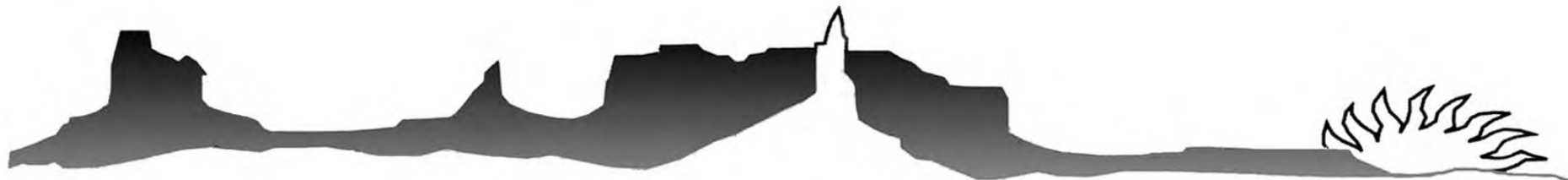


# Rio Grande Sierran



NEWS OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

MAY/JUNE 2009

## Omnibus Public Land Management Act Signed into Law

Over three years ago, I had the opportunity, along with then-Congressman Tom Udall and the staff of the New Mexico office of the Bureau of Land Management, to explore the beautiful and rugged Sabinoso Wilderness on horseback. The Sabinoso is a stunning piece of New Mexico characterized by high mesas, deep canyons, and abundant wildlife. I spent much of my career prior to running for public office working to protect places like the Sabinoso, because like many other conservationists and sportsmen, I believe it is profoundly important to preserve these areas for many generations of Americans to come. I have always believed that the beauty of these natural lands is important to our country's spirit.

by U.S. Representative  
Martin Heinrich

With the stroke of President Barack Obama's pen on March 30, 2009, many years of work by many conservationists came to a successful close. Known as the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, the bill that I voted for and President Obama signed, makes bold strides to enact over 160 different public lands measures across the country, including the protection of the Sabinoso Wilderness. Those advances include a 26 million-acre National Landscape Conservation System, 2 million new acres of Federal wilderness, more than 1,000 miles of rivers through the National Wild and Scenic River System, and the designation of thousands of trails for the National Trails System. The Act is a major milestone in our country's conservation history and we should take pride in our success in defending these treasured landscapes.

The bill protects significant public lands across the West including Wyoming, Idaho, and California. In each of those states, the bill protects untouched rivers, pristine wilderness areas, and majestic mountain ranges. It also helps ensure the survival of some of our country's most vulnerable wildlife.

In Wyoming, many have long valued the beauty of the Wyoming Range located in the Rocky Mountains

just south of Grand Teton National Park. Thanks to the bill, 1.2 million acres of that range are now protected from oil and gas drilling. Prior plans by the Bush administration would have unleashed drilling on 90,000 acres of pristine roadless areas within that range.

In Idaho, the Act protects over a half million acres of wilderness and 316 miles of streams and rivers in the high desert areas along the Owyhee River. It also funds studies of dams and water projects on the Snake River and renames one of the river's Birds of Prey areas in honor of the late Boise raptor conservationist, Morley Nelson. As a result of the Act, Idaho will also receive funding for a non-lethal demonstration project to reduce livestock losses to wolves.

In California, the Act protects over 700,000 acres, including the Amargosa River which serves as a winding oasis of green for many rare and endangered species through one of the harshest environments on earth, Death Valley. The state's magnificent High Sierras and White Mountains will also be preserved, along with the San Joaquin River in the Central Valley, the ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, and the groves of giant Sequoias along the western slopes of the Sierra Nevadas.

In a time of many challenges in our country, I am encouraged by the opportunity for a new direction. The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 embodies that spirit of national transformation. There is no question that history will consider the Act one of our country's most significant actions to protect the sanctity of some of the last, most cherished wild places in America. I am honored to



Rio Grande Chapter members take a break during an exploratory trip to Sabinoso Wilderness last summer. Located in northeastern NM, Sabinoso is among the 2 million new acres of wilderness now protected by the Act. (Photo by Brian Molanphy)

be a part of the Congress that moved our tradition of stewardship forward, and I am grateful to the members of the Sierra Club for your many years of work on the ground across our country to make this legislation possible.

Congressman Martin Heinrich represents NM District 1 in the U.S. House of Representatives. He is the former Wilderness Chair of the Rio Grande Chapter. To contact him, see information on page 3.

### Inside

Chapter Directory	2
Note from the Chair	3
Letter to the Editor	3
More Than a Clean River	4
Say No to Bottled Water	4
NM Legislative Summary	5
Lobos Need Help	5
CoolBiz Saves Energy	6
Goals for National Parks	6
New Chapter Staff	7
Chapter Fund-raising	16
Selected Outings	16

### Group & Branch News

Pajarito Group	8
Northern Group	10-11
Four Corners Branch	9
Taos Branch	9
Central Group	12-13
Southern Group	14
El Paso Group	15



Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet



Rio Grande Chapter  
Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 25342  
Albuquerque, NM 87125-5342

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Albuquerque, NM  
Permit No. 612



## RIO GRANDE CHAPTER DIRECTORY

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**John Buchser, Chair**  
505/820-0201 jbuchser@comcast.net

**Norma McCallan, Vice-Chair**  
505/471-0005 nmccallan@mindspring.com

**Laurence Gibson, Secretary**  
915/309-5419 lgibson@utep.edu

**Barbara Scheer, Treasurer**  
575/622-6456 scheerassoc@yahoo.com

**Judith Bunney**  
240/418-6903 judithbunney@yahoo.com

**Jane L. Grider**  
575/526-5620 jane4u2@email2me.net

**Mark Jones**  
505/662-9443 jonesmm1@comcast.net

**Susan Martin**  
505/988-5206 smartin31@comcast.net

**David Van Winkle**  
505/820-0006 david@vw77.com

**Margot Wilson**  
575/744-5860 sierratrekker70@live.com

**Bill Addington, El Paso Group Rep.**  
915/369-2541 aguavida@valornet.com

**Ilse Bleck, Pajarito Group Rep.**  
505/662-2368 ibleck@yahoo.com

**Dexter Coolidge, Northern Group Rep.**  
505/988-1197 dextercoolidge@yahoo.com

**OPEN, Southern Group Rep.**

**Patrick Redmond, Central Group Rep.**  
505/730-5045 predmond121@gmail.com

### CHAPTER OFFICE

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

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

**Michael Casaus, Regional Field Organizing Manager,**  
NM, CO, UT, TX  
505/243-7767 michael.casaus@sierraclub.org

**Shrayas Jatkar, Conservation Organizer**  
505/243-7767 shrayas.jatkar@sierraclub.org

**Kristina Ortez, Building Bridges to the Outdoors**  
505/243-7767 kristina.ortez@sierraclub.org

### SIERRA CLUB STRUCTURE

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

**Central Group** P.O. Box 25342, Albuquerque, NM 87125  
**El Paso Group** P.O. Box 9191, El Paso, TX 79995  
915/594-7342  
**Northern Group** 1807 Second Street, Unit 45, Santa Fe, NM 87505 • 505/983-2703  
**Pajarito Group** P.O. Box 945, Los Alamos, NM 87544  
**Southern Group** P.O. Box 735, Mesilla, NM 88046  
**West Regional Office** 45 East Loucks #109, Sheridan, WY 82801 • 307/672-0425  
**Sierra Club National** 85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105 • 415/977-5500

