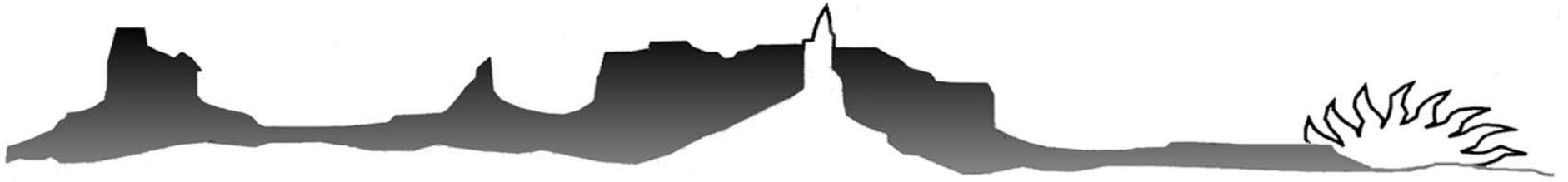


Rio Grande Sierran



NEWS OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

JULY/AUGUST 2006

How Big Is Your Carbon Footprint – Today? And Tomorrow?

Like many national environmental organizations, the Sierra Club has reranked its priorities to reflect the increasingly dangerous threat of global climate change. This looks like a major shift for an organization that historically has focused its attention on wilderness and wildlife preservation.

The shift, however, is really an opening of our lens to take in a bigger picture – the global climate, with all of its implications for the ecosystems we cherish. We may fight to protect caribou in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, but if the whole Arctic ecosystem collapses, what have we accomplished?

by Eva Thaddeus

Without a stable climate, all bets are off for wildlife, fresh water, and the special places we love. So we are called again to think globally and locally at the same time. Thinking big, we see that our fossil-fuel economy is endangering our future and the future of other species. We see entire ecosystems threatened with collapse – the Arctic most imminently – and next, our homeland – the Southwestern mountains, rivers, and deserts.

At the same time, we see the potential to transform the ways we produce, use, and conserve energy. New technologies speak to us. More sustainable ways of life assert themselves. This is a time of great peril, but it also a time of great promise. In order to make the difference, our responses must be informed, rapid, deep, and thorough.

The task might seem overwhelming. As global warming accelerates, we might wonder in exasperation, How can we accomplish our goal? However, considering what's at stake, how can we not try? Thinking locally, we see that each one of us contributes to the problem. And those of us who live in the United States contribute disproportionately.

Special Energy Issue

See pages 8, 9, and 10 for a wealth of ideas on how to make your way of life less carbon-intensive and more sustainable.

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Our individual steps to reduce energy use, and our collective efforts to improve state and federal policies, are persuasive arguments that there is no excuse to subject places like Otero Mesa (seen here), the Valle Vidal, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to industrial development. (Photo by Stephen Capra)

To estimate your own contribution, use a carbon footprint calculator (see sidebar, page 8). The results are guaranteed to be sobering, but they will help you see where change is most needed.

In general, our carbon footprint is directly related to our energy use, and most of this falls into three categories – buildings, transportation, and diet.

Buildings

The bulk of our energy use takes place indoors. Heating and cooling – of air, water, and food – account for the vast majority of that use. Some of the greenhouse gases produced by this use are generated on site (e.g., in furnaces and gas-burning stoves), but much of them are produced elsewhere (in electricity-generating stations such as the coal-burning plants near Four Corners). Individual conservation

and efficiency measures can immediately and sharply reduce the amount of energy consumed indoors (see *Sierran*, Mar/Apr 2006). Renewable energy sources such as wind farms and solar panels can supplant fossil-fuel sources for electricity generation (see *Sierran*, Mar/Apr 2006); indeed, for the princely sum of \$1.00/day, you can reduce your carbon load by 2,100 pounds/month with rooftop solar electricity.

In the Southwest, architecture that uses the sun's energy efficiently can dramatically reduce the heating and cooling needs of new buildings.

Transportation

Transportation is responsible for 25-33% of the greenhouse gases produced by Americans. Automobile and air travel are the major culprits. Land-based mass transit is the most energy-efficient way

(continued on page 8)



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



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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.

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

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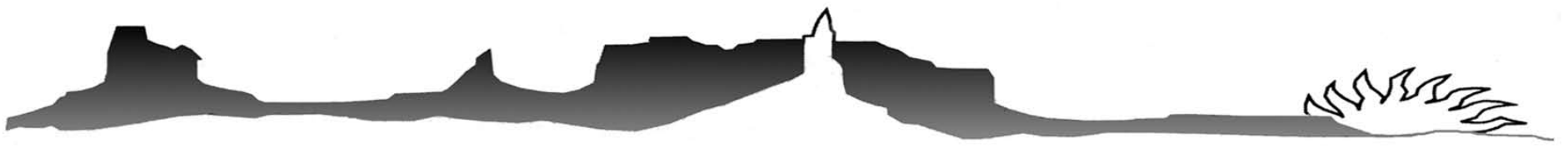
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SIERRAN (SEE ALSO PAGE 15)

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A Note from the Chair

Today's local newspaper refers to six forest fires in New Mexico, some less than 5% contained, while another article describes forest closures because of the danger of historically high fuel-content. Al Gore's documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," is now playing nationwide. Its website (www.climatecrisis.net/thescience/) states that "the vast majority of scientists agree that global warming is real, it's already happening and that it is the result of our activities and not a natural occurrence. The evidence is overwhelming and undeniable." If the warming continues, we can expect that heat waves will be more intense, and droughts and wildfires will occur more often.

The *Sierran* newsletter committee decided to dedicate this issue to the topic of energy efficiency. We recognize that the influence of the oil, gas, and coal industries makes the Bush Administration reluctant to advocate for the reduction of fossil-fuel use. It is therefore more important than ever for Sierra Club members to express our concern to Congress and our state and local elected officials about the need for action now to prevent the escalation of pollution



contributing to global warming. In fact, New Mexicans are in the spotlight because Senators Domenici and Bingaman, are, respectively, the chair and vice-chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

The challenge of combating global warming and championing energy efficiency on a local, state, and national level is daunting. Acknowledging this, the Chapter Executive Committee has embarked on a year-long Leadership Development Program (LDP) to become more effective and to recruit more leaders to help us reach out to new

activists and other communities (see article, p. 7).

Please don't be surprised if we call to ask for your help. Some of us fill many roles now (e.g., our Chapter treasurer is also chair of our political committee in this crucial election year). For some of us, it's not easy to ask for help. When we call, please sincerely consider saying "Yes" in whatever way you can. You will be joining in the efforts of incredibly hardworking and dedicated Rio Grande volunteers to preserve and protect the environmental health of El Paso and New Mexico. Thank you, and welcome!

—Susan Martin

NM Wildfire Resources

Up-to-date wildfire information is available from these resources:

- www.nmfireinfo.com
- http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/predictive/intelligence/daily/swcc_news_notes.htm
- Wildland Fire Information for the Santa Fe National Forest: 877/971-FIRE (3473)

Ex Com Candidates

The slate of Executive Committee candidates for 2007 approved by the Nominating Committee is Margot Wilson, John Buchser, Jane Grider, and David Ther. To run for the Chapter Ex Com via a nominating petition, contact Election Committee Chair Jim Hannan (see masthead page 2). The ballot will be in the next issue.

Welcome, Carol Oldham

Carol Oldham has joined the Sierra Club's Southwest Region as an Associate Representative. A resident of Santa Fe, Carol recently finished a stint of intensive organizing in rural Louisiana, where she assisted victims of Hurricane Katrina. In 2004, Carol worked for the New Mexico state Democratic electoral effort. She has also worked with Native American pueblo communities in Northern New Mexico. In addition to grassroots organizing, Carol's diverse background includes public relations, business, biology, publishing, and theater.

Carol will be working with Conservation Organizer Sarah Lundstrum on our New Mexico Building Environmental Communities campaign to protect the Valle Vidal from energy development. Carol will also be our go-to person for managing media relations and for establishing and nurturing our connections with public officials in New Mexico.

We are fortunate to find someone with Carol's skills and passion. What's more, as a New Mexican she already knows how to answer such important questions as "Do you want red or green chile, or Christmas?"

—Lawson LeGate





NORTHERN GROUP NEWS

Thursday, July 20, 7 PM

AMERICAN ENERGY:

Breaking Our Addiction to Oil

"Here we have a serious problem: America is addicted to Oil."

~ President Bush, January 2006 ~

Across America, recognition is growing that dependence on oil is the country's Achilles heel – undermining our economy, threatening our security, and damaging the environment. **Christopher Flavin, President of Worldwatch Institute**, is a long-time critic of U.S. energy policy and cites the failures of several presidents and congresses to develop a viable alternative to dependence on fossil fuels. He and his colleagues have developed a strategy for improving energy efficiency, developing renewable fuels, and building cooperative alliances with countries in Europe, Asia and Latin America that share those goals. Flavin argues that we should seize on the current crisis over high gasoline prices as an opportunity – and uses it to permanently kick our dependence on oil. This is one our most important concerns today (*of critical importance for the global environment*), and this talk will be of vital interest to members of CIR, the Sierra Club and to the whole Santa Fe community.

This is a special program being presented by the Santa Fe Council on International Relations and the Northern New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club. **Please note it is held on a Thursday, and a small attendance fee to help pay costs will be collected at the door:** \$10 CIR and Sierra Club members – \$15 Guests and general public – Students have free admission.

*Program meetings are held at the Unitarian Church,
107 W. Barcelona Street (between Galisteo and Don Gaspar).*

See page 14 in this newsletter for information on our Taos and Four Corners branches.

Tuesday, August 15, 7 PM

MOUNTAIN LIONS IN NEW MEXICO

Jon Schwedler, Animal Protection of New Mexico, will present a slideshow detailing the biology and management of mountain lions, and issues of coexisting with them. Timely information, since NM Game & Fish Commission will debate cougar management changes at its Wildlife Commission meeting in Santa Fe on August 24, changes which could include reducing the cougars' status to "varmint." Learn how you can help protect these reclusive but magnificent creatures who, like our other wildlife, will suffer enough from the drought without being wantonly killed.

UPCOMING – Tuesday, September 19, 7 PM

Ed Mazria, internationally famous Santa Fe architect, will provide an overview of green building principles and discuss the major significance of CO₂ emissions from our housing!

GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Group Executive Committee (at Eleanor Eisenmenger's home):

Wednesday, July 12, 7 PM

Tuesday, August 1, 7 PM

Tuesday, September 5, 7 PM

Group Conservation Committee (at Eleanor Eisenmenger's home):

Tuesday, August 22, 7 PM (once every 3 months)

Water Potluck, Tuesday, August 8, 6:30 PM

The Buchser's house (820-0201 or jbuchser@comcast.net)

Christina Noftsker, Office of the State Engineer, Water Rights Division
Integrating Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technologies with
management of the State's water resources

Northern New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club
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505 · 983-2703 www.nnmsierraclub.org

GROUP CHAIR

John Buchser

After returning from a rafting trip in Utah, I was struck by two things: the profusion of oil and gas wells that have resulted from greatly increased incentives to drill, and the beauty of the Utah desert. Clearly, we want to save those places not yet cut up by networks of new roads. In large part, the solution is to focus on our own energy usage and that of our community. Santa Fe has an opportunity now to be an example of a community joining together to reduce our reliance on non-renewable resources.

NORTHERN GROUP ELECTION

The following candidates have been nominated by the election committee to run for the Ex Com:

John Buchser	Barbara McIntyre
Voitek Byszewski	Paul Paryski
Dexter Coolidge	Jean Watts

If you wish to run via nominating petition, please contact election committee chair Jim Hannan (988.5760, jhannan505@aol.com) for details. The official ballot will be included within the next issue.

CONSERVATION CHAIR

Norma McCallan

Voitek Byszewski, lead Organizer for our new Cool Cities Campaign, has moved ahead with great diligence and has a cadre of volunteers heading up its many complex aspects. On May 31, Santa Fe City Council approved and Mayor David Coss signed two resolutions, one on Climate Protection (corresponding to Cool City Campaign) and one on New Buildings Standards (a part of it). On June 7, the Mayor and the Sierra Club conducted a press conference to create momentum and awareness of this monumental effort. To be a part of this campaign, call Voitek (466-6211).

