with a suitable party. Alternatively, we seek either a small office to keep our office supplies, and/or a conference room to share. Our own meetings are usually late in the day or in the early evening. Please contact John Buchser if you are interested or aware of a party that might be.

Farmington Branch – Art Jaquez	artjaquez@yahoo.com	505-326-5229
Nick Cullander	ncullander@hotmail.com	505-334-0935
Web Master – Monika Bittman		505-466-0130
Dan Rusthoi rusthoi@earthlink.net 474-3965 / Kathy Priolakjpriola@gmail.com 466-1040		
Conservation – Chair – Dexter Coolidge *	dextercoolidge@yahoo.com	988-1197
Activist Outings – Norma McCallan * ‡	nmccallan@mindspring.com	471-0005
4 Corners' Power Plants – Robb Thomson *	robbsm@toast.net	988-8958
Santa Fe Nat'l Forest – Tom Gorman		438-3932
Genetically Engineered Food – Jim Hannan	jhannan505@aol.com	988-5760
Mining – Cliff Larsen	clarsen1@ix.netcom.com	466-2128
Cool Cities Campaign – Leader, David Van Winkle david@vw77.com		820-1006
Cool Biz – Mark Walztoni *	mark@leadershipchanges.com	603-5810
Eco Footprints – Brian Skeelee	brianvida@nm.net	984-1739
Resources – Ken Hughes ‡	b1family@comcast.net	474-0550
Educational Outreach – Teresa Seamster	tcseam@qwest.net	466-8964
Water – Sig Silber ‡	ssilber1@juno.com	473-7006
Wildlife/Nat'l Parks/Rangelands - Roger Peterson ‡	rogpete@aol.com	983-7559
Brendan Miller *	bmiller59@comcast.net	490-2680
Carol Raymond *	Carol@SFSR.com	989-8600, ext 27 (w)

* Northern Group Executive Committee ‡ Core Conservation Committee



NORTHERN GROUP NEWS

NORTHERN GROUP OUTINGS

Sat Sun October

- 4 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** in San Pedro Parks. 8-10 miles RT, early start. **Michael Di Rosa** (667-0095 work, 663-0648 home)
- 5 **Moderate Hike** near Valle Grande including Cerro Grande (10,200') and Valle Grande Trail. Total of 6 miles, 1750' gain. **Norbert Sperlich** (474-4354)
- 5 **Very Strenuous Hike** near Taos to Vallecito Mountain (12,643') in heart of high mountains. 14 miles, 4500' gain. Dogs okay. Bring headlamp, hiking poles. **Hal Davis** (575-758-3949)
- 11 **Moderate Hike** to Holiday Mesa (Jemez). 6 miles RT, 1600' gain. Two stream crossings, steep, rough trail. Interesting geology (fossils). A few dogs okay. **Stephen Markowitz** (983-2779)
- 12 **Moderate Loop Hike** in the Caja del Rio along old forest roads and down a long abandoned, somewhat steep trail to the Rio Grande. Interesting views, 7 miles, 1000' elevation gain, dogs okay. **Norma McCallan** (471-0005)
- 12 **Strenuous Hike** to Pecos Baldy. 17 miles RT, 3800' gain. Dogs okay. **Tobin Oruch** (820-2844) before 8 PM.
- 18 **Easy Birdwatch Walk**. Bring binoculars. **Ron Duffy** (466-6398)
- 18 **Santa Fe River Cleanup**. **Paige Grant** (982-5180, paigeanna@comcast.net) See inset article for details.
- 18 **Strenuous Hike** near Sierra Negra (Abiquiu). 10 miles RT. All off trail, some scrambling. **Bogdan Mihaila** (662-0421)
- 19 **Easy/Moderate Hike** to Kitchen Mesa. 4.5 miles RT, 600' gain. **Alan Shapiro** (424-9242)
- 19 **Very Strenuous Hike** to Jicarita Peak (12,835') from Santa Barbara Campground. About 15 miles total. 4200' gain. Dogs okay. Bring headlamp. **Hal Davis** (575-758-3949)
- 25 **Strenuous Hike** into Bandelier Backcountry (Red Canyon). About 12 miles RT. High clearance vehicles needed. **Norbert Sperlich** (474-4354)
- 26 **Moderate Hike** on West Rim Trail (Rio Grande Gorge). 9 miles RT, 200' gain. Dogs okay. **Dan Rusthoi** (690-8967)

PLEASE ALWAYS CALL THE OUTINGS LEADER PRIOR TO A HIKE FOR CONFIRMATION AND DETAILS.

All outings are open to the public and free unless otherwise noted.

For changes and updates in the hike schedule, check our website:
<http://riogrande.sierraclub.org/santafe/>