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

### CONSERVATION ISSUE CHAIRS

<b>Conservation Chair</b>	Ken Hughes	505/474-0550	b1family@comcast.net
<b>Agriculture/CAFOs</b>	John Buchser	505/820-0201	jbuchser@comcast.net
<b>Agriculture/Sustainable</b>	Sigmund Silber	505/473-7006	ssilber1@juno.com
<b>Air Quality</b>	Glenn Landers	575/525-0491	glenn.landerson@gmail.com
<b>Air Quality (4 Corners)</b>	Gordon Glass	505/564-4460	agglass@earthlink.net
<b>Border Issues</b>	Bill Addington	915/369-2541	aguavida@valornet.com
<b>Energy – Biomass</b>	Margot Wilson	575/744-5860	sierratrekker70@live.com
<b>Energy – Efficiency</b>	Jim Hannan (Acting)	505/988-5760	jhannan505@aol.com
<b>Energy – Wind &amp; Solar</b>	Bill Addington	915/369-2541	aguavida@valornet.com
<b>Energy – Cap &amp; Trade, 4 Corners plants</b>	Robb Thomson	505/988-8958	robbsm@toast.net
<b>Forests</b>	OPEN		
<b>Global Warming</b>	Eva Thaddeus	505/266-9646	evathad@nmia.com
<b>Mining, Sand &amp; Gravel</b>	Cliff Larsen	505/466-2128	clarsen1@ix.netcom.com <i>(put Mining on subject line)</i>
<b>Rangelands</b>	OPEN		
<b>Recycling</b>	OPEN		
<b>State Lands</b>	OPEN		
<b>Trade</b>	Richard Barish	505/232-3013	rdbarish@aol.com
<b>Transportation</b>	Ken Hughes	505/474-0550	b1family@comcast.net
<b>Valles Caldera</b>	Ilse Bleck	505/662-2368	ibleck@yahoo.com
<b>Water</b>	Sigmund Silber	505/473-7006	ssilber1@juno.com
<b>Wilderness</b>	Mary Katherine Ray	575/772-5655	mkrscrim@kitcarson.net

### ACTIVISM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<b>Communications</b>	John Buchser	505/820-0201	jbuchser@comcast.net
<i>Members:</i> Mark Jones, Patrick Redmond, David Van Winkle, Margot Wilson, Norma McCallan, Bill Addington			
<b>Elections</b>	Susan Martin	505/988-5206	smartin31@comcast.net
<b>Environmental Justice</b>	Bill Addington	915/369-2541	aguavida@valornet.com
<b>Financial Oversight Committee</b>	Matt Apodaca	505/880-9600	mattapodaca@comcast.net
<b>Fundraising</b>	Susan Martin	505/988-5206	smartin31@comcast.net
<b>Legal</b>	Richard Barish	505/232-3013	rdbarish@aol.com
<b>Listserve</b>	John Buchser	505/820-0201	jbuchser@comcast.net
<b>Membership</b>	Dexter Coolidge	505/988-1197	dextercoolidge@yahoo.com
<b>Nominating</b>	OPEN		
<b>Personnel</b>	Mark Jones	505/662-9443	jonesmm1@comcast.net
<i>Members:</i> Ken Hughes, Laurence Gibson, Margot Wilson, Patrick Redmond, Norma McCallan			
<b>Political Committee</b>	Susan Martin	505/988-5206	smartin31@comcast.net
<b>Legislative</b>	Judith Bunney	240/418-6903	judithbunney@yahoo.com
<i>Members:</i> Mark Jones, Sig Silber, Jim Hannan, John Buchser, Patrick Redmond			
<b>Political Compliance Officer</b>	Richard Barish	505/232-3013	rdbarish@aol.com
<b>Sierra Student Coalition</b>	OPEN		

### OUTINGS CHAIRS

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

### COALITIONS/WORKING GROUPS IN WHICH THE CHAPTER PARTICIPATES

<b>Coalition for Clean Affordable Energy</b>	Jim Hannan	505/988-5760	jhannan505@aol.com
	Dexter Coolidge (Alt.)	505/988-1197	dextercoolidge@yahoo.com
<b>New Mexico Wilderness Coalition</b>	OPEN		
<b>Otero Mesa Coalition</b>	Margot Wilson	575/744-5860	sierratrekker70@live.com
<b>Rio Puerco Management Committee</b>	Patrick Redmond	505/730-5045	PRedmond121@gmail.com
<b>River Otter Working Group</b>	Roger Peterson	505/983-7559	rogpete@aol.com
<b>Valle Vidal Coalition</b>	Norma McCallan	505/471-0005	nmccallan@mindspring.com

### NATIONAL & REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

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

### SIERRAN

<b>Editorial Board</b>	Norma McCallan (Chair), Ken Hughes, Mary Katherine Ray, Ilse Bleck, Patrick Redmond, Laurence Gibson
<b>Editor</b>	Ellen Cavalli 505/579-0016 ellen@fireballfarm.com

**For more information and updated outings, visit our  
Chapter website: <http://riogrande.sierraclub.org>**

## Political Contact Information

**President Barack Obama**  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500  
202/456-1111 • fax 202/456-2461  
president@whitehouse.gov  
www.whitehouse.gov

**Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar**  
1849 C Street  
Washington, DC 20240  
202/208-3100 • fax 202/452-5124  
www.doi.gov

### New Mexico

**U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman**  
703 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
202/224-5521 • fax 202/224-2852  
in NM: 505/988-6647  
senator\_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov  
http://bingaman.senate.gov/

**U.S. Senator Tom Udall**  
B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510  
202/224-6621 • fax 202/228-3261  
in NM: 505/988-6511 (Santa Fe)  
Senator\_Tom\_Udall@tomudall.senate.gov  
http://tomudall.senate.gov/

**U.S. Representative Martin Heinrich**  
1505 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202/225-6316 • fax 202/225-4975  
in NM: 505/346-6781 (Albuquerque)  
http://heinrich.house.gov/

**U.S. Representative Harry Teague**  
1007 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
202/225-2365 • fax 202/225-9599  
in NM: 575/393-0510 (Hobbs),  
575/522-3908 (Las Cruces)  
http://teague.house.gov/

**U.S. Representative Ben R. Luján**  
502 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
202/225-6190 • fax 202/226-1528  
in NM: 505/984-8950 (Santa Fe),  
505/994-0499 (Rio Rancho),  
505/324-1005 (Farmington)  
http://lujan.house.gov/

**New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson**  
State Capitol, Room 400  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
505/827-3000  
www.governor.state.nm.us

**New Mexico State Legislature**  
Legislative Council Service • 505/986-4600

**New Mexico State Senators**  
Senate Chief Clerk's Office • 505/986-4714

**New Mexico State Representatives**  
House Chief Clerk's Office • 505/986-4751

### Texas – El Paso

**U.S. Representative Silvestre Reyes**  
2433 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
202/225-4831 • fax 202/225-2016  
www.house.gov/reyes/

## Note from the Chair

This year is shaping up to be very interesting – both in the challenges that it presents, and in the victories for the environment. I am particularly proud of the folks in Washington, providing us with protections for wilderness, as Representative Heinrich discusses on the cover page. Otero Mesa was not part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act, but one of our priorities is to ensure we protect that unique resource.

We have another, local victory – we hired an experienced conservation organizer, Margaret Gray, to help us manage a number of small grants the Rio Grande Chapter funded through the kindness of a recent bequest. We anticipate that the positive publicity resulting from these projects, and the enthusiasm of the volunteers who will be working on them, will be valuable for future Chapter effectiveness.

On the challenges side, the courts declined to set realistic pollution limits for the Four Corners Power Plant. This huge, pollution-spewing power plant resides on the Navajo Nation and is now regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



Under Bush, the EPA set no limits on pollution, and we sued the EPA. The EPA settled the case and agreed to set limits – but the limits it set were so loose that they had no effect on the emissions. We subsequently appealed, and we just lost our appeal, but we don't intend to lose the fight. Your help will be integral to bringing us to a sustainable, clean energy future for New Mexico and West Texas.

—John Buchser

## Letter to the Editor

Earlier today I re-read over your excellent publication, the March/April *Rio Grande Sierran*. I'd like to offer a few thoughts.