In recognition of the volunteer time being spent on the Cool Cities Campaign, the Conservation Committee will cut back its meetings to one every three months – the next is August 22. Meanwhile, the Ex Com approved a Core Conservation Committee to deal with upcoming issues in a timely fashion. Members are John Buchser, Paul Paryski, Roger Peterson, Voitek, Sig Silber and myself.

We are looking for a lead person and additional members for our Forest Issues subcommittee (a new Forest Travel Management Plan process, which will include ORV use/abuse; urban-wild lands interface; and upcoming release of the draft EIS for the Valle Vidal Management Plan). Let me know if you would like to be involved!

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

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‡ Member of the Core Conservation Committee

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Sig Silber ‡	ssilber1@hjunio.com	473-7006



NORTHERN GROUP NEWS

NORTHERN GROUP OUTINGS

Sat Sun July

- 1 **Easy/Moderate Hike** probably in Glorieta or Pecos area, maybe Jack's Campground to Pecos River. **Gail Bryant** (505-757-6654)
- 1 **Strenuous Loop Hike** in the Truchas, up San Leonardo Creek, gain the ridge to Sheepshead Peak, and return by way of Trampas Lakes trail, 12 miles, 4000' gain. Call **Michael Di Rosa** (663-0648 home, 667-0095 work) before 9 PM, Thursday, June 29
- 2 **Easy/Moderate Hike** to Rio en Medio Waterfalls, approximately 6 miles, 400' gain, dogs okay. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
- 2 **Moderate or Strenuous High Country Hike**, wonderful destination TBD, maybe Nambe Lake. **Marcia Skillman** (699-7744)
- 8 No outing scheduled; check website.
- 9 **Strenuous Hike** probably to Spirit Lake, perhaps from Holy Ghost CG, 14 miles, 2800' gain. **Tobin Oruch** (820-2844) before 8 PM
- 15 **Santa Fe River Cleanup** 9 AM - 12 N **John Buchser** (820-0201)
- 15 **Strenuous Hike** to Wheeler Peak via steep ascent from Williams Lake, 7 miles, 3300' gain, early start. **Patrick O'Keefe** (820-2359)
- 15 **Easy Birdwatch Walk** jointly with Audubon Society, bring binoculars. **Ron Duffy** (982-2890)
- 16 **Moderate Hike** to lush East Fork Box in Jemez, some hiking in water, 8 miles, 900' gain. **Norbert Sperlich** (474-4354)
- 22 **Strenuous Hike** to Santa Fe Baldy, 14 miles, 3600' gain, dogs okay. **Dan Rusthoi** (690-8967)
- 23 **Moderate Hike** to Hamilton Mesa, approximately 5 miles, 900' gain. **Michael Goldey** (820-7302)
- 29 **Moderate/Strenuous High Country Hike** location to be determined by conditions, 5-7 miles. **Page Press** (946-0169)
- 30 **Moderate Hike** in the high country above Santa Fe, 5-10 miles, maybe 1000' gain. Leave 8 AM. **Art Judd** (982-3212)

For additional outings in Northern New Mexico, please check the Pajarito Group page(s) in this newsletter.

Sat Sun September

- 2 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** high country. **Marcia Skillman** (699-7744)
- 3 **Easy/Moderate Hike** on Winsor Trail, Ski Basin to Nambe Creek. 4½ miles RT. Leave 9 AM. Call to reserve. **Victor Atyas** (438-9434)
- 9 **Easy/Moderate Hike** to Deer Trap Mesa (near Los Alamos). 5-6 miles RT, 500' gain. Some scrambling. Leave 9 AM. Call **Michael Goldey** (820-7302)
- 10 **Easy Hike** along Rio en Medio to waterfalls. Dogs okay. Leave 9 AM. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
- 10 **Strenuous Hike** to Trampas Lakes-Hidden Lake. 13.5 miles, 2700' gain. Dogs okay. **Tobin Oruch** (820-2844)
- 16 **Easy Birdwatch Walk** jointly with Audubon Society, bring binoculars. **Ron Duffy** (982-2890)
- 16 **Moderate Hike** in high country. **Lester Drapula** (438-3306)
- 16 **Strenuous Hike** to Glorieta Baldy. 11 miles RT, 2800' gain. **Dan Rusthoi** (690-8967)
- 17 **Strenuous Hike** to Cave Creek and Horsethief Meadow. 11 miles RT, 2100' gain. **Patrick O'Keefe** (820-2359)
- 23 **Easy/Moderate Hike** in Glorieta area. **Gail Bryant** (505-757-6654)
- 23 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** in high country. **Marcia Skillman** (699-7744)
- 23 **Moderate Bike Tour** along west rim of Rio Grande. 18 miles RT, very little elevation change. **Michael Di Rosa** (663-3306)
- 24 **Easy Hike** to Tent Rocks. Dogs okay. Leave 9 AM. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
- 30 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** to Tesuque Peak via Tesuque Creek and ridgeline. Aspen time! Moderate pace. Dogs okay. **Norma McCallan** (471-0005)
- 30 **Santa Fe River Cleanup** 9 AM-12 Noon **John Buchser** (820-0201)

WEBSITE ADDRESS !!

www.nnmsierraclub.org/

You can now join the Sierra Club through this site.
Also, you can view the entire *Rio Grande Sierran* at this site.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Richard Kristin** (982-1671) – Valle Vidal Coalition
- Recruit local businesses & organizations to support its Core Values
- Norbert Sperlich** (474-4354) – Help compiling 6th Edition Hiking Book
- Norma McCallan** (471-0005) – Conservation Committee
- Members for Forest Committee and Cool Cities Campaign

Sat Sun August

- 5 **Strenuous Hike** in Polvadera Peak area (Jemez). 9-10 miles RT, 2000' gain. **Michael Di Rosa** (663-0648 h, 667-0095 w)
 - 6 **Easy Hike** on Chamisa Trail. 5 miles RT, 1240' gain. Dogs okay. Leave 9 AM. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
 - 6 **Strenuous Hike** to Lobo Peak (near Taos). 11 miles RT, 3700' gain. Steep climb, great views. **Marcia Skillman** (699-7744)
 - 12 **Moderate Hike** in high country. **Lester Drapula** (438-3306)
 - 13 **Moderate Hike** along East Fork of Jemez. Some hiking in river. Leave 8:30 AM. Call for reservation. **Michael Goldey** (820-7302)
 - 13 **Strenuous Hike** to Johnson Lake from Panchuela (Pecos). 14 miles RT, 3000' gain. Dogs okay. **Tobin Oruch** (820-2844)
 - 19 **Easy Birdwatch Walk** jointly with Audubon Society, bring binoculars **Ron Duffy** (982-2890)
 - 19 **Strenuous Hike** to Stewart Lake. 11 miles RT, 2300' gain. **Dan Rusthoi** (690-8967)
 - 20 **Easy Hike** on Borrego-Bear Wallow-Winsor Triangle. Dogs okay. Leave 8 AM. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
- Friday, August 25 to Sunday, August 27 – 3 day Easy Backpack with Llamas**
Explore the **Upper Ponil of the Valle Vidal**, with its famous groves of large-diameter bristlecone pine while gentle, sure-footed llamas carry all gear. Our outfitter, naturalist and local expert Stuart Wilde supplies tents and all meals – cost \$499. Reservations - **Norma McCallan** (471-0005). Trip Payment and further information – **Stuart Wilde** (800-758-5262) Wild Earth Llama Adventures
- 26 **Santa Fe River Cleanup** 9 AM - 12 Noon **John Buchser** (820-0201)
 - 26 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** in Pecos high country. 7-9 miles RT. **Page Press** (946-0169)
 - 27 **Strenuous Hike** to Lake Peak. 6.5 miles RT, 2600' gain. **Patrick O'Keefe** (820-2359)

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

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

Outings Notes - Unless otherwise noted, all outings leave from the Sierra office, 1472 St. Francis Drive, reached by turning west into the office complex at the clock tower north of San Mateo, then turning left and right. Carpooling will be arranged. Each hiker should come prepared to pay 10¢ a mile if 1-2 riders, 5¢ if 3 or more, to the driver. Bring lunch, water, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, and clothing suitable for weather - leader reserves the right to turn away anyone whose equipment or experience appears unsuitable. Leader has right to alter destination of hike or cancel trip due to weather, unfavorable conditions, or insufficient numbers of participants. Unaccompanied minors must have written permission from parents or guardians to participate; permission forms are available at the Sierra Club office. Dogs not permitted unless noted otherwise. Telephone leader for details of the individual hike. To participate, you need to sign a liability waiver. To read the waiver, see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms> or contact Outings Dept at 415-977-5528 for printed version.

SANTA FE RIVER CLEANUP AND VEGETATION MAINTENANCE

Saturdays – 9 AM to 12 Noon

July 15 – August 26 – September 30

We are being more focused on vegetation maintenance this summer. Come help keep our river looking great! Meet at Closson Street footbridge over the Santa Fe River. Park on Lower Alto St, north end of Closson. Bring work boots, gloves and drinking water. **John Buchser** (820-0201, jbuchser@comcast.net)

Thanks to City Councilors Patti Bushee and Karen Heldmeyer for their support in the recently completed Closson Street footbridge renovation. It took three years, but it happened!

The monthly river stewardship project is an opportunity for others looking for a role to help our environment. Let me know if you have an interest in leading this. *John Buchser*

GOD'S EARTH IN TROUBLE - WHO CARES?

A symposium to explore the moral and ethical basis for environmental stewardship

Speakers during the morning are: Prof. Lawrence Rasmussen on the ethical foundation for preserving the earth's environment, Dr. Charles Keller on the current status of the science of climate change and Prof. Scott Collins on the long term ecological trends. In the afternoon, Santa Fe Mayor David Coss will join a panel in an interactive exchange with the audience. Registration at 9 AM, program begins at 9:30, goes through lunch, and ends at 3 PM.

Sponsored by the Santa Fe Theologians Institute and the Interfaith Alliance for Environmental Stewardship. A fee of \$20 will primarily cover the cost of lunch. For further information and to attend, please contact, by July 5: Robb Thomson (988 8958, robbm@toast.net) or Dick Avery (avery-marsh@cybermesa.com).

9:00 AM, Saturday, July 8
First Presbyterian Church
208 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe



PAJARITO GROUP NEWS

Outings

Sunday, July 16th: Lush East Fork Box in Jemez
 – This is eight miles adjacent to the beautiful East Fork of the Jemez River near the Valles Caldera. It's moderate, with only 900 ft. gain, and has the added interest of some hiking in water. Bring sunscreen, appropriate clothing, snacks, and water. Please call Norbert Sperlich (474-4354 - Northern Group).

Sunday, August 13th, Early Evening at Cerro Grande – Early evening hike to the top of Cerro Grande. Meet at 4:00 PM and return before dusk. Walk past elk enclosures that help biologists determine the impact of elk. Aspen, spruce and Douglas fir cover the landscape on this hike to the highest elevation in Bandelier National Monument. A steep climb of two miles and an elevation gain of 1300 ft. will take us to the 10,199 ft. peak. Bring sunscreen, appropriate clothing, snacks, and water. For meeting place call Ilse Bleck after Aug. 10th (662-2368 - Pajarito Group).

Saturday, September 9th: Easy/Moderate hike to Deer Trap Mesa (near Los Alamos) – 5-6 miles RT, 500 ft. gain. Michael Goldey (820-7302 - Northern Group).

Meeting

There will be no meeting in August.

**September Pajarito Group Open Meeting
 Wednesday, September 6, 7:00 PM. Upstairs Meeting Rooms in Mesa Public Library.
 Cougar Management—Coexisting with New Mexico's Mountain Lions**

Jon Schwedler has been working on local, regional, national, and international wildlife conservation for ten years, with a focus on carnivores. Today he is focused on two big-cat projects: improving New Mexico's cougar management plan (working with Animal Protection of New Mexico), and restoring the American Jaguar (with Northern Jaguar Project). He is also working to create safe passages for people and wildlife along I-40, outside Albuquerque (with Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition). Jon has worked for The Nature Conservancy in Washington, DC and for Predator Conservation Alliance in Montana. Prior to his conservation career, Jon was a financial broker for T. Rowe Price and an archaeological technician at Maryland's historic colonial capital. He has an undergraduate degree in Anthropology/Archaeology from St. Mary's College of Maryland, and graduate training in environmental planning from the University of Virginia. He lives in Albuquerque with his wife and newborn son.