Sat Sun November

- 1 **Strenuous Hike** to Painted Cave (Bandelier). 13 miles RT, 2400' gain. High clearance vehicles needed. **Bogdan Mihaila** (662-0421)
- 1 **Very Strenuous Hike** to Santa Barbara Divide (12,000') from Santa Barbara Campground. Great views. 24 miles, 3100' gain. Dogs okay. Bring headlamp. **Hal Davis** (575-758-3949)
- Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday Morning**
- 2 **Moderate Hike** Call for details. **Art Judd** (982-3212)
- 8 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** on Ojitos Trail (Chama River Canyon Wilderness). 8-10 miles, some off trail. **Michael Di Rosa** (667-0095 work, 663-0648 home)
- 9 **Easy Hike** in Diablo Canyon. 6 miles RT, 400' gain. Dogs okay. **Dan Rusthoi** (690-8967)
- 15 **Easy Birdwatch Walk**. Bring binoculars. **Ron Duffy** (466-6398)
- 15 **Santa Fe River Cleanup**. **John Buchser** (820-0201, jbuchser@comcast.net) See inset article for details.
- 15 **Strenuous Hike** on La Luz Trail (Sandias). 14 miles RT, 3800' gain. Dogs okay. **Tobin Oruch** (820-2844) before 8 PM.
- 16 **Easy/Moderate Hike** along gentle Penstemon Ridge, off lower end of Ski Basin Road, 7 miles, dogs okay, good views. **Norma McCallan** (471-0005)
- 22 **Moderate/Strenuous Exploratory Hike** in Taos Foothills, mostly off trail. 7-9 miles, 1500' gain. Dogs okay. **Page Press** (946-0169)
- 23 **Moderate Hike** in Caja del Rio to Tor, Cerro Rito, Blowhole (remnants of volcanic activity). 8-9 miles RT, 1200' gain. All off trail, some steep, rough sections. **Norbert Sperlich** (474-4354)
- 29 **Moderate Hike** to Red Mesa (near San Isidro). 6 miles RT, 1500' gain. Mostly off trail, some rough sections. A few well behaved dogs okay. **Stephen Markowitz** (983-2779 before 8 PM)
- 30 **Strenuous Hike** to Pederal, snow conditions permitting. 8 miles RT, 1900' gain, one steep scramble. **Patrick O'Keefe** (820-2359)

SANTA FE RIVER CLEANUP AND VEGETATION MAINTENANCE

Saturdays – 9 to 11 AM – October 18 • November 15

Help keep our river looking great! Park at Lower Alto Street north end of Closson. Bring work boots, gloves and drinking water. Be sure to connect with appropriate contact prior to cleanup date. **Kathleen Davis** (438-0357, kdav40@aol.com)

GALISTEO WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

The newly proposed Galisteo Wildlife Corridor will be presented to the community at large at a meeting in the Town of Galisteo Community Center, 6:30 PM, Tuesday, October 28. There will be speakers, project sign-ups, information for individual landowners, and a potluck! Come and learn what is being planned by the communities in the Galisteo Basin for this corridor that extends over 250,000+ acres. For more information please contact: **Teresa Seamster** (466-8964, tseam@qwest.com) or **Eliza Kretznan** (660-9221)

NORTHERN NEW MEXICO GROUP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

November 4 Election Work – Help our endorsed candidates – Obama for President, Udall for Senate, Martin Heinrich for Congress – District 1, Jason Marks and Rick Lass for PRC:

- 1) Join a Sierra Club group carpooling from Santa Fe to walk neighborhoods in Albuquerque each Saturday for Heinrich, Obama, Udall and Marks. **John Buchser** (820-0201, jbuchser@comcast.net)
- 2) Work for Obama, Santa Fe offices 720 St. Michaels Drive (471-4833) and 3494 Zafarano (474-0185)
- 3) Work for Udall, Santa Fe office 720 Michaels Drive (438-2746)

#2 and #3 will involve options of phoning, canvassing neighborhoods or other tasks important to the campaigns. The Udall and Obama offices are in separate rooms of the same building on St. Michaels in the shopping center with Smith's and Kinko's.

WEBMASTER for the Rio Grande Chapter – An experienced web person to oversee our chapter website and ensure that it is attractive and informative. **Norma McCallan** (nmccallan@mindspring.com) or **Steve Markowitz** (stephenmarkowitz@gmail.com)

Sierra Club Publicity – Getting out information about events and speakers and writing short ads for KSFR and local newspapers (a team of 2 to 3 people) **Kia Mudge** (474-6697, kiamudge@hotmail.com)

Cool Cities/Cool Biz – Work with Santa Fe City officials and Santa Fe businesses, neighborhoods and schools to promote clean and affordable energy. **David Van Winkle** (820-1006, david@vw77.com) also visit <http://riogrande.sierraclub.org/santafe/>

River Clean-Up – Assist in the monthly cleanups of our section of the Santa Fe River. Also need coordinators and leaders of the monthly cleanups. **Kathleen Davis** (438-0357, kdav40@aol.com)

Membership Data Entry – Data entry on the HELEN database updating membership and volunteer entries. Can be done at home. **Donna Michalski** (473-3734, dmichalski@comcast.net)

Survey Of Members – Help our Communications team implement a survey to determine if we are adequately communicating with members and how to do it more effectively. **Brendan Miller** (490-2680, bmiller59@comcast.net)

Forest & Public Lands Issues – Join a team working on various issues affecting our public lands, including the ongoing Forest Travel Management Plan that will designate which roads are open to motorized traffic, the upcoming Forest Management Plan, as well as BLM's new Management Plan in process and designation of the Sabinosa WSA as Wilderness. **Tom Gorman** (438-3032) or **Norma McCallan** (471-0005, nmccallan@mindspring.com)

Tabling – Man a table at an event for 2-4 hours, handing out literature, membership applications and sometimes selling Sierra Club merchandise. Will be paired with an experienced volunteer. **Norma McCallan**

Outings – New hike leaders (simple training provided), assistance in exploring possible non-Sierra Club site internet posting of future hikes, and compilation of data from previous sign-up sheets for email notification of upcoming hikes. **Tobin Oruch** (820-2844, oruch@lanl.gov) or **Norbert Sperlich** (474-4354, bsperlich@cybermesa.com)

Sierra Club Office – Volunteer(s) to man Santa Fe Sierra Club Office, 1807 Second Avenue, Suite 45, for 2 to 4 hours per week (answering phones, sorting mail, and other minor routine office tasks). Training provided. **Jo Ann Lucas** (466-6691, joannlucas@comcast.net)

Outings Notes – Unless otherwise noted, outings leave from Sierra office, 1807 Second Street, Unit #45. Turn into the driveway at the entrance of Cloud Cliff Bakery, go past the bakery to the next building on the left. It has trees, benches and sculptures in the front yard. Parking is beyond the building on the left. Meet near the benches. Although the signs in back say that parking is restricted, that doesn't apply at night and on weekends. Carpooling is encouraged. It is routine that each rider pays the driver 10 cents/mile, rounded down to nearest dollar (7.5 cents/mile when 100+ miles and 3+ riders). Bring 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 may alter destination of hike or cancel trip due to weather, other unfavorable conditions, or insufficient number of participants. Unaccompanied minors need written permission from parents or guardians to participate—ask leader for form. Dogs permitted only if so noted in write up. To participate you will need to sign a liability waiver at meeting site.