My comments pertain to Bill Addington's cover piece, "Muro de Odio" (see *Sierran*, March/April 2009). Because Mr. Addington appears to live in El Paso – and I'm up in northern New Mexico – he is probably far more familiar than I of the border as a day-to-day reality. And perhaps Mr. Addington's position has been officially adopted as the accepted dictum of the Rio Grande Chapter or, perhaps, of the Sierra Club as an overall organization. I'm not sure how many other chapter members would take issue with his position. I, however, could not disagree with his position more.

Mr. Addington uses strong, emotion-laden arguments to suggest that the 18-foot-high fence that is currently under construction is too ugly, in both physical and psychic terms, and for that reason should be torn down... Believe me, I am no fan of the physical reality of that fence – and given a viable alternative, it should not be there. I reminds me (and probably Bill would probably agree with me on this issue) of another wall that divided East and West Berlin for 28 contentious years. But today's fence dividing the U.S. from Mexico has sufficient political viability that it has either the overt or tacit support of both a conservative Republican president and his liberal Democratic successor.

As Americans, however, we have no other choice but to build such a wall during this period of widely divergent economies. As difficult as the reality is, there is a severe, marked difference between the U.S. and the Mexican economies, and if the alternative is to have no fence at all, neither I nor a vast majority of other Americans would support the idea. Recognizing that some degree of

control is necessary between our two countries, it has been patently obvious for a number of years that the conditions that existed prior to the fence's construction made a mockery of existing laws (because it encouraged a vast, fairly successful network of covert border crossings), and it also led to hundreds, perhaps thousands of tragic and, ultimately, unnecessary deaths by those who have crossed the border under these circumstances.

The construction of the wall, I agree, has the potential for severe ecological problems for species that, under less suspicious circumstances, would go back and forth at will. This situation, difficult as it may be, cannot be the sole reason for advocating the removal of the border wall; instead, alternative circumstances may be necessary to provide water sources for these affected species.

For whatever it's worth, I'm a longtime Sierra Club member, and I have lived along the U.S.-Mexico border for a number of years, both in California and Arizona.

—Frank Norris  
Eldorado (Santa Fe), NM

## Webmaster Wanted

The Rio Grande Chapter needs an experienced web volunteer to oversee our Chapter website and ensure that it is inviting, informative, and up-to-date. Contact Steve Markowitz (stephenmarkowitz@gmail.com).

## “We’ve Been Workin’ on the River...” Groups Unite to Restore the River and Help the Homeless

On a recent bright Saturday, a couple of Sierra Club “river rats” stood by the cheerful trickle of the Santa Fe River and reminisced about the bad old days.

The Santa Fe Watershed Association launched the Adopt-the-River program a decade ago, and the Northern Group of the Rio Grande Chapter was among the first stewards to sign up. In cooperation with the City of Santa Fe, the Watershed Association organized stewards to adopt a section of the river, keep it clear of trash, and help to reestablish native vegetation. Sponsors were solicited to underwrite the costs of managing the project. The underlying objective was to create a constituency for the river: people who knew and loved it, and would support a minimum “environmental” flow for the river and restoration of its eroded channel and degraded bosque.

The Northern Group took on the stretch of the river between De Fouri Street (behind the Santuario de Guadalupe) and St. Francis Drive. Month after month, there was a lot of dispiriting heavy lifting: tires, shopping carts, sodden sleeping bags, syringes and piles of alcohol bottles and beer cans, plastic shopping bags knotted in the undergrowth, styro-foam peanuts drifted like hail. Much of the detritus was a result of the occupation of the river by those who had few other options, who took up temporary residence under the bridges or in a nest of willows.

The river stewards began to engage with this “open-air community,” as they sometimes termed themselves, leaving a trash bag and asking them to pick up around their camps, worrying about them on frigid nights. Eventually, the Watershed Association paid to set up a portable toilet at the Salvation Army across the street from the Sierra Club reach, and the cleanup crews reaped the benefits as the minefield of human feces disappeared. Other mem-

bers of the community began reaching out to the burgeoning numbers of homeless people. In 2007, after two consecutive years when two dozen people had died of exposure, a number of Santa Fe faith communities came together to say, “No more.” The result was a collaboration between St. Elizabeth’s Shelter (whose facilities were inadequate to deal with the increasing numbers of homeless people), the City of Santa Fe, and the Interfaith Community Shelter project. Over the winter of 2008-09, this “overflow shelter” provided a home-cooked meal and a warm place to sleep for up to 78 homeless men, women, and children each night.

In the same season, the Northern Group river cleanup crews began to wonder at the absence of homeless camps and the relatively light litter in the Sierra Club reach. It appears that those who used to camp out in the river have found the better option offered by the new shelter. At the same time, the City’s Youth Corps teams have made multiple passes through the river, cutting out Siberian elms to favor the native cottonwoods and willows, and picking up trash while they’re at it. Additionally, years of slapping paint over graffiti as soon as it appears seems to have worn down the taggers, and the rate of renewal of the scribbles on every possible surface has greatly declined. The river is looking great!

How often do we get to celebrate an unqualified success? The Sierra Club can take pride in our part in healing the river that is the heart of Santa Fe, as other members of the community work to heal the broken lives that have been the source of much of the detritus in the channel. Like housework, the job is never done; but, like housework, it can be fun to pitch into the job in good company and see real results from your efforts! Join us on a cleanup Saturday, and share in this satisfying work. Check the outings listings in the Northern Group pages for details.



John Buchser, Rio Grande Chapter Chair, cleans up a stretch of the Santa Fe River. (Photo by Linda Buchser)

For more information or to volunteer for the Santa Fe River cleanup, contact Paige Anna Grant (paigeanna@comcast.net).

—Paige Anna Grant

## Let’s Think Outside the Bottle: The Threat of Water Privatization

The wars of tomorrow may be fought over access to clean water, the World Bank predicts, as the number of people across the planet without enough safe and affordable drinking water is an estimated 1.4 billion and rising. This growing inequality in water access could mean that within two decades two-thirds of the world’s population could be without enough clean water, according to United Nations estimates.

Traditionally, water has been regarded as a public good for all to share. But in the face of the growing global water crisis, some of the world’s most powerful corporations are privatizing public water systems, transforming access to an essential resource into simply another opportunity for profit.

Here in the United States, we are blessed with a solid infrastructural foundation for public water. In recent years, however, the political will to maintain the country’s aging infrastructure has wavered. President Obama’s stimulus plan will inject billions towards infrastructure projects, but it is only a drop in the bucket. In New Mexico alone, estimates for wastewater infrastructure needs are \$348.8 million (Clear Waters: Why America Needs a Clean Water Trust Fund, [www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/clearwaters](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/clearwaters)). Should the decline in federal funding continue, the perception of clean, safe drinking water as a common good will risk becoming an antiquated notion.

As the basic needs of Americans are being neglected, the interests of water-guzzling corporations are

increasingly nurtured. Bottled water companies like Coke, Pepsi, and Nestle are moving into rural communities around the country and depleting precious water resources, all the while gaining huge profits by bottling and selling water to consumers at thousands of times what tap water costs. The issue becomes more important as the country’s water supplies are diminished at alarming rates.

Between extracting water, manufacturing the plastic bottles, and shipping water around the country, the industry consumes the equivalent of over 17 million barrels of oil each year – enough fuel to run 1 million cars for the same time period. The process also generates more than 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide per year. What’s more, our cities and oceans are overflowing with discarded plastic waste.

Not only is the industry’s environmental footprint colossal, its political effects are insidious and dangerous. Bottled water corporations are spending tens of millions of dollars each year to convince us that what comes out of the bottle is better than what flows from the tap. (In fact, tap water is more highly regulated than bottled water, with more oversight by state and federal authorities, making it safer to drink.) They are actively attempting, through clever marketing tactics, to change the way Americans view water, transforming it into a commodity to be bought and sold in the marketplace. Given its infrastructural needs, the U.S. cannot afford to hand over control of its water to corporations motivated by profits rather than by public needs.