(Photo by Greg Kendall)

Caldera Adventure Mountain Biking

On August 12 and 13, the Valles Caldera National Preserve will open its gates to Mountain Bikers. All ages and abilities will find trails to enjoy. There are steep, heart-pounding climbs and drops, as well as gentle, easier cruises. This year there are no designated routes. Each rider will be given a map of the designated forest roads; it's up to you to choose your own path along the more than 60 miles open to explore. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the views.

Riders must be self-sufficient and prepared for high mountain wilderness riding conditions, which may include rain and thunderstorms. Fees for each day's ride are \$20 (\$10 for kids 6-15; under 6 Free). Space is limited. Register by calling 661-3333 or on-line at www.vallescaldera.gov. For more information and a map of the approved roads please see www.calderaadventure.com.

The Caldera Adventure Mountain Biking Event is sponsored by: Los Alamos National Bank, Caballo Bike & Ski, Santa Fe Mountain Sports and NM Bike n Sport.

For more information, contact Valles Caldera Coalition Steering Committee member Greg Kendall in Los Alamos (661-8209; greg_kendall@yahoo.com).

Pajarito Group Directory

Executive Committee

Chair: Ilse Bleck	
ibleck@yahoo.com	662-2368
Co-Chair: Jody Benson	
bensonj@lanl.gov	662-4782
Secretary: Betsy Barnett	
betsybar@earthlink.net	662-9581
Treasurer: David Gemeinhart	
ddgem@losalamos.com	672-6267
Mat Johansen	
matjohansen@cybermesa.com	662-9763
Chuck Pergler	
pergler@att.net	661-6169
Julie Pearson	
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Committee Chairs

Conservation; Oil & Gas: Betsy Barnett	
betsybar@earthlink.net	662-9581
Endangered Species/Wildlife: Chuck Pergler	
pergler@att.net	661-6169
Environmental Education: Julie Pearson	
juliepearson@msn.com	661-1121
Global Warming: Charles Keller	
alfanso@mail.cybermesa.com	662-7915
Membership: Gita Carey	
gitacarey@yahoo.com	661-9604
Newsletter Editor; Publicity: Jody Benson	
bensonj@lanl.gov	662-4782
Outings; Parks/Refuges: Ilse Bleck	
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Political: Paul Frederickson	
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Programs; Genetic Engineering; Water; Marine:	
Mat Johansen	
matjohansen@cybermesa.com	662-9763
Webmeister: Rob Pine	
bobdaddy@spinn.net	281-6076
http://riogrande.sierraclub.org/pajarito/	



Top left: The lodge near Shuree Ponds on the Valle Vidal. Above: Sierrans at McCrystal's Place, an old homestead on the Valle Vidal. Eighteen people enjoyed this Memorial Day camping and hiking trip. (Photo by Rainier Bleck)

LDP Workshop Focuses on the Power of Emotion, Innovation

What prompted you to become an environmental activist? A methodical decision-making process, weighing the various costs of oil drilling or species extinction? Or an emotional response to injustice, destruction, and loss? Chances are, emotions tugged you toward your efforts to conserve and fight for nature. While analysis often leads to strategy, emotions lead to motivation. And it is by tapping feeling – rather than thought – that we, as environmentalists, can lead.

This was one of many lessons gained from the first Leadership Development Program (LDP) meeting for the Rio Grande Chapter, which was held in mid-June, with approximately 30 Chapter members from as far north as Valdez and as far south as El Paso (see *Sierra*, May/June 2006). Harvard University Professor Marshall Ganz led the weekend workshop. Ganz honed his political-, community-, and union-organizing skills during his 16 years working with Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers.

Ganz demonstrated his point about emotion by asking participants to share their stories about what led them to environmental activism. Their stories spoke of

toxic lead emissions poisoning children in Mexico and neighboring Texas, and of coal-bed methane production threatening the Valle Vidal, “New Mexico’s Yellowstone.” One woman, who lived in Morocco as a child, explained that seeing items discarded by her family being sold in a Moroccan bazaar inspired her to create a local recycling program. Another activist was moved to action after reading Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*. What they all learned was that their individual experiences could drive change – and that values are meaningful only in the context of stories of choices.

Reaching Out, Building Skills

During the workshop, participants identified key demographics for focused grassroots efforts and practiced some skill-building exercises. According to a recent survey of Americans, a large percentage of the population may be receptive to the Club’s causes. The survey revealed that:

- 10% are fully engaged in environmental activism;
- 25% are identified as supporters;
- 40% are identified as sympathizers;
- 20% are identified as skeptics; and
- 5% are hostile toward environmental activism.

“Sympathizers” are defined as people who share a love of the land and a desire for clean air and water and safe communities, but who do not actively or financially support environmentalist efforts. They may be churchgoers, hunters, anglers, and minorities.

To effectively reach out to these sympathizers and ultimately sway environmental policy, Ganz is helping members to cultivate skills in four key areas:

- building and sustaining relationships;
- motivating others to make commitments;
- building collective powers; and
- implementing sustained action.

Innovation Is Key to Success

Polluters and others opposed to environmental protection invariably have more financial resources, but environmentalists have time and innovation on their side. Each small victory buys environmentalists time to produce bigger victories. LDP teaches that, to make effective use of this time and gain real power, it’s necessary to employ untraditional resources and tactics.

The challenge is to find, in the unexpected and the unpredictable, the way to create conditions that enable others to achieve shared purposes. On Sunday morning during the workshop, Group and Chapter teams took this challenge. Some greeted walkers and joggers in a Santa Fe public park, offering them water and a chance to learn about Northern Group activities – and discovered that joggers wouldn’t stop. Others, on behalf of the Pajarito Group, made contact with coffee drinkers in Los Alamos. And other members called issue experts to get recommendations for individuals to fill Chapter committees, such as wilderness, energy, and urban issues.

All teams experienced a measure of success, but most importantly, they learned key lessons:

- the first phone call or first contact was by far the most difficult; and
- they could reach out for assistance and receive positive responses that they did not know existed.

The LDP is a mix of learning and doing, with an eye to multiplying the effectiveness and energy of the Rio Grande Chapter. It will continue with workshops through June 2007. The next LDP meeting will be held in mid-September 2006.

For more information, contact Chapter Chair Susan Martin in Santa Fe (see masthead page 2).

—Susan Martin

Valle Vidal Bill Heads to House

In late June, the Valle Vidal Protection Act of 2005 (HR 3817) was passed by the House Committee on Resources, and sent to the full House for vote. The bill was introduced in September 2005 by Rep. Tom Udall, and seeks to protect the 102,000-acre area of the Carson National Forest from energy and mineral extraction and development.

For more information, contact Marissa Padilla in Udall’s Washington, D.C., office (202/225-6190, marissa.padilla@mail.house.gov).



Llama backpack at Valle Vidal. (Photo © Julie Sprott, www.juliesprott.com)

Upcoming Valle Vidal Events

July 7-8 • Restoration workshop with Bill Zedyk and installation of restoration structures on Comanche Creek – Quivira Coalition, New Mexico Trout, Trout Unlimited, and others. Jim O’Donnell (758-3874).

July 15-16 • Installation of restoration structures on Comanche Creek – Quivira Coalition, et al. Jim O’Donnell (758-3874).

August 26-28 • Easy backpack in the Upper Ponil/bristlecone pine area – Wild Earth Llama Adventures provides gear, meals. \$449. Norma McCallan (471-0005); Stuart Wilde (800/758-5262).

September 9 • Ash Mountain hike – NM Wilderness Alliance and Valle Vidal Coalition. Jim O’Donnell (758-3874).

September 10 • McCrystal Creek hike – NM Wilderness Alliance and Valle Vidal Coalition. Jim O’Donnell (758-3874).

September 23 • Little Costilla climb – Valle Vidal Coalition. Jim O’Donnell (758-3874).

Otero Mesa Receives Another Hearing

Lawsuits filed by Governor Richardson and a coalition of environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received an additional hearing in May 2006 from Judge Bruce Black, a Federal District Court judge in Albuquerque. The suits seek to block implementation of a BLM plan that would allow oil and gas development on 95% of Otero Mesa, the last large remnant of one of the most threatened habitats in the world – Chihuahuan Desert grassland.

At issue in this most recent hearing was whether or not the BLM has been ignoring its obligations under the Endangered Species Act with regard to the endangered Aplomado Falcon. Aplomado Falcons were formerly found in Chihuahuan Desert grasslands of the United States from southeastern Arizona to southern Texas. No one is sure why, but populations crashed in the first half of the last century. By the time the falcon was officially listed as an endangered species in 1986, there were probably none left in the United States. An experimental population has since been successfully established in Texas, but in other parts of the former range, recovery depends heavily on the preservation of suitable habitat, like Otero Mesa.

Prior to January 2005, when the BLM finalized its plan for drilling on Otero Mesa, sightings of Aplomado Falcons at Otero Mesa had been extremely rare. From this, the BLM concluded that the birds were merely

passing through and would not be impacted by drilling operations. Since that time, there have been at least six documented sightings of Aplomado Falcons at Otero Mesa, a fact that indicates the falcon could soon recolonize the area.

Environmentalists say that the recent rash of sightings should trigger a consultation between the BLM and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency that administers the Endangered Species Act, to ensure that drilling will not prevent the recolonization of Otero Mesa by Aplomado Falcons. The BLM, however, has so far refused to take that step.

Judge Black is expected to rule on all issues related to the lawsuits in the near future.

For more information, contact Margot Wilson (see masthead page 2).

—Margot Wilson



Otero Mesa is home to a host of wildlife, including these pronghorns. Recent sightings indicate that the endangered Aplomado Falcon might soon recolonize the threatened grasslands. (Photo by Dennis McElveen)

Carbon Busters

Contact these local organizations to learn how to integrate low-carbon diet, buildings, and transportation into your daily life.

Architecture 2030

info@architecture2030.org • www.architecture2030.org • This Santa Fe-based group is working to reducing the amount of greenhouse gases emitted from buildings.

Bicycle Coalition of New Mexico

820-1365 • info@BikeNM.org • www.BikeNM.org • This nonprofit organization is dedicated to improving biking in New Mexico, and encouraging more people to ride.

Coalition for Clean Affordable Energy

986-1558 • BenLuce@cfcae.org • www.cfcae.org • CFCAE advocates for clean, renewable energy and offers an online clearinghouse of lots of information.

New Mexico Farmers' Marketing Association

983-4010 • info@farmersmarketnm.org • www.farmersmarketnm.org • This group provides information and schedules about local farmers' markets and events, and promotes local and seasonal foods.

New Mexico Public Interest Research Group (NMPiRG)

254-1244 • info@nmpirg.org • www.nmpirg.org • This energy and environmental advocacy group focus on promoting a sustainable economy.

Calculate Your Carbon Footprint

So how much carbon dioxide (CO₂) do you add to the atmosphere? This can be a sobering exercise, but the good news is that it gives each of us the baseline data. Promise yourself it will never be this high again.

- www.consumerfootprint.org—Includes lots of detail about our economic choices.
- www.fightglobalwarming.com—Quick and dirty.

Commuter Train on Its Way

The Rail Runner (www.nmrailrunner.com) begins operations on 17 July 2006. Albuquerque to Bernalillo for starters. Free for the first few months. Many New Mexico communities are railroad towns; the Rail Runner offers a chance to redevelop towns and neighborhoods, from downtown Belen to downtown Santa Fe. Watch for planning workshops, where you can participate in designing transit villages around Rail Runner stops. Contact Mid Region Council of Governments and the City of Santa Fe for times and locations of these workshops.