PAJARITO GROUP NEWS

Pajarito Group Directory

<http://riogrande.sierraclub.org/pajarito/>

Executive Committee

Chair: Ilse Bleck

ibleck@yahoo.com 505/662-2368

Vice-Chair, Secretary: Jody Benson

505/662-4782

Treasurer: David Gemeinhart

ddgem@losalamos.com 505/672-6267

Michael Di Rosa

mdd@stanfordalumni.org 505/663-0648

Mark Jones

jonesmm1@comcast.net 505/662-9443

Committee Chairs

Conservation: Michael Di Rosa

mdd@stanfordalumni.org 505/663-0648

Environmental Education: Pauline Wilder

xxmpxx@gmail.com 505/662-7768

Global Warming: Charles Keller

alfanso@cybermesa.com 505/662-7915

Grazing, National Forests, Wetlands,

Wilderness: David Gemeinhart

ddgem@losalamos.com 505/672-6267

Newsletter Editor, Publicity, Sprawl,

Endangered Species/Wildlife:

Jody Benson 505/662-4782

Outings, Parks/Refuges, Membership Co-Chair:

Ilse Bleck

ibleck@yahoo.com 505/662-2368

Political, Cool Cities, Membership Co-Chair:

Mark Jones

jonesmm1@comcast.net 505/662-9443

Webmeister, Student Liaison: James Thrasher

thrasher.james@gmail.com 505/570-0182

Sierrans Sought to Change the World One Action at a Time

Here in Los Alamos, many of us self-organize. We attend County Council meetings, work on petition drives, build trails, volunteer with the Valles Caldera National Preserve, arrange outings, and Xeriscape gardens. Intelligence and self-reliance are trademarks of the town. Your volunteerism adds inestimable value to this community. Now your Pajarito Group invites you to join other members in politics, programs, and outings.

No matter what the outcome of the 2008 election, the natural world that enlivens the soul of us Sierrans has been significantly eroded, and will take a lot of dedication to restore. The Pajarito Group offers opportunities to work together with other like-souled people in everything from joining a hike to attending a talk to attending County meetings to leading a petition drive.

If you're interested (and who – with your love of the environment and your need to share with committed people – wouldn't be?), please contact Ilse Bleck (505/662-2368) or any one of the ExCom who represents your area of interest.

As often happens, hard-working activists don't



Back row: David Gemeinhart, Mark Jones. Front row: Jody Benson, Ilse Bleck.

take time to celebrate. A year ago, four Pajaritans completed the Pilot Program in the first of five Leadership Development Program trainings from the National Sierra Club. The graduates were required to celebrate their accomplishment. A year later, the participants finally partied with an August climb up Wheeler (as shown in photo).

FOUR CORNERS BRANCH NEWS

Upcoming Fairs to Focus on Coal Plant Health Issues

Elaine Brown, president of DooDa Desert Rock, is planning a series of daylong fairs next year concentrating on the health issues associated with coal-fired power plants. She wants to bring in experts and plans to locate the fairs in various key spots around the reservation, as well as in Farmington. We are hoping to obtain some funding for her through the Sierra Club's Coal Campaign. Stay tuned. Meanwhile, she has organized a Dooda Music Festival on October 3, 4, and 5 at the Northern Navajo Nation Fair in Shiprock.

Look in the next issue for a November Sierra Club program in Farmington, and if you want to be part of a lively exchange of local environmental news and discussion, ask Art Jaquez to put you on his San Juan Sierra Club listserve.

Steering Committee

Art Jaquez, Co-Chair

505/360-0176 • artjaquez2@yahoo.com

Nick Cullander, Co-Chair

505/334-0935 • ncullander@hotmail.com

Gordon Glass, Air Quality, Outings

505/564-4460 • agglass@earthlink.net

TAOS BRANCH NEWS

Help with Taos Obama Campaign

This month a lot of folks are busy working on Obama's campaign. If you would like to help out in this most important of elections, contact the Campaign for Change Taos office at 575/751-3510. And if you want to get involved with the local Sierra Club, call Scott Estep or Eric Patterson. Look for a Taos-area program meeting in the November issue.

Contact List

Eric Patterson, Taos contact and Director of Rios de Taos Water Sentinels • 575/776-2833,

eepatt@gmail.com

Anna Walters, email alert list •

annaainsworth@kitcarson.net

William Brown, The Climate Project •

575/758-8008, nmglobalwarming@yahoo.com,

www.nmglobalwarming.org

Scott Estep • 575/770-7969, wetmtn@rmi.com

Pajarito ExCom Nominees

The nominees for the Pajarito Group ExCom election are James Thrasher and Michael Di Rosa. For more information, contact Ilse Bleck.