Last year, the U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a resolution that encourages all cities to phase out taxpayer spending on bottled water and instead invest in their public water systems. Both Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez and Santa Fe Mayor David Coss have pledged to do this. Currently, activists are taking the fight to the states by calling on governors to do the same. In New Mexico, citizens will be asking Governor Richardson to phase out state spending for bottled water for state offices, meetings, and events.

The bottled water industry is a \$15 billion-a-year market in the U.S. It devotes millions towards powerful trade associations, lobbying groups, and public relations campaigns intended to neutralize the growing opposition to their destructive practices. Now is the time to collectively “Think Outside the Bottle.” We should all stop buying bottled water and encourage our businesses, churches, community organizations, and governments to do the same. Access to affordable, clean water is a human right we must defend.

For more information see:

- Corporate Accountability International, [www.stopcorporateabuse.org](http://www.stopcorporateabuse.org)
- Food and Water Watch, [www.foodandwaterwatch.org](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org)

Anyone interested in working on the Think Outside the Bottle campaign in New Mexico can contact Susan Duncan (suduncan@comcast.net).

—Susan Duncan

## NM Legislative Session Ends with Small Steps Forward

Here is a review of the outcomes of the legislation our members' calls and emails impacted in the 2009 regular session of the New Mexico Legislature:

### HJM11

HJM11, a memorial requesting that the NM Environment Department (NMED) and the Interstate Stream Commission study establishing buffer areas around surface drinking water sources, was given a "Do Not Pass" in the House Agriculture and Water Resources Committee (HAGC). Human resource issues at the agencies and regulatory concerns from the agriculture and ranching industries (despite the fact that this was just a study) elicited opposition on the committee and gave the effort new alliance-building goals for our future drinking-water protection work.

### SB379

SB379 started off with several sensible regulations for the responsible use of Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs), but under industry and national ORV association lobbying, ended up with just one very important improvement over current law and little else. That change took ORV oversight in New Mexico away from the Department of Tourism and assigned regulation of ORV use to the Department of Game & Fish. SB379 awaits the Governor's expected signature.

### HJM2

HJM2, sponsored by Carlsbad representative John Heaton, would notify the Department of Energy (DOE) that New Mexico wanted higher levels of radioactive waste to be permitted at the Waste Isolation Pilot Program (WIPP) site. After passing the House, it died in the Senate Rules Committee (SRC).

### HB163 – Criminal Trespass Notice Requirements

HB163 would have strongly limited our ability to access our public lands by weakening the trespass notice requirements for private landowners. With your calls to House Consumer & Public Affairs Committee (HCPAC) members, this bad bill was given a "Do Not Pass" and is gone again – at least for this year.

### SB249 – Tax Increment Development Projects

SB249 would commit \$480 million of state funds to sprawl development on Albuquerque's west mesa. This measure passed the Senate but failed the House by the closest of votes. We can expect to see this proposal come back in the future.

### HB824 – Solid Waste Permit Fees

Landfills in New Mexico pose a huge risk to our groundwater and air quality. Public landfills re-permit every 20 years; private, every 10.

HB824 in its original form allowed for "life-of-facility" permits – taking the public's voice right out of the oversight of landfills. A committee substitute in the House Energy & Natural Resources Committee (HENRC) removed "life-of-facility" language but allowed for 20-year re-permitting cycles for privately owned landfills. This still cut public input in private landfill permitting in half. HB824 passed the House but died waiting to be heard in the Senate Conservation Committee (SCONC).

The weak economy, coupled with legislative frustration with the Governor and his agencies (particularly NMED and Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department), resulted in a number of bills designed to stimulate business by reducing regulations and making it easier to operate. Lax regulation means taking many more chances with the quality and safety of our water, air, and the neighborhoods and communities we live in. These attempts were blocked with your help.

Proactive environmental legislation, while mainly asking for little or no funding, got only some legislative support and was generally opposed by one industry or another as a threat to the economy. Your calls and emails made a real difference in passing SB379 (ORV regulation from Tourism Department to NM Department of Game & Fish) through the Legislature.

For more information, contact Dan Lorimier, Chapter Conservation Coordinator/Lobbyist (575/740-2927, daniel.lorimier@sierraclub.org).

—Dan Lorimier

## Lobos Still Need Help

They are not big, they're not bad, and there aren't nearly enough of them. At last count, there were only 52 Mexican wolves in the wild, with only two breeding pairs. The plan over 10 years ago, when wolves were brought back to their native land after decades of absence, was that there should be double that number in the wild and 18 breeding pairs. Wolves took well to their traditional homes in the forests of eastern Arizona and western New Mexico despite not having been born there. They are hunting wild game successfully and raising their families in tightly knit packs exactly like wild wolves are supposed to do. Even though they came from captivity, they still know how to act wild. The problem isn't them, it's us. There is a subculture that hates wolves along with all predators and that doesn't understand how crucial they are to a healthy, functioning ecosystem. Poaching, the illegal killing of wolves, has taken a toll. But that alone does not account for the dire straits the lobos find themselves in today.

To pacify ranchers, the government agreed to remove or kill any wolf that preys upon livestock more than three times in any year. Because of this rule, more wolves have been taken out by the very program set to recover them than any other cause. In 2007, 19 wolves were trapped, removed, or killed by the government, which is nearly three times the number killed by poachers in 2008. This removal has disrupted pack families and in some cases destroyed valuable and irreplaceable genetic diversity.

But the political climate in which this destruction has occurred has shifted dramatically with the last election. Here is an opportunity to solidify that shift. Please write to your U.S. Senators and House member (for addresses, please see page 3) and ask them to use their power to support wolves and stop the second federal extermination of the Mexican wolf.

A collaboration of many environmental organizations in New Mexico and Arizona, including the

Sierra Club, has developed a new website devoted to the lobo ([www.mexicanwolves.org](http://www.mexicanwolves.org)). Please visit and learn about the history of the wolf in the Southwest, see photos of wolves and the recovery area, and even download a wolf ringtone. Be sure to check out the interactive map that shows the historical range of wolves in the Southwest and how quickly they were eliminated by the predator-killing agency of the U.S. government. Write your congressional leaders. Help keep wolves alive and free this spring.

For more information, contact Wildlife Chair Mary Katherine Ray (575/772-5655, [mkrscrim@kitcarson.net](mailto:mkrscrim@kitcarson.net)).

—Mary Katherine Ray



*This is AM509 at the Sevilleta Wildlife Refuge holding facility. He was later released with his mate and their litter of pups into the Blue Range Recovery Area in Arizona. They formed the Francisco pack. But they wandered outside of the Recovery Area boundary and because of the onerous rule against that, were trapped and placed back into captivity. Then they were released into the Gila region of New Mexico, but as often happens with translocated wolves, the pack disintegrated. AM509 wandered alone to the outskirts of Silver City, where he was killed by a car. (Photo courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)*

### Save Trees and Money: Opt to Read the Sierran Online

If you wish to opt out of the mailed copy of this newsletter and read it online, please contact our volunteer Ishwari Sollohub in Santa Fe (505/474-3945, [ishwarisollohub@yahoo.com](mailto:ishwarisollohub@yahoo.com)) and tell her you want to be on the opt-out list. Be sure and put the title SIERRA CLUB on the subject line of your email, or your message will not get through. Once your name is so marked on our membership database, you will receive an email from Ishwari each time our bimonthly paper has been put up on our website, so you can read it on your computer. We can save a few trees as well money this way, as it will cost the Rio Grande Chapter less for printing and mailing.

### Quarterly Meetings

The Chapter's Conservation and Executive Committee meetings will be held Saturday-Sunday, June 6-7, 2009, at The Commons, in Santa Fe. Contact Conservation Chair Ken Hughes or Chapter Chair John Buchser (see directory, page 2) for more information. Carpooling is encouraged.

## CoolBiz: Energy Efficiency for Small Businesses

Small-business owners in Santa Fe County: Do you wonder how you can upgrade and retrofit your premises and go green ... without robbing a bank?