PNM Customers, Support Wind Power

Sky Blue is New Mexican wind energy. Subscribing to PNM Sky Blue is voluntary. You will pay slightly more for your electricity than you do now.

For more information, see PNM's website (www.pnm.com/customers/sky_blue.htm) or call (246-5700 in Albuquerque; 800/687-7854).

Refrigerated Air or Swamp Cooler?

If you must resort to air conditioning, *beware!* Refrigerated air uses about four times the energy that swamp coolers do. Spread the word.

Make 2007 the "Year of the Clean Car"

One of the top priorities of the Rio Grande Chapter is to make 2007 the "Year of the Clean Car." This is part of the Club's global warming initiative. Last summer, Eva Thaddeus, the Chapter's Global Warming Issues Chair, recruited other Club members to get involved. As a result, I'm pleased to be a part of the State's Transportation and Land Use working group. The group will make recommendations for dramatically reducing carbon emissions from the transportation sector. The larger New Mexico Climate Change Advisory Group (www.nmclimatechange.us) will compile these and recommendations from four other working groups, and pass them on to Governor Richardson by the end of 2006. Legislation may then be required to make the plan law.

One of the cornerstones of the transportation plan is to implement the California Clean Air standards here in New Mexico. These standards substantially exceed the current federal Environmental Protection Agency standards. If implemented, they could dramatically reduce New Mexico's carbon and toxic emissions over the next 50 years. We hope that implementation begins as early as 2007.

About 25% of New Mexico's greenhouse gases come from the transportation sector. Moreover, a recent NM Public Interest Research Group (NMPiRG) report states that, over the next two decades, this sector will grow faster in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions than any other sector of the economy. According to the federal government, New Mexico's transportation sector emitted 15.5 million metric tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere in 2001. And it's only going up. About 60% of that is from light-duty vehicles – that is, cars, SUVs, and light trucks. That's you and me, folks.

Unfortunately, global warming isn't waiting for humans to connect the dots and pass laws to slow it down. The good news is that we can all start now to significantly reduce our personal carbon impact – because most of us drive. And, until we can prevail upon our elected officials to dramatically improve public transit here in New Mexico, we can exercise

our responsibility through our choice of personal transportation. While technologies such as zero-emissions hydrogen-fuel-cell cars and the necessary infrastructure could be widely available and affordable in the coming years, the most immediate and practical option is the gas-electric hybrid now available at our local car dealers.

Hybrid Vehicles

At least 10 hybrid models are currently on the market. It is important, however, to distinguish between full and partial hybrids. Partial hybrids (such as the new Honda Accord Hybrid), as well as "mild" or "start-stop" hybrids (such as the Saturn Vue Green Line), don't increase efficiency much because the electric motor is minimally powering the vehicle. In full hybrids (such as the Toyota Prius and the Honda Insight), the gas engine and the electric motor continually work in tandem – at low speeds and at stops, the electric motor works alone; as speed increases, the gas engine begins to kick in. The result is very good mileage and, naturally, much-reduced emissions – about half that of a comparable car.

My 2002 Prius is currently getting 54 mpg, the new Prius gets closer to 60 mpg in stop-and-go city driving, and the 2006 Honda Insight is rated at 66 mpg. With ethanol added in the winter months, my mileage does drop to 47 or so, because ethanol doesn't deliver as much energy as fossil fuels. Surprisingly, my Prius has far more acceleration power than my last conventional car, due to the torque power of the electric motor.

While hybrids cost a bit more than their fossil-fuel counterparts, prices should come down as the market for them increases. The federal government is giving tax rebates on all new hybrids up to \$3,400 – though they're due to expire soon.

For fuel-economy comparisons, see the U.S. Department of Energy's website (www.fueleconomy.gov). For information about hybrids, see www.hybridcars.com. For more information about Chapter efforts, contact Eva Thaddeus (see masthead page 2).

—Gary McFarland

Carbon Footprint (continued from page 1)

to travel, trains being especially efficient. Driving vehicles with high fuel economy and reducing the number of miles we travel are key ways to cut our transportation emissions.

All of our gas-powered vehicles can run on fuel with up to 10% ethanol mixed in (E10); flex-fuel vehicles can use higher proportions of biofuels. But the effectiveness of biofuels (e.g., ethanol and biodiesel) in reducing carbon emissions is specific to the kind of fuel and the way it is grown and processed.

Biofuels are considered "carbon-neutral," because they release through combustion only the carbon that contemporary plants had recently pulled from the atmosphere. In contrast, fossil fuels release carbon into the atmosphere that was previously stored underground for millions of years. However, growing and processing biofuels requires considerable energy input. For example, the energy used to grow, harvest, transport, and distill corn to produce ethanol may be comparable to the benefits of that biofuel.

But when biofuels are produced responsibly and made widely available, they are part of the solution to mitigating global warming. For more information, contact Charles Bensinger in Santa Fe (newworld@timewindow.com).

Diet

It may come as a surprise that the food we eat takes third place for energy consumption. When

we start to think of food in terms of its embodied energy – the sum total of all the energy needed to deliver a product to us – the energy cost makes sense. Growing food and processing food are fossil-fuel-intensive activities, and the average supermarket product travels more than 2,000 miles to reach the consumer; 4,500 miles for processed wheat products. As the price of gas rises, food prices rise, too.

The solution begins with a renewed focus on local and seasonal products, which become more cost-competitive as cheap energy goes the way of the dinosaur.

Thinking big again, we know that our own carbon footprint makes only a small imprint in the trampled field that is our atmosphere. However, reducing our footprint is the most immediate and direct way to start making a difference. Public education is also crucial. With that in mind, please consider sharing the carbon footprint calculators with friends and family. Ultimately, it is only through broad societal change that we will reach a new energy future.

In a future issue of the *Sierran*, we will focus on other policy efforts that will be needed to confront the challenge of global climate change.

For more information, contact Global Warming Issues Chair Eva Thaddeus or Conservation Chair Ken Hughes (see masthead page 2).

Cool Cities, New Mexico-Style

This year, the national Sierra Club launched a major campaign to reduce carbon emissions on a municipal level. In conjunction with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Cool Cities initiative (www.coolcities.us) has already gained support from hundreds of cities nationwide, including Albuquerque and Santa Fe. And at a June meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, a resolution was passed calling for carbon-neutral buildings by 2030.

We have a great opportunity to make the connection between policy and personal action in a state whose available sunlight could provide 34 times more energy than is currently used in the entire country. Just 10,000 acres devoted to photovoltaic cell arrays would power New Mexico's annual electricity needs. Seventy-one-thousand new jobs would be created in the transition to renewably generated electricity, assuming 35.5 jobs per megawatt of renewables and 2,000 megawatts of demand.

The Cool Cities Campaign's website posits correctly that "communities are making a difference by investing in cleaner vehicles, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. Every one of these local solutions is already saving taxpayer dollars and improving public health by reducing energy waste and pollution. By taking innovative actions, forward-looking cities are re-energizing our nation, proving that we can solve global warming one city at a time."

The campaign has outlined four steps to help communities work toward a carbon-neutral future:

- Take the Cool Cities pledge to reduce greenhouse gas levels to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012.
- Conduct an emissions inventory.
- Create a solutions plan.
- Implement and monitor progress.

Here are some steps leading toward a local solution to global warming and how you can get your local elected officials to support the Cool Cities Campaign.

Efficiency First

Communities should first take steps to make the most efficient use of electricity.

- Replace all incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents.
- Regulate settings for cooling (e.g., 76°F), heating (67°F), and hot water (120°F). Each degree change of heating and cooling cuts energy bill by 3%; setting the water heater to 120°F would cut hot water costs in half.
- Switch traffic lights to LED lamps.
- Adopt Aspen, Colorado's standards for low light pollution.

Green Design

Set and implement carbon caps. All new construction should leave a carbon footprint at least 50% less than the average for current construction, beginning immediately. Some ways to achieve this include:

- Require that all new buildings include active solar collectors on their roofs.
- Require passive solar design in new construction.
- Orient buildings mindful of prevailing winds to maximize cooling in the summer and heating in the winter.
- Use window and door overhangs and light-color roofs to reduce the need for cooling.
- Plant deciduous trees on the south and southwest sides of buildings to allow the sun to warm the buildings in the winter, thereby reducing the need for heating.
- Plant conifer trees on the north and northeast sides of buildings for protection from summer rays.
- Expedite construction permits for those doing energy- and location-efficient development.

Clean Energy

- Make a transition to generate 100% of electricity from renewable energy resources.
- Take advantage of federal and state solar tax credits to cover building energy needs, which combined could cover over one-half the capital costs.
- Devote 25% of public and private roof and carport surface area for solar water heating and electricity equipment to provide each building's hot water, heating, and electricity needs.
- Join the Chicago Climate Exchange, a computerized marketplace where credits for avoiding climate pollution are bought and sold.
- Advocate for and use a program for PNM customers who generate their own green power with grid-tied photovoltaic (PV) systems.
- Publicize the state solar tax credit at 30% with no cap, which supplements the new federal credits of 30% but capped at \$2,000.
- Clean out and capture the methane from past and current landfills, and use the methane as a source of fuel for fleets of city buses and trucks.
- Work to get the Public Regulation Commission to reduce the minimum threshold for eligibility for the New Mexico Wind Power Production Tax Credit from 10 megawatts to 1 megawatt, which will greatly aid development of distributed wind generation using utility-scale turbines.
- Pledge to buy any wind-generated power within a 150-mile radius from city limits ("windshed").
- Encourage the use of clotheslines instead of clothes dryers.
- Institute a "global warming fee" on new homes and renovation projects that exceed local energy standards, as is done in Aspen, Colorado. Homeowners can either pay the fee, which goes into a city fund for renewable energy projects, or they can offset their excess global-warming pollution by investing in their own renewable energy systems.
- Grade neighborhood development on energy efficiency, using standards for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND). Projects will be judged by location efficiency; environmental preservation; compact, complete, and connected neighborhoods; and resource efficiency, such as recycled materials and wastewater systems.
- Evaluate public buildings from an energy-usage point of view and search for opportunities to lower energy bills through energy efficiency and conservation measures. Smart energy solutions would lower carbon dioxide emissions, providing a substantial contribution to the Cool Cities Campaign.

Transportation

- Replace all cars in city fleets with hybrids. Hybrid vehicles use half as much gas, with a return on investment expected in about four years. A transition to the hybrid-car fleet would cut the car-related carbon dioxide emissions in half.
- Provide a bicycle fleet for short trips of city employees.

Street Lighting

- Accelerate the transition to LED traffic lights.
- Implement computer-controlled traffic light synchronization.
- Replace street lights with lower-wattage, modern, and more energy-efficient solutions.
- Limit street illumination after rush hours.

For more information, contact Conservation Chair Ken Hughes (see masthead page 2).

— Ken Hughes and Voitek Byszewski

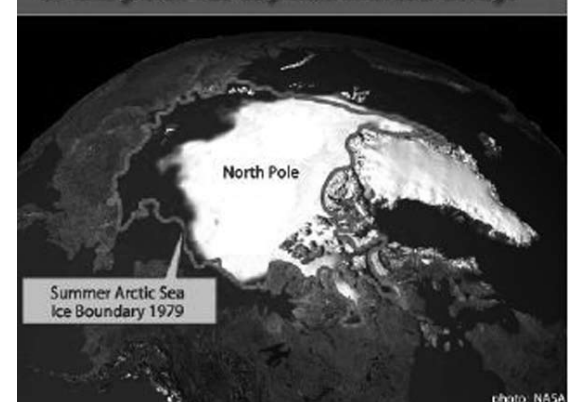
PNM Energy-Efficiency Program

PNM customers can reduce their heating bills, and get paid to do it.

- Retail rebates—buy efficiency products and install yourself. \$25 on an Energy Star-qualified programmable thermostat or \$10 for a water-heater insulation wrap.
- Rebates on products installed by a participating contractor:
 - \$40 for installation of Energy Star-qualified programmable thermostats;
 - \$15 for water-heater insulation wraps;
 - \$8 for low-flow shower heads;
 - \$5 for 10 feet or less of pipe insulation (limit of 2 of each item per customer);
 - 25%, up to \$500, on insulation for attics, walls, basement/crawl spaces or ducts; testing and sealing to reduce air infiltration and ductwork leakage.