Meetings

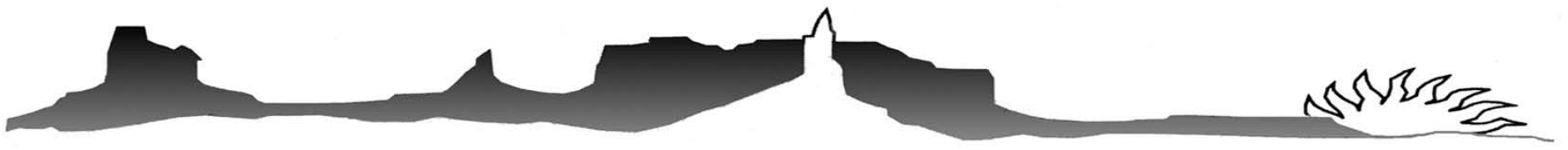
There will be no general meeting in October. Please attend the League of Women Voters Candidates Forum.

Wednesday, October 1 • Fuller Lodge, 7:00 p.m. – Candidates Forum for County Council, Public Regulation Commission (PRC), and other local and district candidates

Outings

Thursday, October 9 • Valles Caldera highway cleanup – Meet at Ponderosa Campground at 4:30 p.m. and carpool to our stretch of road along the Valles Caldera. Enjoy the view while you work. Trash bags are provided. Bring work gloves. If interested, we can go out for dinner afterwards. David Gemeinhart (505/672-6267).

Saturday, October 18 • Cerro Pedernal – Enjoy the spectacular view after a strenuous climb up this Georgia O'Keeffe landmark. 1800' gain, 8 miles RT. Bring lunch, snacks, water, sunscreen, protective clothing. Rainer and Ilse Bleck (505/662-2368 or ibleck@yahoo.com).



CENTRAL GROUP NEWS

City of Albuquerque Launches Climate Action Task Force

The City of Albuquerque is undertaking a Climate Action Task Force. This is good news and something the Sierra Club has been requesting for over a year. The purpose of the task force is to 1) generate emission reduction targets for Albuquerque that will push us to do our

share to reduce global warming pollution, and 2) come up with recommendations for strategies that will allow us to meet those targets. It is a similar process to the one followed by our state in 2005-2006.

Central Group activists Gary McFarland and Eva Thaddeus are both on the task force, which numbers about 50 people and represents a broad range of stakeholders. The group meets as a whole every couple of months, and is also broken down into working groups that meet every two weeks. Gary is on the Renewable Energy working group and Eva is on the Education and Social Change working group. Gary and Eva are also both on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction group whose goal is to set the reduction targets. So far, Gary and Eva have made it to every meeting, which is better than many on the task force – one thing environmental activists have going for them is commitment: we show up. This is a project we are dedicated to, and something we want to see produce a strong outcome. The task force is supposed to finish with recommendations to the mayor at the end of this year.

When you have a broad range of stakeholders with varying levels of knowledge and commitment, and when you have a consensus process, it is possible to get a product that is weak. We do *not* want to see this process result in a weak set of recom-

mendations that reflect what is easy for Albuquerque to achieve. Climate change and stability are huge issues for our region and for our world. We need to address them boldly. Your Sierra Club reps on the task force will be pushing for a big, ambitious plan for the role of our city in exemplifying climate change solutions. The strategies we come up with need to be practical and measurable; they should also be significant. Feel-good measures that do not address the scale of the problem are counterproductive because they lead us to expend a lot of time and resources in accomplishing very little.

In the end, however, we are only two voices on a large task force, and the sense of the group will prevail. And the outcome of this process will be only a set of recommendations to the mayor, not a document that sets any change into motion. For these reasons we believe it is important and necessary to work in coalition with other environmental groups and individuals to 1) advocate for a strong outcome to this process, and 2) follow through after December to make sure its final report does not sit on the shelf. Climate protection is an issue where many groups can find a common interest and common ground. We are beginning the work to build such a coalition and would welcome help.

If you are interested in more information, please contact Gary McFarland (garymcfar@aol.com) or Eva Thaddeus (evathad@nmia.com).

—Eva Thaddeus

Central Group Directory

Executive Committee

P.O. Box 25342
Albuquerque, NM 87125-0342

Rick Preston, *Chair, Newsletter Editor*
pepreston@gmail.com

Eva Thaddeus, *Co-Chair, Secretary, Global Warming Issue Chair*

evathad@nmia.com 505/266-9646

David Ther, *Treasurer, Outings Chair*

grelbik@att.net 505/260-1553

Patrick Redmond, *Political Chair, Water Chair*

redmonpa@law.unm.edu 505/298-1298

Lori Healy, *Membership Chair*

suasti_o@yahoo.com 505/249-6695

EL PASO GROUP NEWS

El Paso Developers Lose Clout

Charlie Wakeem is president of the Coronado Neighborhood Association on El Paso's affluent west side where the majority of the El Paso Regional Group's membership resides. He was the sole neighborhood representative on the Subdivision Ordinance Rewrite Committee. Following are excerpts from his August 24 opinion piece in the El Paso Times. —Ed

The city has been studying impact fees to correct the inequity of El Paso's taxpayers subsidizing developers for new growth. The new subdivision ordinance is far from perfect. Like most political documents, it's a compromise. The development community doesn't like it for the opposite reasons the neighborhoods don't like much of it. Nevertheless, it's far better than the previous ordinance.

At committee meetings the developers used two buzzwords: "affordability and flexibility." Does affordability actually mean "cheapability" and "profitability" at the expense of the community? Of course we all want affordable housing, but you don't get it by destroying quality of life. We cannot have safe, livable, walkable neighborhoods without good rules and the developers don't want many of those rules.

El Paso has had a tradition of stacking committees, boards, and commissions with people who have a vested interest in making the rules, e.g., the development industry. We simply don't have meaningful rules when the regulated are the regulators. There has been a group of developers and home builders that have held El Paso hostage in collusion with their hand-picked politicians for decades. The neighborhoods know and have had to live with what the industry has left behind for us.