Well, here's your answer! Check out the Santa Fe CoolBiz website ([www.coolbizsantafe.com](http://www.coolbizsantafe.com)). It was designed for Santa Fe business owners to help them learn how to increase energy efficiency; reduce energy usage; reduce waste through online, downloadable action plans; and network with other business owners. Your resulting improvements will reduce carbon emissions, increase profitability, and potentially increase revenues as "green consumers" may support your CoolBiz business with their purchases.

The website offers three stages of self-assessment and specific actions a business can take. If, after viewing the website, you believe this is a commitment you wish to make, then register online. You will be given a CoolBiz decal for prominent display at your business, listed on the Sierra Club's Northern

New Mexico Group website as a CoolBiz member, and designated in the Santa Fe Alliance Directory as a CoolBiz participant (if you are a member). You will also be invited to CoolBiz events with opportunities to network and compare lessons learned with other business owners.

Rio Grande Chapter member Mark Waltzoni is spearheading this local, ground-breaking development. The Northern New Mexico Group sponsors the CoolBiz program, which is a subset of the local Sierra Club Cool Cities Campaign. The larger Cool Cities Campaign is a national program found across the country. However, Mark reports our CoolBiz program is one of the most advanced in the country.

If you don't live near Santa Fe but want to clone this program for your area, contact Mark Waltzoni (505/603-5810, [coolbiz@coolbizsantafe.com](mailto:coolbiz@coolbizsantafe.com)).

—Margaret Gray



The CoolBiz website can help small businesses retool to save energy and money.

## Our National Parks: Vision for the Second Century

In 2016, America's National Park Service will celebrate its 100th birthday. The Sierra Club's National Parks and Monuments Team wants to share with you our exciting vision for the second century of the National Park Service. National parks are America's uniquely marvelous contribution to the world.

Our vision focuses on three major concerns that people didn't have 100 years ago – but that today are prevalent in our society: natural areas disappearing, people separated from nature, and the onset of global climate change.

### First, the disappearance of our natural areas.

It used to be that development occurred as islands in a sea of nature, but today national parks are the natural islands in a sea of development. We see that national parks are needed to preserve important representative places of our natural environment. We envision a significant expansion of our national park system – so that every major natural ecoregion in our country will be represented by at least one national park or equivalent reserve.

All major ecological regions in the United States should have a national park or similar protected area to represent it. Large areas of the country are presently left out. Let's fill these gaps. A preliminary gap analysis shows that we must create 38 new national parks or similar areas, and expand or change designation in 28 others. This will protect habitat for the biodiversity of our flora and fauna that make up our natural world, as ecosystems evolve and adapt to global climate change.

By filling the gaps, by having protected natural areas represent all parts of our natural world, we can not only better enjoy nature; we can learn what we must do to protect the world in which we and our fellow species live.

An expanded network of parks is also needed to provide nearby places to visit for more people – both to lessen generation of greenhouse gases from flying and driving to parks and to provide convenient close-to-home places for people to appreciate their natural and cultural heritage.

After reaching its peak 20 years ago, per capita visitation to our national parks is down about 20%. Varying gasoline costs, economic constraints, and public awareness that traveling long distances to visit national parks generates greenhouse gases will aggravate this phenomenon. Well, if people won't come to national parks – bring national parks to the people: establish new ones, closer to home. Dorothy should not have to put on those glittery shoes and get on a tornado to Oz to experience nature.

### Second, connecting people with national parks.

Our heavily urbanized society is losing its connections to nature. A generation of children is growing up mostly indoors and often glued to the Internet, with a great problem of obese youth. Experience of nature becomes more virtual, less direct. We see national parks able to coax people, especially young people, out into nature, and we envision parks becoming more inviting and attractive to them.

We need to expand education programs in national parks to help all visitors learn about our natural world. The education programs should relate to all courses of study, academic and non-academic, and should be connected to the Internet so national parks can be learned about and appreciated by everybody, all the time. Programs for on-site visits should attract teachers and students. Classrooms should be linked to parks through the internet throughout the academic year – as an inducement to visit national parks.

We should consider reducing park entrance fees, not raising them. Entrance fees discourage use, aggravating an already significant decline in visitation, and they disproportionately affect people with lower incomes. Entrance fees contribute but a nickel to the National Park Service budget dollar. We can easily afford to expand our national park system, make it more available to people, and reap the benefits.

**Third, fighting global climate change.** Not only was this not around 100 years ago – even 10 years ago, it wasn't a big concern for many people. We envision parks addressing global warming in at least three ways:

1. By educating visitors on the problems and how they, as individuals can help out in their daily lives.

2. By using national parks to do scientific research on changes that are happening so that we can see what nature is doing – and learn what we must not do – to mitigate the effects of climate change; and by assuring the wild areas in parks will stay wild – such as through wilderness designation – so that national parks can form the core of broad protected areas to make wildlife habitat more resilient. Ability to move as climate changes will allow wildlife adaptations essential for species survival.
3. By making the parks themselves a model of zero emissions in their energy systems and particularly in transportation, which uses a lot of carbon-dioxide-emitting energy. We see all our national parks vigorously promoting public transportation, so that people will be able to go to national parks on trains or other public transit and, once there, will be able to appreciate our natural world without a car.

The United States played the pioneering role in inventing the national park idea and using parks to bring nature closer to life's critical needs. But today we lag behind other countries in using national parks to learn about, protect, and perpetuate our natural world. National parks are ideal places to learn how our natural world reacts and adapts to change. As the potential consequences and the need to react to global climate change become more and more apparent, these natural areas will take center stage and assume a critical role.

Expanding our system of national parks should be the prime goal of our second century of our national park system. Please help us fulfill this goal so that national parks can play an instrumental role in making a better world for us, for our children, and for our grandchildren.

To learn more about the National Parks and Monuments Team, join our efforts, propose new parks near you, or to share concerns for our national parks, contact chair John Byrne ([jbyrne\\_97@yahoo.com](mailto:jbyrne_97@yahoo.com)) or liaison Vicky Hoover ([Vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org](mailto:Vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org)). And, why not check out our new Handbook for Expanding National Parks (<http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/conservation/activist-network/national-parks/Default.aspx>).

—John Byrne and Vicky Hoover

## Welcome, Kristina Ortez!

The Sierra Club is very pleased to announce that Kristina Ortez has joined the West Region field organizing team as the Building Bridges to the Outdoors Associate Representative, based in Albuquerque. Kristina grew up in the Central Valley in California, not particularly interested in the environment. Her perspective changed after a week-long trip to Yosemite, hiking, backpacking, and learning about the ecology of the Sierra Nevada with other youth of color. She graduated from Harvard College with a degree in anthropology, and began her career in New York City, working in marketing, as an editor, and at a law firm. After living in Indonesia for nearly two years and witnessing the effects of environmental degradation, Kristina came back to the States determined to work on environmental issues that affected her own community.

Kristina has been an organizer and advocate on wilderness and wild scenic rivers in California and DC, a policy analyst on water issues in California, and a board member of organizations to restore and protect the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the San Joaquin River. She is passionate about water issues, is an avid rafter, and believes that love for the environment starts with that first step on a marked trail.

The Sierra Club believes that every child has a right to have a special place in nature. The Sierra Club's Building Bridges to the Outdoors project is moving towards its long-term commitment to give every child in America an opportunity to have an outdoor experience. Additional information on the Building Bridges to the Outdoors program can be found at [www.sierraclub.org/youth](http://www.sierraclub.org/youth).

Kristina can be reached at 505/243-7767 and by email at [kristina.ortez@sierraclub.org](mailto:kristina.ortez@sierraclub.org).