Purchases and installations must take place in 2006. For more information, including a list of participating contractors, see PNM's website (www.PNM.com/rebates).

Since 1979, more than 20 percent of the polar ice cap has melted away.



Let the Sun Dry Your Clothes...

Electric dryers use 5-10% of residential energy. The Rocky Mountain Institute estimates that one electric clothes dryer contributes 1,500 pounds of CO₂ to the atmosphere annually. Five reasons to hang dry your clothes? Clothes last longer and smell better, and it prevents pollution, saves money, and gets you outdoors. Make sure your neighborhood has no covenants preventing clotheslines. For more information, see Project Laundry List (www.laundrylist.org).

...Power Your Home

Photovoltaic (PV) panels produce clean electricity directly from the sun. They can be either self-contained (connected to a battery) or tied into the electrical grid. An average-size energy-efficient home will need 1-3 kilowatts of PV panels to meet its electricity needs. These can cost \$10,000-\$30,000 to install, but state and federal tax credits will return 30%. At today's electricity rates (and rates will be rising), PV pays for itself in about 25 years.

...and Heat Your Water

Solar hot water (direct) systems use a solar collector to heat a mixture of water and glycol. The heat is then transferred directly to your water tank. A single panel of 30-40 square feet heats 80 gallons of water. Total installed cost is usually \$4,000-\$5,000. Solar hot water systems pay for themselves within 10 years. State and federal tax incentives are now available.

For information, see Coalition for Clean and Affordable Energy's website (www.nmccae.org).

Efficiency Efforts Can Improve Quality of Life and Economy

This issue, I address how much energy could be saved by efficiency efforts and utility efficiency programs. The energy efficiency I describe generates a net financial savings for the economy and also improves the quality of life and reduces pollution. Sure, we could go to extremes and be ultra-spartan and save even more energy, but I'm sticking to what is practical and reasonable in modern America.

A 2002 report by Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET) called "The New Mother Lode: The Potential for More Efficient Electricity Use in the Southwest" models two scenarios, the "business-as-usual" Base Scenario and the High Efficiency Scenario that gradually increases the efficiency of electricity use in homes and workplaces from 2003 to 2020 (see www.swenergy.org/nml/index.html for the full report).

The High Efficiency Scenario considers reasonable and cost-effective measures that are available in the marketplace today. It requires only that various entities take action and make the necessary initial investments. For example, in commercial buildings, large energy savings can be achieved by upgrading lighting and HVAC systems. The savings will pay for the costs of the measures, but the company must make a decision to place their resources in these actions. The study considers all the cost-effective and reasonably achievable measures that could be implemented in an aggressive implementation program.

For the region as a whole, the Base Scenario predicts that electricity demand will increase 59% between 2002 and 2020. In the High Efficiency Scenario, the increase in electricity demand is limited to 13% during this time period. Such changes would eliminate the need for thirty-four 500-megawatt power plants by 2020.

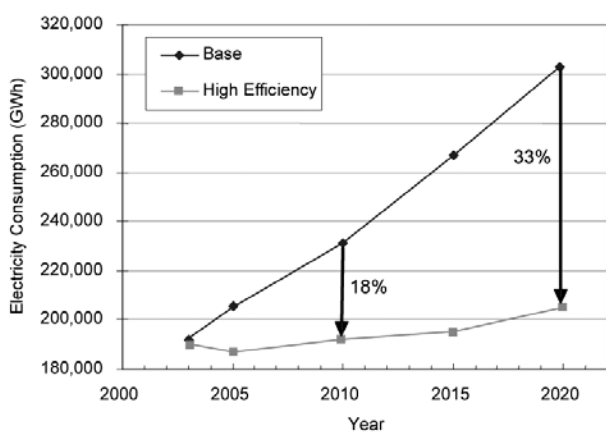


Fig. 1. This graph shows electricity consumption in the region going from about 190,000 GWh in 2002 to 305,000 GWh in 2020. (Source: "The New Mother Lode: The Potential for More Efficient Electricity Use in the Southwest," Nov. 2002, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, Boulder, CO, p. ES-5.)

As the graph in figure 1 shows, a full one-third of the electricity we are predicted to use in the business-as-usual scenario could be avoided using cost-effective energy-efficiency measures. Moreover, the amount of energy saved in the region from 2003 to 2020 (roughly 100,000 gigawatt-hours – GWh) is the total amount of energy New Mexico uses in five years.

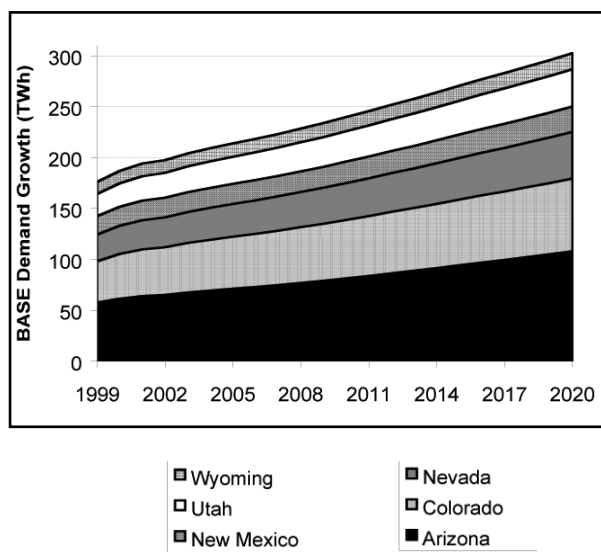


Fig. 2. The energy use by states in the Southwest in the Base Scenario. (Source: "The New Mother Lode: The Potential for More Efficient Electricity Use in the Southwest," Nov. 2002, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, Boulder, CO, pp. 3-6.)

Energy Efficiency Saves Water, Adds Jobs

The Mother Lode study also provides macroeconomic impacts due to the High Efficiency Scenario, and shows large net increases in jobs as the energy efficiency sector grows (a net gain of 58,400 jobs, or about 0.45%). In dollar terms, we could expect to save consumers and businesses \$28 billion net between 2003 and 2020, or about \$4,800 per current household in the region.

Saving the energy directly reduces environmental impacts. Water savings results in the High Efficiency Scenario would free up 188,920 acre-feet of water per year in the six-state region, or 20,040 acre-feet per year in New Mexico alone, because less cooling water would be used for electricity generation as well as in our appliances, such as clothes washers. Carbon dioxide emissions (the main pollutant causing global warming) would be reduced by 20 million metric tons of carbon equivalent (MMTCE) in the region, or 1.8 MMTCE in New Mexico, for a total reduction of 26% in 2020, relative to the emissions of the Base Scenario. Mercury would be reduced by 0.28 tons in the region, or 0.03 tons in New Mexico.

In New Mexico, electricity consumption could actually decrease overall were we to implement all the recommended energy-efficiency measures. The Mother Lode study predicted that New Mexico could

actually reduce its predicted load growth of 1.6% in the Base Scenario to -0.8% in the High Efficiency Scenario. That isn't going to happen in hot, faster-growing Arizona or Nevada, but it can happen in slower-growing New Mexico. If we in New Mexico reduced our absolute electricity use, we could actually sell the extra electricity to those other states for a hefty profit.

Roadblocks to Achieving Our Potential

Now that you know that saving energy is cost-effective (which means it pays for itself, so this is not a financial sacrifice), the question becomes, Why is it so hard to get this done? That is a complex question, involving regulatory agencies, utilities, government, and you, the ratepayer and taxpayer. At this point, we have convinced the legislature to pass a law allowing utilities to spend (and recover from ratepayers) up to 1.5% of their revenues to implement some of the programs that could lead to the above savings. But achieving the full savings would likely require double that amount of investment. Certain people just can't stomach the idea of investing in energy efficiency. They think it is "a matter of personal virtue" (to quote Vice President Cheney), or that the market should guide our investment decisions, not public policy objectives. Some companies, as well as individuals, prefer to invest in other priorities, even, sometimes, when the financial return on investment is lower. And many people are concerned that utility energy-efficiency programs don't benefit all ratepayers equally, since the ratepayers who take advantage of utility rebates, for example, get more economic benefits.

Moreover, to put it simply, the utilities don't earn as much money if consumers don't buy as much electricity. This year alone, PNM predicted they would lose \$400,000 in net revenues for the 1.8-million-dollar investment in natural-gas conservation programs. The utility's net loss will increase the more they spend on energy-efficiency programs. If PNM sold 10% less electricity after a 10-year conservation effort, it could mean a substantial "hit" to its shareholders under current regulations. But this does not need to be the case; alternative regulations could reward the utility when it runs effective conservation programs that help customers lower their energy use and bills. The utility could be allowed to make up the loss in net revenues and also earn a bonus if it meets energy savings targets. In this manner, shareholders could benefit at the same time that consumers and environment benefit.

For more information, contact Gail Ryba, New Mexico Representative, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (gnryba@cybermesa.com), or visit SWEET's website (www.swenergy.org).

—Gail Ryba

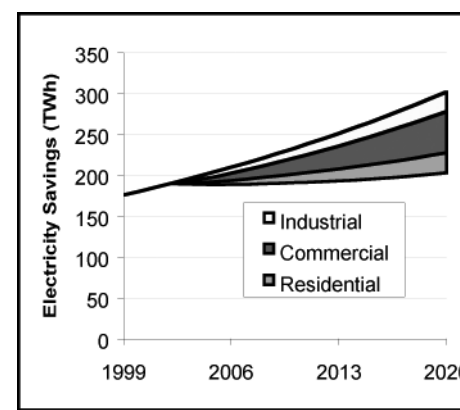
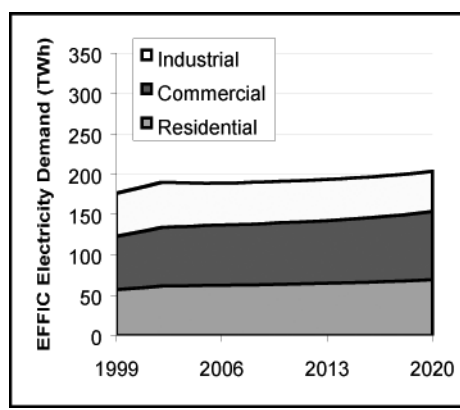
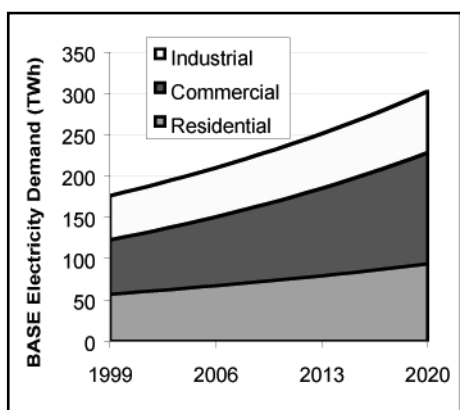


Fig. 3. The three graphs above show the electricity generation in the Base and High Efficiency scenarios and the reductions by sector over time. The commercial sector provides about half the electricity savings, and the residential and industrial sectors each provide about one-quarter of the savings for the region as a whole. (Source: "The New Mother Lode: The Potential for More Efficient Electricity Use in the Southwest," Nov. 2002, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, Boulder, CO, p. D-7.)



CENTRAL GROUP NEWS

4 Wheels to 2 Wheels to 4 Wheels... Then Back Again

I was scared to death. My best friend Art had given me a mighty push and I tore off down the sidewalk at breakneck speed, the wind whipping my hair. And I did not fall over, rather rode that little bike all the way to the playground and back, fast and stable. The training wheel era had come to a triumphant end. I raced back to my house (on foot), got out dad's crescent wrench, and in less than five minutes time, went from four wheels to two. Thus I was hooked...

In typical childhood fashion, my boundaries expanded over the years, and I found myself riding ever farther and farther, exploring new areas of the city that were previously unknown, or seen only from a car window. It sure beat walking to school, to my friend's houses, and everywhere else I wanted to go. Of course I had no real awareness of the positive environmental benefits of my rides, I just knew I really enjoyed it.