City Council recently changed for the better for the first time in many years and the development community doesn't like it. They've lost much of their control of City Hall for the first time in decades. The development community will do anything it can to discredit and eject the progressive majority on City Council. We simply can't afford to let that happen and revert to the same old way El Paso had been doing business.

El Paso Group Directory

<http://texas.sierraclub.org/el Paso>

Executive Committee

Chair: Laurence Gibson	lgibson@utep.edu	915/309-5419
Vice-Chair: Gil Pinon	bifflehead@yahoo.com	915/307-3398
Secretary: Ann Falknor	afalknor@sbcglobal.net	915/833-9162
Treasurer: Kathy Sunday	sundayt@zianet.com	915/584-9301
Bill Addington	aguavida@valornet.com	915/369-2541
Bob Geyer		915/834-8242
Juan Garza	projectair@sbcglobal.net	915/565-2690
Liz Walsh	ewalsh@utep.edu	915/584-1471

Committee Chairs

Chapter Delegate		
Bill Addington	aguavida@valornet.com	915/369-2541
Chapter Delegate (Alt.)		
Juan Garza	projectair@sbcglobal.net	915/565-2690
Editor, Outings		
Laurence Gibson	lgibson@utep.edu	915/594-7342
Inner City Outings, Membership		
Ted Mertig	tmertig@earthlink.net	915/852-3011
Outings		
Rollin Wickenden	rwickgila@aol.com	915/855-6697
Webmaster		
Terry Sunday	sundayt@zianet.com	915/584-9301



SOUTHERN GROUP NEWS

Outings

Be sure to call the outings leader and confirm in case there are any changes.

Saturday, October 18 • Hike the North Seco and Morgan Creek – Meet at the Forest Service Office in TorC for a 7:30 a.m. departure for Hermosa and hike the North Seco and Morgan Creek trails to view scenic rock formations with vistas westward of the Black Range crest. There are some perennial streams with high canyon walls. Expect some wet foot crossings on this 7.8-mile trail with elevation change. We will pass through a historic mining district. Bring lunch and dress for a higher elevation. Four-wheel drive and high-clearance vehicles are a necessity. Call Margot Wilson for information (575/744-5860).

Sunday, November 9 • Monticello Box and the upper Alamosa – Come see the cottonwoods and willows in golden fall foliage as we walk along the perennial Alamosa stream while the Beryllium mine still exists only on a paper application. It's an easy 4-mile round-trip walk through the cliffs and bluffs of Monticello Box. Meet at the Forest Service office parking lot in TorC at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch and shoes and socks you don't mind getting

wet. (Bring a dry pair for the way home.) Contact Mary Katherine Ray (575/772-5655).

Sunday, November 16 • Black Range Crest – Leave the Forest Service Office in TorC at 8:00 a.m. and pick up any folks at the General Store in Hillsboro at 9:45 a.m. for a 12-mile outing in Gallinas and Railroad Canyons. This is a strenuous hike through wooded steep walled canyons and along the Black Range Crest with some great views. There are some wet foot crossings. Come prepared for cool weather. Call Margot Wilson for details (575/744-5860).

Sunday, December 14 • Valles Canyon – Visit some of the very best petroglyphs in an enchanting canyon. This area is only accessible with four-wheel drive. Valles Canyon is truly remarkable but has some dangerous scrambles over rocks. This outing is for 12 participants only so call Dan Lorimier (575/740-2927) or Margot Wilson (575/744-5860) for a reservation. When you call for your reservation, we will tell you the time and place of meeting. Bring your camera and lunch for an amazing experience.

Beryllium Mine Update

New Mexico Mining and Minerals wisely refused to consider the new application for more bore holes near the Monticello Box to determine the extent of the Beryllium deposit there. They required that the company requesting the permit reclaim all the illegal bore holes first. The company requested an extension just before the deadline and was given a two-week reprieve to get the work done. Mining and Minerals is now satisfied with the work and reclamation.

Now they will begin to consider the impact of the new application. To do this, other agencies like NM Game and Fish, the Office of the State Engineer, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be consulted. There is a federally listed endangered species, the Alamosa springsnail, found nowhere else on earth but in the warm springs directly across the main canyon from the Beryllium deposit and proposed mine. The hydrology is the

purview of the State Engineer. These agencies will have an opportunity to weigh in on the plan and the applicant will have the chance to modify his application to address any concerns expressed by them. After that, the public is considered. There will be a comment period and a public meeting. But the time frame could extend into the beginning of 2009.

Thanks to everyone who has joined the list to help protect this wonderful place. Please note the outing scheduled for November to come experience this special place. If you haven't already, while we wait please send your email address to Mary Katherine Ray (mkscrim@kitcarson.net). You'll get periodic news about the progress of the application and when the time comes for public participation, we'll be ready.

—Mary Katherine Ray

Southern NM Group Directory

P.O. Box 735, Mesilla, NM 88046

Glenn Landers

Chair, Pollution, Grasslands Issues
glenn.landern@gmail.com 575/525-0491

Margot Wilson

Conservation Chair, Parks/Refuges
margotwilson40@hotmail.com 575/744-5860

Cheryll Blevins

Treasurer, Editor Southern NM
Group Page
spotblev@earthlink.net 575/524-4861

Mary Katherine Ray

Wildlife, Membership
mkscrim@kitcarson.net 575/772-5655

Lou McCall

lou@pixelcircus.org 575/312-3174

John Waugh

Outings, Endangered Species/
Wildlife, Chapter Delegate
cactoblast@hotmail.com 575/526-7116

Earle Pittman

Global Warming
espittman@zianet.com 575/541-6281

David Farrell

Political Chair
dafarrelli@hotmail.com 575/895-3352

Southern ExCom Nominees

The Southern NM Group nominating committee (with Earle Pittman, chair of the committee) has nominated Glenn Landers, Margot Wilson, Cheryll Blevins, and Mary Katherine Ray for the Southern NM Group ExCom. If any person wishes to be placed on the ballot by petition, signatures of 25 Sierra Club members should be submitted by October 15 to Glenn Landers (575/525-0491, glenn.landern@gmail.com).