—Michael Casaus

## Margaret Gray Joins Sierra Club



Personnel Committee Chair Mark Jones and the Chapter's new hire, Margaret Gray, at the April Conservation Committee quarterly meeting. Margaret joins the Club with a fittingly diverse background: raised in Connecticut by parents active in the local Audubon Club, Margaret has traveled from the investment banking world of New York City to the high desert of New Mexico. She is excited about ensuring the success of many of the new projects the Chapter is sponsoring and to moving our membership young and old towards more creative responses to our myriad environmental challenges. (Photo by Ken Hughes)

## 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 directory 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 Norma McCallan, 627 Camino don Emilio, Santa Fe, NM 87507. Please allow eight weeks for processing.

Extra copies are often available. Please contact the editor (Ellen Cavalli, [ellen@fireballfarm.com](mailto:ellen@fireballfarm.com)) or the Group Chair in your area (see Group pages).



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. Let your voice be heard.

Add your voice to protect the planet.  
Join Sierra Club.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Join today and receive  
a FREE Sierra Club  
Weekender Bag!



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,  
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968  
or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

F94Q W 1



## PAJARITO GROUP NEWS

### Pajarito Group Directory

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

#### Executive Committee

Chair: Ilse Bleck  
505/662-2368      ibleck@yahoo.com  
Vice-Chair: Mark Jones  
505/662-9443      jonesmm1@comcast.net  
Secretary: Jody Benson      505/662-4782  
Treasurer: David Gemeinhart  
505/672-6267      ddgem@losalamos.com  
Michael Di Rosa  
505/663-0648      mdd@stanfordalumni.org  
Amy Galbraith  
505/662-3849      pajaritosierra@gmail.com  
Nona Girardi  
505/661-8576      nonamg@aol.com

#### Committee Chairs

Conservation: Michael Di Rosa  
505/663-0648      mdd@stanfordalumni.org  
Environmental Education: Pauline Wilder  
505/662-7768      xxmpxx@gmail.com  
Global Warming: Charles Keller  
505/662-7915      alfanso@cybermesa.com  
Grazing, National Forests, Wetlands,  
Wilderness: David Gemeinhart  
505/672-6267      ddgem@losalamos.com  
Newsletter Editor, Publicity, Sprawl,  
Endangered Species/Wildlife:  
Jody Benson      505/662-4782  
Outings, Parks/Refuges, Membership Co-Chair:  
Ilse Bleck  
505/662-2368      ibleck@yahoo.com  
Political, Cool Cities, Membership Co-Chair:  
Mark Jones  
505/662-9443      jonesmm1@comcast.net  
Webmeister: Amy Galbraith  
505/662-3849      pajaritosierra@gmail.com

## Black Dogs and New Patterns

The Native American story goes like this: There is a cave in which lives an old woman who for years has been weaving a garment – a special garment, sewn from porcupine quills. Its pattern is sacred to honor the ceremony for which it is intended, because it is this ceremony that sustains the world soul.

In the back of the cave, over a fire, hangs a cauldron that contains all the seeds of the Earth. The old woman must get up now and then to stir the cauldron so the seeds don't burn.

As she stirs the pot, a black dog, who also lives in the cave, goes to the garment and sniffs it. He sniffs it all over and finds a loose thread. He takes that thread between his teeth and begins to pull. He pulls and pulls until the garment is unraveled, and when the old woman comes back, she sees her quills and thread in a pile on the floor.

She stares. She stares. But then she finds the end of the thread, picks it up, sits down, gathers her quills, and begins weaving again, thinking of the new patterns that she will put into this new robe.

That's the Native American story.

A European American story might end differently. The old woman finds her garment destroyed; she collapses against the wall and weeps. In her horror of what the dog had done, and in her faithlessness in herself and her work, she beats the dog, departs the cave, and leaves the seeds to burn.

Right now, the whole world seems to be in a black-dog moment. What we wove together for financial security has unraveled. But let's move out of the financial and into the world of soul values.

It's true, money keeps body and soul together, but how about using this black-dog financial meltdown to define new values?

Let's look at it the old woman's way – the unraveling of our finances gives us the opportunity to start again, and to create a culture focused not on resource extraction to support consumerism, but on what supports life itself. In reassessing the patterns of our

culture, we can weave our relationship with the environment as the central image.

And why not? Here in Los Alamos – where you can walk 10 minutes and be in wildlands, where nature strolls in to munch our roses, where every street has a view of mountains and heavens, where we watch as life reclaims Cerro Grande's 48,000 acres – here in Los Alamos it would take only an instant to shift from being subsumed by financial fears to falling in love with the Earth. When you love something, it's...*natural*...that you do what you can to protect it.

The thing is, losing money is bad enough. But worse would be that poor planning and wild schemes to protect our money cause the loss of the Earth and the life it supports. We need to pay attention – we need to penny pinch our behaviors, and invest our actions in sustaining life. You know what to do. It's...*natural*...that when you love something...

Like 9-11, this black-dog moment will change the world. We can give up, kick the dog, and run away, or we can settle back down to re-create the world in a new, more beautiful pattern. It's exciting, and it's up to us.

—Jody Benson

## We Took Atomic City Transit to Minneapolis

Backpacks on, we rolled our suitcases out to the end of our driveway at 7:45 a.m. The air was December brisk as we waited for the Atomic City Transit. The bus pulled up, we boarded, and said we were bound for Minneapolis.

We frequent the Transit in town, and occasionally bus to Santa Fe, so while we were planning our trip up north, we wondered: Was it possible to go all the way on public transportation? Checking the schedules proved a yes if we traveled daytime on weekdays.

At the Los Alamos transit center, we boarded Park-N-Ride to Santa Fe, and after a relaxing ride to Sheridan St., we connected with Santa Fe bus #4 to the Railyard.

Then came the train. We stowed our bags, found a seat, and saw the I-25 corridor from a new perspective. At the Albuquerque Alvarado stop, we grabbed the local Route 50 Bus for the airport.

We stepped off at the bus stop across from our hotel. The following morning our hotel shuttle took us to the airport. While in Minneapolis, we had no parking payment and our car was snugly stowed in the garage at home. The outbound trip was glitch-free.

The return, however, was more of an adventure: the flight out of Minneapolis was delayed; we caught the Route 50 Bus from our hotel to the station, but now crowds swarmed the platform waiting for the winter-break free ride on the Rail Runner. We got on; latecomers weren't so lucky.

Back to Santa Fe – this time on the Sardine Runner. But what did that discomfort matter as we caught Park-N-Ride to Los Alamos, and then our own little Transit to the door? Would we do it again? You bet.

—Mark and Pauline Wilder

### Meetings

#### Wednesday, May 6, 7:00 p.m., Upstairs Meeting Rooms, Mesa Public Library

##### Otis Peterson Presents: The Hyperion Power Module, a Self-contained, Self-regulating Reactor

The small, safe Hyperion is the next generation of nuclear reactors (yes – nukes!) and Los Alamos leads their development. These nuclear reactors are compact enough to be transportable so that the reactor can be sealed at the factory and never opened until it is returned to that factory after the fuel is burned. They are ideal for many dedicated uses such as remote or sparsely populated areas, developing countries, and industries that need dedicated power. Come take a look at this new technology.

#### Wednesday, June 3, 7:00 p.m., Upstairs Meeting Rooms, Mesa Public Library

##### Shannon Dennison Presents: Petroglyphs at Bandelier

Shannon Dennison, the Architectural Conservator for the Vanishing Treasures Program at Bandelier National Monument, will address the unusual challenge that the petroglyphs at Bandelier National Monument present for archaeologists. This talk will provide

an introduction to local geology and its consequences for petroglyph documentation and preservation. The presentation will include information about different types of rock art and how laser technology is changing the way we record and understand the physical characteristics of petroglyphs.

### Outings

Please check the Selected Outings listings on page 16 for more outings in the area.

**Saturday, June 20 • Everybody's Favorite Annual Solstice Hike and Potluck at the top of Pajarito Mountain** – Moderate, but steep. Meet at the Pajarito Mountain Ski Area Lodge parking lot at 5:00 p.m. We will hike to the top of the mountain (about an hour) and share a potluck dinner. Bring food/drink to share, plates/utensils, warm jacket and hat, and flashlight. Call Jean Dewart (505/662-9592) by Wednesday, June 17.