Even after I learned the thrill of driving, and had the freedom to cover even greater distances in shorter time, I still rode my bike. Heck, riding a bike even helped me graduate from high school.

I hated gym class, skipped it as often as I could... that is until I got a "nastygram" one day warning me that I wouldn't be graduating unless I somehow made up the classes. And I only had 3 months. So what to do?? Fortunately for me, the Phys Ed department was willing to negotiate...and being winter at the time, I was able to make up half the deficit by skiing twice/week for eight weeks. All well, good, and cold! But how to complete the other half?

The answer rested quietly against the wall of my garage.

Perched on the shore of Lake Ontario, the city of Oswego, NY lies roughly 75 miles east of my hometown of Rochester, and is the home of the State University of New York at Oswego. I had friends who were college freshman at the time; I made several visits by car, and knew the road well, especially the roller-coaster hills. My good friend Ken and I approached the Phys Ed folks and negotiated a deal to bike over there and back in two days time. And that was with 5-speed, 35-pound bicycles. With little food, little water, but lots of motivation, we set out one early May morning with the goal of reaching Oswego by sundown. With winds at times at our back, at times in our face, frequent stops at gas stations for Cokes and candy bars, we plodded onward along Route 104 in the early morning cool, and eventually the late afternoon heat. Reaching the hills gave us such pause, we tore off down the first one, only to be stopped dead in our tracks trying to pedal up the opposite side. It was a cycle to be repeated many times before we were done. Over seven hours from when we set out, we rolled into the campus and over to our friend's dormitory, exhausted, stiff, but feeling a sense of having pushed out limits and accomplishing half our goal.

In the morning, we awoke and quickly discovered it was all we could do to walk normally, so stiff and sore were our legs; we stretched as best we could, ate a big big breakfast (dorm food may lack in quality, but not in quantity!) and set out for home. The weather held up and surprisingly, so did our stamina. The hills felt longer and higher, but we prevailed and made it back to the relative flatlands near Rochester. With about 10 miles to go, I had the misfortune of hitting a piece of glass and puncturing a tire. Since bike repair kits were unheard of in those days, we flagged down a passing pickup truck and its generous driver brought us to within the last two miles of my house. Another hour of walking brought us stumbling into home, tired, exhausted beyond imagining, but knowing we had given it all we had. I should've attended more gym classes.

The stage was set. The experience, while taxing, was also exhilarating, covering so much distance in so little time under my own power. I was hooked once again.

Through my own college tenure, and beyond into my early thirties, I rode the trails and roads as often as I could, even replaced my trusty (and sturdy) Schwinn Le Tour, with a lighter version. Later, when I was living in Boston, the Charles River bike paths, sidewalks along the shore, and the trails on Cape Cod kept me well occupied. If there was a bike trail to work, I would've taken full advantage.

Santa Fe found me with an aging, uncomfortable 18-speed gathering dust in the garage, my exercise interests had morphed into hiking in the mountains and other slow-moving pursuits. At a garage sale, I said a final goodbye to my faithful mechanical steed and entered into a period of regular hikes and visits to the gym, a mode of exercise that persists to this day.

Economics drive change, and like everyone else, I've been feeling the pinch of \$3.00/gallon gasoline. Add to that the closure of the Cibola National Forest and I found myself pinched on two fronts. Once again, a solution lay quietly leaning against a wall.

Not at home, but at work. Right outside my cubicle several bikes, ridden by commuting coworkers. A new seed was planted and I stated asking them questions. Where were they biking from? How hard are the routes? Which are the best? What's it like to deal with New Mexico drivers? What kind of bike is best? How much is a good bike anyway? Then one day, a coworker generously offered me the use of his bike for a trial commute. At 15 miles one way from the Four Hills to the Journal Center, it's not a short trip. But heck, if I could do 75 miles in a day, I thought I should be good for 30. So fitted with a bike and a helmet, I set off one early May morning...and even though it took 90 minutes because I got lost, I had a great ride into work. With a shower and a set of clean clothes, I was relaxed and ready for the workday.

Late that afternoon, with an uphill ride to Tramway Blvd. ahead of me, temperatures in the high 80s and a somewhat favoring wind, I set out for home. It was difficult, but just as rewarding as my 140 mile trek to Oswego; it re-awoke the exhilaration of those distant past rides. And as important, with every turn of the crank I was one small increment less a part of our global warming problem, and one more incremental part of our global warming solution. There was the added economic benefit of saving about \$6.00/day in gasoline alone...it could quickly pay for a bike.

The following week, I went out and bought my own. It's good, as they say, to be back in the saddle, and good to play some small part in slowing the effect of global warming. Commuting 2 to 3 times/week by bicycle, a tank of gas is now lasting me two weeks under routine driving conditions where before, it lasted just over one. We are fortunate indeed to have such an extensive network of bike trails and a climate that's conducive to using them for such a large part of the year. I'm hooked again, and the benefits are more attractive than ever. I arrive at work refreshed, I get to eat with gusto so I can replace the calories I burn, and I've even, as of this writing recouped about 15% of the bike's cost. By year's end, I expect to recoup it all.

If I've managed to inspire (or re-inspire) you into commuting to work, you can find a wealth of information on Albuquerque bicycling on the BikeABQ website (www.bikeabq.org), and the City of Albuquerque biking website (www.cabq.gov/bike). Most bike shops also have information on bicycle commuting and also stock free trail maps published by the city.

—Paul Braiman

Central Group Directory

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

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Patrick Redmon, Political redmonpa@law.unm.edu	298-1298
David Ther, Outings grelbik@worldnet.att.net	260-1553

An Inconvenient Truth

If you have not seen this movie, you owe it to yourself to see this powerful and well documented presentation of the data, the real science, about the damage we are doing to the atmosphere and climate control systems of the planet.

At press time, it was playing at both Century Rio theaters. If you miss the movie, then read the book!

Meetings

Thursday July 20th • Program to be determined, call for details.

Thursday August 17th • Program to be determined, call for details.

Outings

Sunday July 16th • Hamilton Mesa to Beatty's Flat, Pecos Wilderness

Moderately strenuous hike to a popular high alpine meadow with some of the best views of the Sangre de Cristo high country. Approx. 11 miles round trip, up to 1600 ft elevation gain. This should be a good opportunity for wildflower identification. Participants are encouraged to bring their favorite wildflower identification guides. Call David Ther (260-1553).

Southern NM Group Directory

Executive Committee

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Mary Katherine Ray

Wildlife

Robert Grey

Alternate Chapter delegate, Global Warming;
Chapter delegate 894-6774
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Jane L. Grider

Political, Alternate Chapter Delegate

John Waugh

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Glenn Landers

Pollution
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Jo-an Smith

Mining, Grazing
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Outings

Sunday, July 9. Join Chet Warwick for a six-mile hike from Railroad Canyon to Holden Prong in the Black Range. Meet at the General Store in Hillsboro for breakfast and leave for the trail head at 8:30. Bring water, sturdy boots, lunch, etc. Call Chet for details at 505-894-6427.

Saturday, August 19. A late afternoon and evening trip to see the bats fly from the lava tubes on the Armendaris Ranch. Not only will you see the bats and ferruginous hawks, but also hawks, bison, mule deer, prairie dog towns, antelope, and oryx. This great outing is a fundraiser for the Sierra Club and will include a super supper. The Club is asking for \$100 per person. Call Margot for the details and the rendezvous time at the Ranch headquarters in Engle. 505-744-5860

Sunday, August 27. An outing at Straight Gulch, off the Beaverhead Road in the Black Range with Mary Katherine Ray. This is a fairly easy hike in a beautiful canyon. Leave the Forest Service Office parking lot in T or C at 8:00 AM. Bring lunch, good walking shoes, rain gear, etc., for a pleasant outing. Call Margot at 505-744-5860 or Mary Katherine at 505-772-5655.

Please call your outing leader to confirm the hikes or outings – changes might be possible to due various reasons, including possible forest closures due to drought.

Group Attends the LDP Workshop

Margot Wilson, John Waugh, and Jane Grider of the Southern Group Ex Com were part of an ongoing leadership development project offered through Harvard University the weekend of June 9-11 in Santa Fe. All New Mexico groups of the Rio Grande Chapter and the El Paso Group were represented at the training, as well as a group of future trainers. The core objectives were to develop leadership skills among present Sierra Club leaders, improve methods of recruiting new leaders, and develop future group action plans. New relationships were made and old ones rekindled. The weekend was challenging and at times tiring, but definitely very informative and, overall, a success. Many thanks go out to those in the Northern Group who donated food and opened their homes to members of other groups for this event.

The next leadership training session will be held at Sevilleta Research Station the weekend of September 15-17. Those who are willing to commit to the training process, but who have not yet been involved, are encouraged to attend.

Welcome Back, Chet!

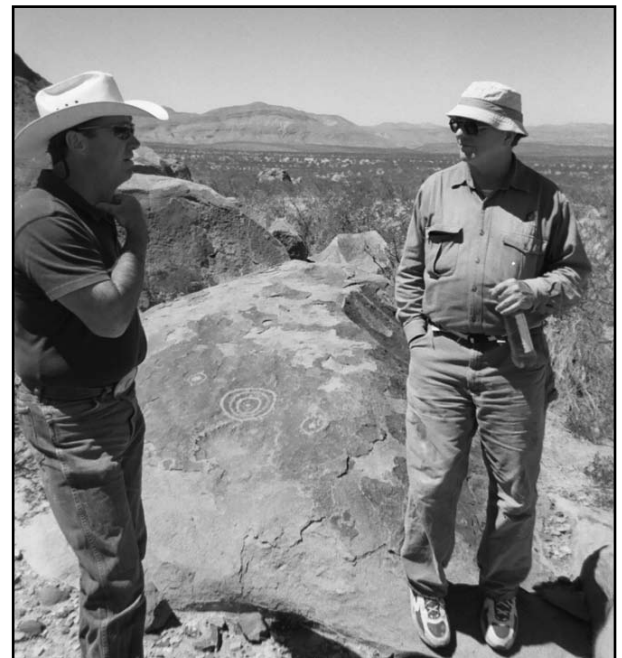
Longtime Southern Group outings leader Chet Warwick has returned to lead an outing in the Black Range. Chet was the Group's outing chair back in the late 1980s when Don Dearholt was Chair, Floyd Hellyer produced "The Log," and Cheryll Blevins did publicity. Chet and his wife were doing trail maintenance out of Iron Creek Campground.

Chet got out his journal to ascertain how many "fourteeners" he has climbed in Colorado before coming to Truth or Consequences, and, folks, it is twenty different peaks and eight of them were climbed multiple times. He and his wife Mern made two trips to Europe to climb in Switzerland and Italy. Back home in Colorado, Longs Peak was in their backyard and that peak was climbed many times with their three children.

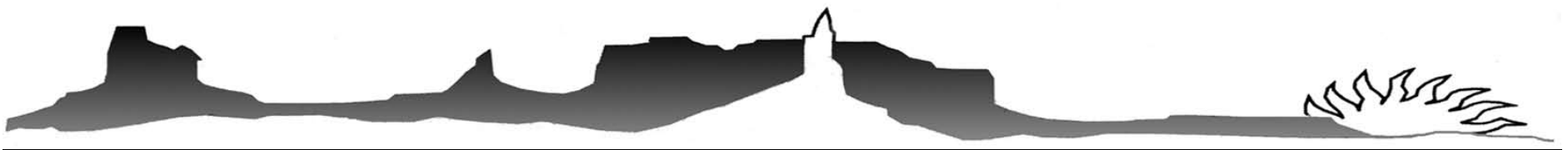
Ex Com Candidates

The following candidates have been nominated to run for the Southern Group Ex Com: Cheryll Blevins, Jane Grider, and Margot Wilson.

If you wish to run via a nominating petition, please contact Jane Grider for details. The official ballot will be included in the next issue.



On April 23, the Southern Group enjoyed an outing to the Doña Ana Mountains north of Las Cruces. Top left: A rock with grinding holes in an overhang shelter. Top right: Dr. Derek Bailey, Director of the Chihuahuan Desert Rangeland Research Center, discusses area petroglyphs with a Group member. Above: Dr. Bailey points out petroglyphs to Margot Wilson.