Gila Symposium in October

The Second Natural History of the Gila Symposium will take place on Thursday, October 16 (1:00-5:00 p.m.), and Friday, October 17 (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.), at Western New Mexico University in the Global Resource Center. Keynote speaker is nationally renowned fire ecologist Tom Swetnam. Other presentations will focus on various natural history topics relevant to southwestern New Mexico.

The public is welcome; for more information, contact William Norris (575/538-6625, norrisw@wnmn.edu) or Donna Stevens (donnastevens@aznexus.net).

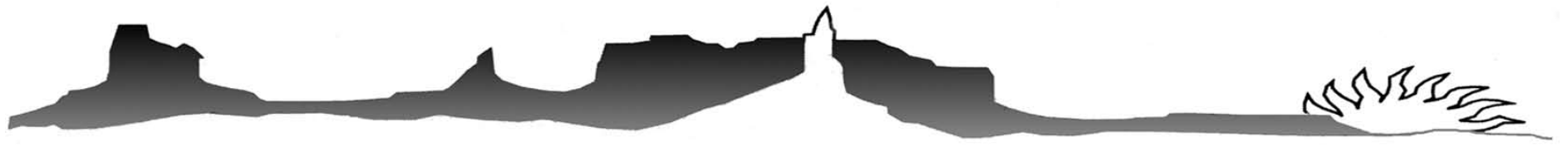
Chapter Executive Committee Nominees

The Chapter Nominating Committee has nominated the following candidates to run for election to the Chapter Executive Committee, for a three-year term which begins in January.

On the ballot, which will appear in the November/December issue of the *Sierran*, will be the opportunity to vote for three members, which can be nominated, write-in, or petition candidates. If you seek to be on the ExCom,

please contact Judith Bunney, Nominating Committee chair (see page 15), or you may seek inclusion on the ballot by petition, which requires signatures of 100 Chapter members, no later than mid-October. Please submit any questions to Elections Committee chair John Buchser (see page 15).

The nominated candidates for Chapter ExCom are Susan Martin, Cliff Larsen, James Thrasher, and David Van Winkle.



RIO GRANDE CHAPTER DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Susan Martin, Chair & Council Delegate smartin31@comcast.net	505/988-5206
Norma McCallan, Vice-Chair nmccallan@mindspring.com	505/471-0005
Laurence Gibson, Secretary lgibson@utep.edu	915/309-3419
Cliff Larsen, Treasurer clarsen1@ix.netcom.com	505/466-2128
Tom Robey, Assistant Treasurer trobey@cybermesa.com	505/955-9578
Bill Addington, El Paso Group Rep. aguavida@valornet.com	915/369-2541
Mark Jones, Pajarito Group Rep. jonesmm1@comcast.net	505/662-9443
John Buchser jbuchser@comcast.net	505/820-0201
Dexter Coolidge, Northern Group Rep. dextercoolidge@yahoo.com	505/988-1197
Jane L. Grider jane4u2@email2me.net	575/526-5620
Judith Bunney judithbunney@yahoo.com	240/418-6903
Michal Mudd, Central Group Rep. mudd_pi@mac.com	505/844-3315
David Ther, Central Group Rep. grelbik@att.net	505/260-1553
Glenn Landers, Southern Group Rep. glenn.landiers@gmail.com	575/525-0491
Margot Wilson margotwilson40@hotmail.com	575/744-5860

CHAPTER OFFICE

Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club
142 Truman NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108
505/243-7767 • fax 505/243-7771
<http://riogrande.sierraclub.org>

Dan Lorimier, Chapter Conservation Coordinator
daniel.lorimier@sierraclub.org 575/740-2927

Building Environmental Communities
Michael Casaus, Regional Representative
michael.casaus@sierraclub.org 505/243-7767
Shrayas Jatkar, Conservation Organizer
shrayas.jatkar@sierraclub.org 505/243-7767

SIERRA CLUB STRUCTURE

The Club has three structural levels. The National Board of Directors determines the overall direction of the Club. The National Organization is subdivided into Chapters, and each Chapter is further divided into Groups. One representative from each Chapter reports to the National Board through the Council of Club Leaders.

Central Group P.O. Box 25342, Albuquerque, NM 87125
El Paso Group P.O. Box 9191, El Paso, TX 79995
915/594-7342

Northern Group 1807 Second Street, Unit 45, Santa Fe, NM 87505 • 505/983-2703

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

Southern Group P.O. Box 735, Mesilla, NM 88046

Southwest Regional Office 202 E. McDowell Road #277, Phoenix, AZ 85004 • 602/254-9330 • fax 602/258-6533

Sierra Club National 85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105 • 415/977-5500

To update your mailing address, please send an email to address.changes@sierraclub.org or call Membership Services at 415/977-5649.