## TAOS BRANCH NEWS

### Third Annual River Clean-Up in Taos

The Third Annual River Clean-Up will be held on Saturday, June 6. Centinel Bank, Amigos Bravos, and Sentinels—Rios de Taos (a Sierra Club organization) are co-sponsoring this event. Volunteers will meet in the Centinel Bank parking lot on Paseo del Pueblo Sur at 8:00 a.m. We will clean stretches of the Rio Fernando de Taos and will also send small crews to clean some sections of other local rivers. Around noon, we will meet back in the bank parking lot for a burger cook-out provided by Centinel Bank.

If you would like to help your community and work with other like-minded people, come and help. We will have fun! Children under 18 need to be accompanied by their parents.

For more information, contact Eric Patterson (eepatt@gmail.com), Rachel Conn (575/758-3874), or Jim White (575/758-6749).

### Lobbying in Congress for the Clean Water Act



Eric Patterson, Joni Arends, Marian Naranjo, Congressman Ben Ray Luján, and Rachel Conn in Rep. Luján's office.

During Clean Water Week, February 22-28, four New Mexicans traveled to Washington, DC to participate in the Clean Water Week '09 Lobby Day, sponsored by the Clean Water Network. This network is a broad coalition of organizations, including the Sierra Club, that advocate for clean water. The four participants from our state were Joni Arends of Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety, from Santa Fe; Marian Naranjo, Director of Honor Our Pueblo Existence, from Santa Clara Pueblo; Rachel Conn, Policy Analyst/Circuit Rider of Amigos Bravos, from Taos; and Eric Patterson, Project Coordinator of Sentinels—Rios de Taos, from Valdez.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, we prepared for the lobbying by listening to and learning from some outstanding talks by a variety of people who really know the ins and outs of both clean water and dealing with Congress. The topics included revision of the Clean Water Act, nuclear waste in water, wetlands protection, CAFO rules, and effects of global warming. There were some panel discussions, including "Lobby Strategies and Messages," and a very interesting "Buzz on Capital Hill" that featured congressional staff experts. One so-called expert was a global warming denier and industry apologist. This was not a very receptive audience for him.

On Thursday, we met with the staff members of our congressional delegation. A goal of this was to let our senators and representatives know how their constituents feels about important issues. We

explained our views about the Clean Water Act Renewal, using stimulus package money to help keep our rivers clean, building green infrastructure, and protecting our ephemeral streams.

In addition to seeking support on important environmental legislation, another goal was to build relationships between the environmental organizations and the congressional offices. For example, the next time I wish to ask for U.S. Representative Ben Ray Luján's support on an environmental bill, I should be able to talk to Aaron Trujillo, Rep. Luján's staff member. We now know each other and can effectively communicate ideas, building on an already established relationship.

I've been writing letters, sending emails, and making phone calls to my senators and representatives for a long time, but actually meeting with them and their staff was both exciting and more effective. I heartily recommend the experience.

—Eric Patterson

### Trout Unlimited Banquet

The Enchanted Circle Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold its first annual fundraising banquet on Friday, May 8, at the Sagebrush Inn Convention Center in Taos at 6:00 p.m. Sentinels—Rios de Taos (a Sierra Club organization) will be sponsoring a table at the banquet.

In addition to a hearty Mexican buffet, the award-winning documentary film "The Hatch" will be shown. There will be numerous door prizes, a grand raffle, and silent auctions of some truly outstanding prizes, including a guided elk hunt for two, a fully guided and outfitted fishing trip, several fishing outings to stellar streams on private lands, fishing equipment, a massage, two limited-edition muzzle-loading rifles, a golf outing, and many other fine items.

Trout Unlimited is a cold water conservation group. The Enchanted Circle group is using this banquet to raise funds to support several projects. These projects include involving youth in the outdoors, habitat restoration, and an especially intriguing project called Casting for Recovery. Casting for Recovery is a group therapy project for women who are recent survivors of breast cancer. These women spend an extended, all-expenses-paid weekend retreat, learning to fly fish and support each other. The instructors and counselors at these events are all women. This has been tried in other states with outstanding success, and the Enchanted Circle Chapter would like to offer a similar opportunity here in New Mexico.

If you would like to help our partner in exploring, enjoying, and protecting the planet, come join us on May 8.

For banquet tickets and raffle tickets, contact Chapter President Doug Palmer (575/376-2281), Treasurer Mike Ritterhouse (mhritterhouse@yahoo.com), or Eric Patterson (575/776-2833, eepatt@gmail.com).

—Eric Patterson

### FOUR CORNERS BRANCH NEWS

For more information about the Four Corners Branch or to volunteer, contact one of the steering committee members below.

#### Contact List

**Eric Patterson**, Taos contact and Director of Sentinels—Rios de Taos • 575/776-2833, eepatt@gmail.com

**Anna Walters**, email alert list • annaainsworth@kitcarson.net

**William Brown**, The Climate Project • 575/758-8008, nmglobalwarming@yahoo.com, www.nmglobalwarming.org

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

#### Steering Committee

**Art Jaquez**, Co-Chair

505/360-0176 • artjaquez2@yahoo.com

**Nick Cullander**, Co-Chair

505/334-0935 • ncullander@hotmail.com

**Gordon Glass**, Air Quality, Outings

505/564-4460 • agglass@earthlink.net



# NORTHERN GROUP NEWS

Tuesday, May 19, 6:30 PM

REI Community Room, 500 Market Street, Santa Fe Railyard

## SOLAR PV

At our **seminar on Solar PV given by Positive Energy**, learn about how innovative New Mexico laws make solar energy projects more affordable for you ~ how to get a loan and pay for it through your property taxes, allowing you to install solar energy without up-front expenditures and cash flow loss ~ the 30% federal tax credit AND the new 10% New Mexico tax credit for solar projects, for a total tax credit of 40%!

You will see how investing in solar PV now isolates you from future PNM rate increases. Bottom line ... no upfront cost, no cash flow loss, inflation protection AND clean energy.

Bonus: One free energy audit by Positive Energy (\$250 value) will be given away to a lucky attendee.

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

## Northern New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club

1807 Second Street, Unit #45, Santa Fe, NM 87505

505 · 983 · 2703 ◇ website <http://riogrande.sierraclub.org/santafe/>

### GROUP CHAIR

David Van Winkle

We now have a way for you to contribute to the Northern New Mexico Group without costing you a dime. If you make purchases on Amazon.com and access their site via our website, Amazon pays us a 4% referral fee. So, just go to any page on our website, click on the Amazon symbol, and you will go directly to the Amazon site. You make your purchases as you normally would, and we get the 4% referral fee.

For the most up to date information about the Northern New Mexico Group, please visit our website <http://riogrande.sierraclub.org/santafe/>

### COOL CITIES UPDATE

On March 11, the City Council of Santa Fe unanimously approved a new **Green Building Code** for new residential construction. This is a major step in the City's commitment to the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Group chair David Van Winkle spoke during the public hearing section of the meeting, saying, "First, this Green Building Code reduces energy consumption by 50% and improves other measures of sustainability for new residences."

Thank you to all who contributed to this proposal. The proposed ordinance is excellent, and the resolutions also call for ongoing review of the ordinance to meet the long-term goals of zero energy consumption for new construction by 2030. Special thanks to Katherine Mortimer and other City staff, and Kim Shanahan, Executive Director of the Santa Fe Home Builders Association, who led this effort. Sierra Club members Brendan Miller and Jim Hannan played key roles.

Bob Taylor, a Santa Fe builder and EcoBroker, has joined our **Cool Cities** team to work with the City's green building code team to define a code for existing buildings.

Our **CFL team**, led by Teresa Seamster, has now distributed 35,000 CFLs over the past two years to residents of Santa Fe County.