EL PASO GROUP NEWS

The News from El Paso

Texas is a different sort of place anyway. And El Paso is very different from the rest of it. We Sierrans in El Paso complain about how far it is to the Rio Grande Chapter meeting place at Sevilleta or to Santa Fe. Imagine having to drive 1400 miles to cross your state, or 700 to your capitol! As a boy growing up in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Denton to be exact, El Paso seemed way out there somewhere. Indeed, if we can judge by the number of dirty, extractive industries in El Paso, it would seem that we are definitely the “backyard” in the rest of the state’s “not in my backyard.” It doesn’t help that we also do not vote the “right” way, the way the rest of Texas does. You see, it’s pretty much taken for granted in the rest of the Lone Star State that what’s good for business is good for everybody, rich or poor. Never mind that the rich don’t want that stuff in their backyards, we’ve got to do what’s good for what’s known as “bidness,” a term a young boy might first hear down at the corner barbershop which gradually becomes a Texas mindset or assumption.

El Pasoans have been showing signs of taking matters into their own hands the last few years. We’ve realized once again that we cannot expect anyone else to take care of us and our “backyards.” The El Paso Regional Group of the Sierra Club began to turn more urban a few years ago as more and more members moved over to the sofa, or to groups like Audubon and activities like local dayhikes. Some went the more focused road of New Mexico Wilderness Alliance or single-issue groups. Although there are still a handful of us wilderness backpackers out there, gone are the days when we had a twelve person limit on multiday trips and had to enforce it! At any rate, we got behind a progressive mayor with great vision who worked well with a progressive county judge and a progressive state senator. We were excited by his great blueprint for El Paso, a plan which included keeping the smelter closed, cleaning up downtown, and moving the rail yards out of the city center. We would turn El Paso into a place where our bright young people would be proud to settle down, a place with the quality of life of an Austin or a Boulder!

Well, the “good ol’ boys” who had run the city their way over lunch at the El Paso Club atop the El Paso National Bank, or the International Club atop the State National Bank, didn’t like the sound of something that might spoil their plans to cash in their investments and retire to La Jolla, something not good for “bidness.” They got many of the polluters and extractors to ante up enough bucks to unseat the mayor who was responsible of all this nonsense. We fought hard, but our guy, branded as the “downtown mayor” lost to the rich guys’ “neighborhood mayor.” Our guy hadn’t helped his cause with a bit of arrogance and the strongest antismoking ordinance in Texas. And the neighborhood mayor was subsequently tossed out in a most surprising vote after *la raza* (the people) saw large campaign contributions from those same extractors and polluters who had elected him in the first place. And the count was now “one down, two to go,” the “two” being the county attorney, who survived (albeit with a lower profile), and the “three” being our leading state senator who suddenly finds himself facing George Bush’ local buddy and fund raiser in the November election.

While that drama plays, El Paso’s present mayor and council have found the strength to continue down, dare we say it, a progressive path. They have spent somewhere in the neighborhood of three-quarters of a million dollars on litigation to keep the smelter closed. They have helped save the city’s largest arroyo from Hunt Building Corporation (an outfit that could have donated the land without ever missing it). They have moved forward on bike paths and recycling, on modernizing ordinances, and had the Urban Land Institute down from DC to assess our situation. The most recent challenges are yet another hotly-contested downtown renovation plan, (more on this later), the handling of 10,000 new troops coming soon to Ft Bliss, and keeping watch over thousands of acres of recently master-planned open space while the managing Public Service Board (PSB) makes backroom leasing deals in executive session with those same “good ol’ boys” referred to earlier. Who said the Wild West was dead?

El Paso has paid big bucks for at least five different downtown renewal plans over the years. They have been mostly ignored. At last spring’s Urban Land Institute visit, the verdict was that we have a matter of a few months to get ahead of the development curve, getting out of fifty years

of reactive posture. The fates of the different plans seem to have hung on trying to please everyone in the area, the bargain stores catering to Juarez pedestrians, the owners of dilapidated properties, those of historic buildings designed by the likes of Henry Trost, a wannabe entertainment district, and a significant neighborhood called the Segundo Barrio. The latest plan, introduced a few months ago, was a top-down effort without much input from the lower-level businesses or the neighborhood involved. The biggest mistake seems to have been mentioning those frightening words: “eminent domain.” Now there is something that will get *la raza* to the polls! All the city officials involved have called for backing away and reapproaching the renewal effort from the bottom up. Numerous neighborhood meetings have been set up so that all can speak up. Even those against the plan claim they’ll be more cooperative if they get to input. The private group that put the plan together and many others tend to feel that it is just impossible to get so many diverse interests to agree on everything, which could be why they didn’t ask in the first place. Some folks just like downtown the way it is. Homeowners don’t want to move and they don’t want more expensive housing. The movers and shakers look at San Antonio’s Riverwalk as something which couldn’t have been done without eminent domain. There does seem to be general agreement that whatever it’s going to be, it’s now or never. Stay tuned!

Featured Outing

July: 21-23: Chiricahua Backpack

Place: Southeast Arizona skyislands

Class: Moderate

Length: 10 miles

Elevation gain: 800 feet

Leader: Harry Newman (915) 588-7192 swtraveller@aol.com

Following a Friday night carcamp at a nearby Forest Service campground we’ll hike along the ridgeline to a campsite near a spring. From there we can climb Chiricahua Peak or explore further down the Crest Trail. The next day we will make our way down the Greenhouse Trail, taking a break at the waterfall. Afterward the trail transitions toward the desert before returning to our vehicles. Participants should pack for variable conditions at higher altitudes. This trip requires a shuttle vehicles and as always depends on road conditions and possible fire closures.

El Paso Group Directory

<http://texas.sierraclub.org/elpaso>

Executive Committee

Chair: Laurence Gibson	lgibson@utep.edu	915/594-7342
Vice-Chair: Ted Mertig	tmertig@earthlink.net	915/852-3011
Secretary: Ann Falknor	afalknor@sbcglobal.net	915/833-9162
Treasurer: Kathy Sunday	sundayt@zianet.com	915/584-9301
Bill Addington	aquavida@valornet.com	915/369-2541
Bob Geyer		915/834-8242
Gilbert Pinon	bifflehead@yahoo.com	915/307-3398
Rick Provencio	rpiidye4@yahoo.com	281/727-9945
Liz Walsh	ewalsh@utep.edu	915/584-1471

Committee Chairs

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Chapter Delegate (Alt.)		
Liz Walsh	ewalsh@utep.edu	915/584-1471
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

Nuestra Acequia, Nuestra Vida: Taos Receives National Water Sentinels Grant

The Taos Branch of the Sierra Club is pleased and excited to announce that we have just received a grant from The National Sierra Club's Water Sentinels Program for conducting water monitoring in the Taos area. The grant will enable local volunteers to determine water quality in the Rio Hondo, the Rio Pueblo, and hopefully the Rio Fernando – important streams that provide riparian habitat, as well as irrigation for communities in the Taos area.

The grant will cover volunteer training and the cost of the actual analyses. Taos Sierra Club volunteers Annouk Ellis and Eric Patterson, who wrote and submitted the grant, will be leading the program, but its implementation will also involve a coalition of several local community organizations. Roberta Salazar, Executive Director of Rivers & Birds, who has done such spectacular work with local students from elementary school through college age, will provide student volunteers for water sample collection.

Robert Gomez and Jeff Ogburn from the Taos Pueblo Environmental Office, and Cliff Bain of the Arroyo Hondo Neighborhood Association, will assist

the Sierra Club with planning and supervising. Rachel Conn, of Amigos Bravos, will use her vast knowledge of the Clean Water Act and the intricacies of the Army Corps of Engineers' regulations to interpret our data. Amigos Bravos has the legal and political standing to bring any pollution violations discovered to the attention of the appropriate regulatory agencies.

During the second week of July (on the 9th and 10th), Scott Dye, the Sierra Club's Water Sentinels Program National Director, will be in Taos to meet with local Sierra Club volunteers and representatives of the other coalition organizations. To help with initial planning, Scott will assist us in checking sites along the rivers where some problems may be expected. He will return at some later date to train volunteers in legally and scientifically appropriate water-sampling techniques.

The commonly seen bumper sticker "Nuestra Acequia, Nuestra Vida," meaning "our irrigation ditch, our life," is a very strong statement about the importance of clean water in the lives of the rural residents of Northern New Mexico. As both the population and tourism in the area continue to increase, we must make a greater effort to insure that our daily lives and activities do not degrade the environment for ourselves and our neighbors.

Farmers in Valdez, a small village north of Taos, do not want to water their crops with sewage effluent from condo developments in Taos Ski Valley. People in Arroyo Hondo do not want their irrigation water despoiled with manure from livestock pooping in the river in Valdez. Fisherman and bathers in the lower Rio Hondo and Rio Grande do not want their water contaminated by septic tank failures in the village of Arroyo Hondo. Activities



Sierra Club volunteer Annouk Ellis and Rachel Conn, from Amigos Bravos, inspect the Rio Hondo in the Carson National Forest between Taos Ski Valley and Valdez prior to water monitoring. (Photo by Eric Patterson)

that years ago, with a smaller population, did not seem to do much harm, must now be conducted with much greater care and concern for our neighbors. Under Sierra Club leadership, this exciting new coalition of community groups in northern New Mexico will continue the tradition of protecting one of the most valuable resources of our arid and beautiful land – our water.

The people who live on or near these rivers, and those who seek recreation in these watersheds, want and deserve to have their streams clean and free from major pollutants. Both local residents and tourists continue to rely on clean water for farming and recreation. All of these people and their communities are connected by water – our rivers truly are the source of life.

For more information, contact Eric Patterson, Principal of the Water Sentinels Program (776-2833; eepatt@gmail.com).

—Eric Patterson

Meeting

Tuesday, July 25

Activist Picnic/Planning Meeting; time and place to be determined

Steering Committee

Susan Ressler, Chair • artemis@newmex.com

Heather Howitt, Secretary •

heatherhowitt@hotmail.com

Eric Patterson, Treasurer • eepatt@gmail.com

Tom and Gwen Oaks, Valle Vidal Liaison & Outings

Coordinators • gtoaks@ispwest.com

Anna Walters, Publicity •

annaainsworth@kitcarson.net

FOUR CORNERS BRANCH NEWS

In late April, Larry Baker, director of the Salmon Ruins, led 16 Sierrans on a tour of some of the major ruins at Chaco Canyon. His broad knowledge of Southwestern archaeology and his insights into the rise and fall of Chacoan culture made for a delightful day. He has promised to do a tour of some of the Navajo Pueblitos this fall.

Chapter Outings Chairs Ilse Bleck and Norma McCallan did a small outings training the following morning at the campground. The program meeting in June featured Dan Lorimier, Chapter Lobbyist, and Barbara Coulter from Animal Protection of New Mexico discussing trapping issues on public lands. Public meetings will resume the fourth Thursday of September.

If you want to get involved and help grow the Four Corners Branch, contact one of the Steering Committee members. For information on local environmental events and issues, subscribe to the Four Corners listserve (sjcsierraclub-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

—Norma McCallan



Chaco Canyon ruins. (Photo by Bob McKee)

Steering Committee

Art Jaquez, Co-Chair

326-5229 • artjaquez@yahoo.com

Nick Cullander, Co-Chair

334-0935 • ncullander@hotmail.com

Gordon Glass, Outings

564-4460 • agglass@earthlink.net

Activist Opportunities

The Chapter's Legislative Activist Network

The 2007 NM legislative session will run from mid-January until mid-March in Santa Fe. Our activists commit to responding to 10 Activist Alerts during this time by writing, calling, or e-mailing their legislators and other key legislators in support of the Chapter's priority bills. The Activist Alert provides background information, contact information, and a message for activists to deliver.

The Adopt-A-Legislator Program

Between legislative sessions, we want to help you build a stronger connection and relationship with your legislators. I'll introduce you to your legislator at his/her hometown office or over coffee, and I'll provide information about the Chapter's conservation initiatives and legislative priorities.