CONSERVATION ISSUE CHAIRS

Conservation Chair	Ken Hughes	505/474-0550	b1family@comcast.net
Agriculture/CAFO	John Buchser	505/820-0201	jbuchser@comcast.net
Air Quality	Glenn Landers	575/525-0491	glenn.landiers@gmail.com
Air Quality (4 Corners)	Gordon Glass	505/564-4460	agglass@earthlink.net
Energy – Biomass	Margot Wilson	575/744-5860	margotwilson40@hotmail.com
Energy – Efficiency	Gail Ryba	505/955-9578	gnryba@cybermesa.com
Energy – Wind & Solar	Bill Addington	915/369-2541	aguavida@valornet.com
Energy – Cap & Trade, 4 Corners plants	Robb Thomson	505/988-8958	robbm@toast.net
Forests	OPEN		
Genetic Engineering	Jim Hannan	505/988-5760	jhannan505@aol.com
Global Warming	Eva Thaddeus	505/266-9646	evathad@nmia.com
Mining, Sand & Gravel	Cliff Larsen	505/466-2128	clarsen1@ix.netcom.com
Rangelands	OPEN		
State Lands	OPEN		
Trade	Richard Barish	505/232-3013	rdbarish@aol.com
Transportation	Ken Hughes	505/474-0550	b1family@comcast.net
Valles Caldera	Ilse Bleck	505/662-2368	ibleck@yahoo.com
Water	Sigmund Silber		ssilber1@juno.com
Wilderness	Mary Katherine Ray	575/772-5655	mkrscrim@kitcarson.net
Wildlife	Mary Katherine Ray	575/772-5655	mkrscrim@kitcarson.net

ACTIVISM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Elections	John Buchser	505/820-0201	jbuchser@comcast.net
Environmental Justice	Bill Addington	915/369-2541	aguavida@valornet.com
Finance Committee	Tom Robey	505/955-9578	trobey@cybermesa.com
Fundraising	Susan Martin	505/988-5206	smartin31@comcast.net
Legal	Richard Barish	505/232-3013	rdbarish@aol.com
Listserves	Tom Robey	505/955-9578	trobey@cybermesa.com
Membership	Dexter Coolidge	505/988-1197	dextercoolidge@yahoo.com
Nominating	Judith Bunney	240/418-6903	judithbunney@yahoo.com
Personnel	Ken Hughes	505/474-0550	b1family@comcast.net
Political Committee	Tom Robey	505/955-9578	trobey@cybermesa.com
Legislative	Judith Bunney	240/418-6903	judithbunney@yahoo.com
Political Compliance Officer	Richard Barish	505/232-3013	rdbarish@aol.com
Sierra Student Coalition	OPEN		
Standing Rules	Richard Barish	505/232-3013	rdbarish@aol.com
Webmaster	Stephen Markowitz	505/983-2779	stephenmarkowitz@gmail.com

OUTINGS CHAIRS

Outings	Ilse Bleck	505/662-2368	ibleck@yahoo.com
Inner City Outings	Norma McCallan	505/471-0005	nmccallan@mindspring.com
	Ted Mertig	915/852-3011	tmertig@earthlink.net

SIERRAN

Editorial Board Chair	Norma McCallan	505/471-0005	nmccallan@mindspring.com
Editor	Ellen Cavalli	505/579-0016	ellen@fireballindustries.com

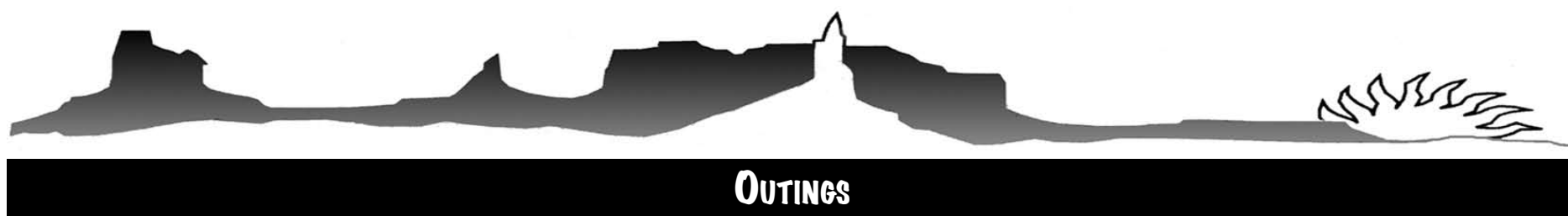
COALITIONS/WORKING GROUPS IN WHICH THE CHAPTER PARTICIPATES

Coalition for Clean Affordable Energy	Jim Hannan	505/988-5760	jhannan505@aol.com
	Dexter Coolidge (<i>Alt.</i>)	505/988-1197	dextercoolidge@yahoo.com
New Mexico Wilderness Coalition	OPEN		
Otero Mesa Coalition	Margot Wilson	575/744-5860	margotwilson40@hotmail.com
River Otter Working Group	Roger Peterson	505/983-7559	rogpete@aol.com
Valle Vidal Coalition	Norma McCallan	505/471-0005	nmccallan@mindspring.com

NATIONAL & REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Southwest Rivers	OPEN		
Council of Club Leaders Delegate	Susan Martin	505/988-5206	smartin31@comcast.net
	Norma McCallan (<i>Alt.</i>)	505/471-0005	nmccallan@mindspring.com

The next Chapter Executive Committee and Conservation Committee meetings will be held Saturday and Sunday, October 4-5, at the Sevilleta Wildlife Refuge near Socorro. Sierra Club members are always welcome. Contact Conservation Chair Ken Hughes or Chapter Chair Susan Martin for more information.



OUTINGS

Selected Sierra Club Outings for October and November 2008

Saturday, October 4 • San Pedro Parks hike – 7-10 miles. Moderate/strenuous outing to a lush wilderness. Michael Di Rosa (505/667-0095, 505/663-0648 – Pajarito Group).

Saturday, October 4 • Desert hike, likely on BLM lands – 6-10 miles, 500'-1500' gain. Moderate. Off-trail. Explore little-known places with unusual geological formations. Tom Petencin (505/271-9928 – Central Group).

Sunday, October 5 • Bandelier/Valles Caldera hikes – 6 miles total. Two moderate hikes, first up to Cerro Grande Peak (10,200'), then down the short Valle Grande Trail. Sweeping views. Norbert Sperlich (505/474-4354 – Northern Group).

Sunday, October 5 • Vallecito Mountain hike, near Taos – 24 miles, 4500' gain. Very strenuous. In the heart of high mountains. Hal Davis (575/758-3949 – Northern Group).

Thursday, October 9 • Valles Caldera Highway 4 cleanup – Work on the Club's adopted stretch while enjoying the views. David Gemeinhart (505/672-6267 – Pajarito Group).

Saturday, October 11 • Desert hike, likely on BLM lands – 6-10 miles, 500'-1500' gain. Moderate. Off-trail. Explore little-known places with unusual geological formations. Tom Petencin (505/271-9928 – Central Group).

Saturday, October 11 • Holiday Mesa hike, in Jemez – 6 miles, 1600' gain. Moderate. Two stream crossings, rough trail, interesting geology. Steve Markowitz (505/983-2779 – Northern Group).

Sunday, October 12 • Caja del Rio loop hike – 7 miles, 1000' gain. Moderate. Walk along old forest roads and down a long-abandoned trail to the Rio Grande; great views. Norma McCallan (505/471-0005 – Northern Group).

Saturday, October 18 • North Seco/Morgan Creek trails hike, in Hermosa – 7.8 miles. Moderate. Scenic rock formations, views of Black Range Crest, some stream crossings. Margot Wilson (575/744-5860 – Southern Group).

Saturday, October 18 • Cerro Pedernal climb – 8 miles, 1800' gain. Strenuous. Spectacular views to this Georgia O'Keeffe landmark. Reiner and Ilse Bleck (505/662-2368 – Pajarito Group).

Saturday, October 18 • Sierra Negra hike, near Abiquiu – 10 miles. Strenuous. Off-trail, some scrambling. Bogdan Mihalía (505/662-0421 – Northern Group).

Sunday, October 19 • Jicarita Peak hike, from Santa Barbara Campground – 15 miles, 4200' gain. Very strenuous. Hal Davis (575/758-3949 – Northern Group).

Sunday, October 19 • Kitchen Mesa hike, Ghost Ranch – 4.5 miles, 600' gain. Easy/moderate. Great views. Alan Shapiro (505/424-9242 – Northern Group).

Friday-Saturday, October 24-25 • Magdalena Mountains car camp/hike – 11 miles along the Crest Trail, 1800' gain. Moderate-plus. Marvelous views; camp at Water Canyon Campground. Rollin Rickenden (rwickgila@aol.com – El Paso Group).

Saturday, October 25 • Desert hike, likely on BLM lands – 6-10 miles, 500'-1500' gain. Moderate. Off-trail. Explore little-known places with unusual geological formations. Tom Petencin (505/271-9928 – Central Group).

Saturday, October 25 • Red Canyon hike, Bandelier – 12 miles. Strenuous. Little-visited area in the backcountry. Norbert Sperlich (505/474-4354 – Northern Group).

Sunday, October 26 • West Rim Trail hike, Rio Grande Gorge – 9 miles, 200' gain. Moderate. Impressive views. Dan Rusthoi (505/690-8967 – Northern Group).

Saturday, November 1 • Painted Cave hike, Bandelier – 13 miles, 2400' gain. Strenuous. Bogdan Mihalía (505/662-0421 – Northern Group).

Saturday, November 8 • Ojitos Trail hike, Chama River Canyon Wilderness – 8-10 miles. Some off-trail. Michael Di Rosa (505/667-0095, 505/663-0648 – Pajarito Group).

Sunday, November 9 • Diablo Canyon hike – 6 miles, 400' gain. Easy walk to the Rio Grande. Dan Rusthoi (505/690-8967 – Northern Group).

Saturday, November 15 • La Luz Trail hike, Sandia Mountains – 14 miles, 3800' gain. Awesome views. Tobin Oruch (505/820-2844 – Northern Group).

Sunday, November 16 • Gallinas/Railroad Canyons hike, Black Range – 12 miles. Strenuous. Stream crossings, great views. Margot Wilson (575/744-5860 – Southern Group).

Sunday, November 16 • Penstemon Ridge hike, off lower end of Ski Basin Road – 7 miles. Easy/moderate. Interesting views. Norma McCallan (505/471-0005 – Northern Group).

Please check the five Groups' pages for more information on these trips and additional activities. All mileages are round trips. Participants must sign a liability waiver.

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Now is the time to contribute to the Rio Grande Chapter's Political Action Committee (PAC). Great candidates and many state legislative seats vacated through retirement or in primary upsets offer us an unprecedented opportunity to redefine and redirect New Mexico's legislature. Your Rio Grande Chapter supports the best candidates with advertising and direct support. Help us now with your PAC donation!

Your Rio Grande Chapter is the only volunteer grassroots membership organization for the environment in New Mexico that directly supports pro-environment candidates with PAC donations. Many members give further help by volunteering in the campaigns of the Chapter's endorsed candidates. This combination results in even more meaningful political relationships and in the long run, a state legislature that's friendlier and more responsible towards New Mexico's water, air, and land.

To make a contribution to the Chapter's PAC, contact Dan Lorimier, the Chapter's Conservation Coordinator (575/740-2927, daniel.lorimier@sierraclub.org). Thanks for your support!

—Dan Lorimier