To join one or both of these empowering programs, contact Chapter Lobbyist and Conservation Coordinator Dan Lorimier (see masthead page 2).

—Dan Lorimier

Featured Volunteer: Voitek Byszewski, Cool Cities Campaign

Voitek Byszewski was born and educated in Poland. He holds a M.S. degree in physics from Warsaw University, and a Ph.D. in Plasma Science from the Polish Academy of Sciences. He immigrated to the United States in 1979 and taught Plasma Physics as an associate professor at Texas Tech University. Later, he joined the research and development organization within Sylvania Lighting Company (later known as Osram Sylvania, Inc.) in Massachusetts, where he became manager of New Light Sources Research Department, directing about 30 scientists and engineers. After 23 years with Sylvania, Voitek took early retirement and moved from the Boston area to New Hampshire and then to New Mexico. Last summer, he moved from Silver City to Santa Fe. He has two grown children living in Albuquerque and Atlanta, and he lives with his wife, dog, and cat in Eldorado.

In both New Hampshire and New Mexico, Voitek has been active in Sierra Club campaigns as well as hiking events. Since moving to Santa Fe, Voitek has put his managerial skills to work by heading up the Cool Cities Campaign (see article, page 9). He has organized about 20 volunteers into various groups in order to address the complex issues involved in the campaign.

The Cool Cities Campaign provides an opportunity for Santa Fe businesses and residents to join the City in its effort to lower carbon dioxide emissions. The campaign is focused on assisting the City to reduce emissions and educate people on how to conserve energy, which will also lower their energy



Voitek, practicing tai chi at Joshua Tree National Park

bills (see *Sierran*, May/June 2006). Recently, the City of Santa Fe passed a resolution on the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. We are focused on development of Santa Fe's baseline for carbon dioxide emissions, so we can measure our progress toward the goal of 7% below the 1990 level. In addition, our action plan includes:

- improvement of the city transit system;
- encouragement of the city and residents to conserve energy and to implement smart energy solutions; and
- support for the development of new building codes.

Working together with other organizations in the city and in the state, we will educate our businesses

and residents on how to save energy, reduce carbon dioxide emissions, improve the environment, and hopefully save our planet.

For more information, contact Voitek in Santa Fe (466-6211, swinia@comcast.net).

—Voitek Byszewski

Rio Grande Chapter Quarterly Meetings

The Chapter's Conservation and Executive Committee meetings will be held either in September or October 2006 at the Sevilleta Wildlife Refuge near Socorro in conjunction with the Leadership Development Program. Contact Conservation Chair Ken Hughes or Chapter Chair Susan Martin (see masthead page 2) for more information. Carpooling is encouraged at all meetings.

The next quarterly meeting will be held 2-3 December 2006.

To Contribute to the Rio Grande Sierran

The *Rio Grande Sierran* is published six times a year – early January, March, May, July, September, and November – by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club as a benefit for members living in New Mexico and West Texas. The opinions expressed in signed articles in the *Rio Grande Sierran* are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the Sierra Club. Articles may be freely reprinted for nonprofit purposes, provided that credit is given to the author and the *Rio Grande Sierran*. (Please let us know if you reprint.) Products and services advertised in the *Rio Grande Sierran* are not necessarily endorsed by the Sierra Club.

Contributions – articles, photos, artwork, poems, letters to the editor, paid advertisements – are welcome. Send to the editor (see masthead page 2). Submissions by Rio Grande Chapter members will take precedence over others. Articles are subject to abridgement. Letters to the editor may be up to 500 words. The contributor's name and email address will be printed as a source of more information, unless the contributor specifies otherwise.

Submissions must be received by the 10th of the month prior to publication. Editorial practices as developed and adopted by the Rio Grande Chapter will be used in production of the *Rio Grande Sierran*. Contents of the Group pages are the responsibility of the editor for that Group and any policies that are in place from that Group.

Nonmember subscriptions are \$10 per year. Send checks to Thomas Robey, 145 W. Zia Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505. Please allow eight weeks for processing.

Extra copies are often available. Please contact the editor (see masthead page 2) or the Group Chair in your area (see Group pages).

Preserve the Future

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, please contact:

John Calaway, Director of Gift Planning
 Sierra Club, 85 Second Street, 2nd Floor,
 San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 977-5639
 e-mail: planned.giving@sierraclub.org



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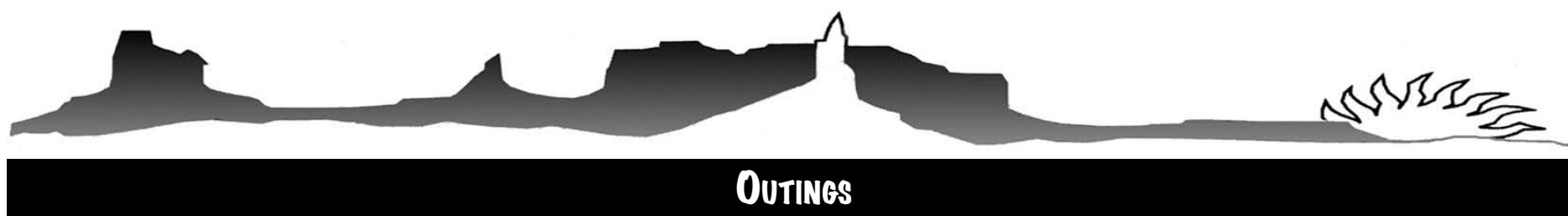
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Selected Sierra Club Outings for July, August, and September 2006

Sunday, July 9 • Railroad Canyon to Holden Prong hike, in the Black Range – 6 miles. Meet at the General Store in Hillsboro for breakfast and leave for trailhead at 8:30 a.m. Bring water, sturdy boots, lunch. Chet Warwick (894-6427 – Southern Group).

Saturday, July 15 • Wheeler Peak hike – 7 miles, 3300' gain. Via steep ascent from Williams Lake. Patrick O'Keefe (820-2359 – Northern Group).

Saturday, July 15 • Santa Fe River cleanup – 9 a.m. to noon. John Buchser (820-0201 – Northern Group).

Saturday, July 15 • Easy birdwatch walk – Jointly with Audubon Society. Bring binoculars. Ron Duffy (982-2890 – Northern Group).

Sunday, July 16 • Lush East Fork Box hike, in Jemez – 8 miles, 900' gain. Moderate. Some hiking in water. Norbert Sperlich (474-4354 – Northern Group).

Sunday, July 16 • Hamilton Mesa to Beattys Flat hike, Pecos Wilderness – 11 miles, 1600' gain. Moderately strenuous. Hike to a popular high-alpine meadow with some of the best views of the Sangre de Cristo high country. This should be a good opportunity for wildflower identification. Bring wildflower-identification guides. David Ther (260-1553 – Central Group).

Saturday, July 22 • Santa Fe Baldy hike – 14 miles, 3600' gain. Strenuous. Dogs okay. Dan Rusthoy (690-8967 – Northern Group).

Sunday, July 23 • Hamilton Mesa hike – 5 miles, 900' gain. Moderate. Michael Goldey (820-7302 – Northern Group).

Sunday, August 13 • Cerro Grande early evening hike – 2-mile climb, 1300' gain. Strenuous. Meet at 4 p.m. and return before dusk. Walk past elk enclosures in the aspen, spruce, and Douglas-fir forests of Bandelier National Monument. Bring sunscreen, appropriate clothing, snacks, water. For meeting place, call after August 10. Ilse Bleck (662-2368 – Pajarito Group).

Sunday, August 13 • East Fork of the Jemez hike – Moderate. Some walking in the river. Michael Goldey (820-7302 – Northern Group).

Saturday, August 19 • Armendaris Ranch bat-watching – A late afternoon and evening trip to see the bats fly from the lava tubes on the Armendaris Ranch. See the bats, ferruginous hawks, bison, mule deer, prairie dog towns, antelope, and oryx. This is a fundraiser for the Sierra Club and will include a super supper. The Club is asking for \$100 per person. Call for meeting place and time. Margot Wilson (744-5860 – Southern Group).

Friday-Sunday, August 25-27 • Valle Vidal backpack with llamas – Easy. Explore the Upper Ponil, with its famous groves of large-diameter bristlecone pine while gentle, sure-footed llamas carry all gear. Our outfitter, naturalist, and local expert Stuart Wilde supplies tents and all meals. Cost is \$449. For reservations, call Norma McCallan (471-0005 – Northern Group). For outfitter information, call Stuart Wilde (800/758-5262 – Wild Earth Llama Adventures).

Saturday, August 26 • Pecos high country hike – 7-9 miles. Moderate/strenuous. Page Press (946-0169 – Northern Group).

Saturday, August 26 • Tent Rocks hike – Easy. Eliza Schmid (474-5846 – Northern Group).

Sunday, August 27 • Lake Peak hike – 6.5 miles, 2600' gain. Strenuous. Wonderful views. Patrick O'Keefe (820-2359 – Northern Group).

Saturday, September 9 • Deer Trap Mesa hike, near Los Alamos – 5-6 miles, 500' gain. Easy/moderate. Michael Goldey (820-7302 – Northern Group).

Sunday, September 17 • Cave Creek/Horsethief Meadows hike, in the Pecos Wilderness – 11 miles, 2100' gain. Strenuous. Patrick O'Keefe (820-2359 – Northern Group).

Saturday, September 23 • Rio Grande bike tour – 18 miles, little elevation gain. Along the west rim of the Rio Grande. Michael di Rosa (663-0648 – Northern Group).

Saturday, September 30 • Tesuque Peak hike – Moderate/strenuous. Via Tesuque Creek and ridgeline routes. Aspen should be turning. Dogs okay. Norma McCallan (471-0005 – Northern Group).

Please check the five Groups' pages for more information on these trips and additional activities. Area code is 505, except as noted. All mileages are round trips. Participants must sign a liability waiver.

“Progress” Made on Trapping Issue; Your Comments Still Needed

Since we reported on New Mexico's trapping rules in the May/June issue of the *Rio Grande Sierran* (“When Will NM Recognize Wildlife As More Than ‘Furbearers?’”), the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMG&F) has proposed several changes to its trapping policies. One proposal would increase the distance between a public road and a trap from 25 yards to 50 yards. This is still a message to campers and hikers that trappers are more important than we are, and that to avoid traps we must restrict ourselves to those small buffers where traps are prohibited.

Also up for consideration is whether to shorten the season by starting it in November instead of October. This measure wouldn't make much of difference because most trappers don't begin setting traps until November anyway, as that is when it has become cold enough to thicken the animals' coats. Of course, coyotes and skunks would still be able to be trapped year-round.

Finally, there is actually a proposal to impose bag limits on “furbearers” – sort of. If the rule is approved, the bag limit would be based on population levels derived from something called the “furbearer resource matrix.” This document is in the process of being written, but the data that exist to create it are decades old.

None of these proposed changes is adequate to protect the public from the harm traps can inflict. They are also inadequate to properly monitor and conserve the wildlife species that are trapped. And they don't address the inherent problem of inadvertently capturing and maiming unintended animals.

In May, the NMG&F did enact a quasi-requirement that trappers return a report listing the animals they have killed. Oddly, the penalty for not reporting is not being allowed to apply for any special *hunting* permits. Trappers will still be able to trap even if they ignore this new regulation completely. And we have to rely entirely on the trappers that the reports are truthful and accurate.

Thank you to all who have written letters and emails protesting trapping on public land. Do not doubt their impact. Even these modest changes would not have been proposed without you. If you haven't done so yet, please let NMG&F know that these measures are not sufficient to protect wildlife and people from the infringement of traps on public land. A few sentences are enough, and letters will be accepted until 1 September. You may send emails to Rick Winslow at Frederic.winslow@state.nm.us or write him at P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

Also, please attend the game commission meeting on 13 July in Albuquerque and raise your objections in person. For more information and for the meeting time and location, contact Mary Katherine Ray (notraps@kitcarson.net).

—Mary Katherine Ray

This grey fox was found trapped in Northern New Mexico by a hiker who noted that, if the fox had not been captured, her dog would have been the victim. The fox's leg was so mutilated by the trap that the fox had to be shot. (Photo by K. Phelan)