As an integral part of our discussions with the City to offset energy usage from the Buckman Direct Diversion project, the City has defined **10 large solar PV projects** for implementation in 2009-2010.

**Chair** – David Van Winkle \* ‡ david@vw77.com 820-1006  
**Vice-Chair** – Norma McCallan \* ‡ nmccallan@mindspring.com 471-0005  
**Secretary** – Jean Watts \* jeanwatts@comcast.net 989-5010  
**Treasurer** – Cindy Stults sandiacindy@gmail.com 231-4226  
 Office – Joann Lucas joannlucas@comcast.net 466-6691  
 In office Wednesdays - Jerry Knapczyk jknapczyk@yahoo.com 466-4564  
 Book Distributors – Keith Grover darkvern@comcast.net 466-7278  
 Joe Lewis jcoulterlewis@yahoo.com 505-216-7529  
 Book Mailer - Gail Bryant 757-6654  
 Chapter Rep – Dexter Coolidge \* dextercoolidge@yahoo.com 988-1197  
 Membership – Alice Cox auntiealice@pecosplaza.com 757-2145  
 Newsletter – Kay Carlson kcarlsonwp@earthlink.net 982-3926  
 Sierran Distribution – Marcia Rodda 986-0449  
 Outings – Norbert Sperlich norbert.sperlich@gmail.com 474-4354  
 Tobin Oruch oruch@lanl.gov 820-2844  
 Political Committee – Susan Martin smartin31@comcast.net 988-5206  
 Phone Answerer – Bebs Taylor 983-9129  
 Publicity – Kia Mudge 474-6697  
 Social Cohesion – Jean Watts \* jeanwatts@comcast.net 989-5010  
 Las Vegas contact – Betty Quick bettydquick@gmail.com 505-454-9123  
 Taos Branch – Scott Estep wetmtn@tmi.com 575-770-7969

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

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

\* Northern Group Executive Committee ‡ Core Conservation Committee

Saturday, June 20, 5 to 8 PM

The Commons, 2300 West Alameda

## SUMMER SOLSTICE POT LUCK PARTY

Come celebrate the night before the Solstice at our traditional potluck supper. **John Vavruska**, a noted local nature photographer, will present a slide show after dinner on a spectacular raft trip he recently took down the Tatshenshini and Alsek Rivers in southeast Alaska. These rivers, whose headwaters are in the Yukon, continually grow from the many glaciers that feed them as they make their way through the St. Elias range to the Pacific.

Drinks available at 5:30, supper will start at 6, and John will show his slides about 7:30. We will need main entrees, meat or veggie dishes, salads, deserts & beverages.

PLEASE RSVP with Jean Watts (jeanwatts@comcast.net, 989-5010) or Alice Cox (auntiealice@pecosplaza.com, 757-2145) so we can ensure a good mix of food and know how many are coming.

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

#### Group Executive Committee:

Tuesday, May 5, 7 PM

Tuesday, June 2, 7 PM

#### Group Conservation Committee:

Thursday, May 28, 7 PM



# NORTHERN GROUP NEWS

## NORTHERN GROUP OUTINGS

**Sat Sun May**

- 2 **Easy Hike** to Ojo Caliente mica mine followed by soak in the pools, 5 miles, 700' gain. **Marcia Skillman** (699-3008)
- 3 **Strenuous Hike** maybe a Shaggy Peak loop from the west via Apache Canyon. About 13 miles, 3000' gain, mostly off-trail and rough terrain. Dogs okay. **Tobin Oruch** (820-2844 before 8 PM)
- Thursday, May 7 **Easy/Moderate Hike** Dogs okay. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
- 9 **Moderate Hike** to Tetilla Peak southwest of town, off trail, 946' elevation, only 3+ miles, but rocky. Dogs okay, high clearance vehicles needed for carpooling. **Norma McCallan** (471-0005)
- 10 **Strenuous Loop Hike** to Shaggy Peak and Deer Creek (from the east), 12 miles RT, 2000' gain. Mostly off-trail, some steep sections, some scrambling. Dogs okay. **Norbert Sperlich** (474-4354)
- Thursday, May 14 **Easy/Moderate Hike** Dogs okay. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
- 16 **Moderate Bike and Hike** (± 6 miles bike / 3-4 hike), maybe in Nat. Monument lands near Grants. Call about dogs. **Page Press** (946-0169)
- 16 **Strenuous Hike** in the Grass Mtn/Rio Mora area, 10-12 miles, 2000' plus gain, some off trail. **Michael Di Rosa** (667-0095 or 663-0648)
- 16 **Santa Fe River Cleanup** 9-11 AM. **Greg Lower** (699-6893)
- 16 **Easy Birdwatch Walk**. Bring binoculars. **Ron Duffy** (466-6398)
- 17 **Moderate Hike** probably up the Rio en Medio. Numerous waterfalls, shade, maybe 6 miles, 1000' gain. Dogs okay. **Art Judd** (982-3212)
- Thursday, May 21 **Easy/Moderate Hike** Dogs okay. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
- 23 **Easy/Mod Hike/Geocache Hntng** Buckman area locating geocaches and petroglyphs. Off trail, dogs ok. **Alan Shapiro** (424-9242)
- 24 **Easy/Moderate Hike** on Otowi Mesa outside Los Alamos. Some rock scrambling and narrow places. Up to 5 miles with 500' elevation gain. **Michael Goldey** (820-7302)
- Thursday, May 28 **Easy/Moderate Hike** Dogs okay. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
- 30 **Moderate Hike** in Jemez Mountains. **Norbert Sperlich** (474-4354)
- 31 **Moderate Bike Ride** to San Antonio Hot Springs on forest roads 144/376 (non-technical). About 15 miles RT, limit of 8, bring suit/towel for soak in springs. **Miguel DeLuca** (820-0042)
- 31 **Strenuous Hike** on La Luz trail to Sandia crest, great views, 14 miles, 3600' gain, dogs okay. **Cynthia Good** (699-2717)

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

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

**Sat Sun July**

- Wednesday, July 1 to Sunday, July 5 **Colorado Adventure!**  
**Car camp** in Lake City area, **climb** Wetterhorn and Uncompahgre Peak. Peakbagging is optional. **Royal Drews** (699-8713)
- Thursday, July 2 **Easy/Moderate Hike** Dogs okay. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
- 4 **Strenuous Hike** to Santa Fe Baldy. 14 miles RT, 3600' gain. Dogs okay. **Dan Rusthoi** (690-8967)
- 5 **Moderate Hike** to Cerro Grande (highest peak in Bandelier). 4 miles RT, 1300' gain. Additional hike on Valle Grande Trail is an option (2 miles RT). **Cynthia Good** (699-2717)
- Thursday, July 9 **Easy/Moderate Hike** Dogs okay. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
- Friday-Saturday-Sunday – July 10-11-12 **Car Camp and Easy Day Hikes**  
Villanueva State Park. Arrive Friday afternoon, hikes on Saturday and Sunday. Limit of 8, make reservations soon, no later than July 2. Well-behaved dogs okay. **John Varner** (795-5948)
- 11 **Moderate Hike** to La Vega. 7 miles RT, 1500' gain. Dogs okay. **Les Drapela** (438-3306)
- 12 **Strenuous Hike** to Lobo Peak (near Taos). 10 miles RT, 3740' gain. **Marcia Skillman** (699-3008)
- Thursday, July 16 **Easy/Moderate Hike** Dogs okay. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
- 18 **Easy Local Birdwatch Walk** Bring binocs. **Ron Duffy** (466-6398)
- 18 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** to Chicoma Mountain and Santa Clara Canyon Rim. 8-10 miles RT, 1300' gain. Long drive, great views. **Michael Di Rosa** (667-0095 work, 663-0648 home)
- 19 **Strenuous Loop Hike** to Gold Hill (near Taos). Up on Gavilan Trail, return by Long Canyon. Early start, 12-14 miles, 4400' gain. Dogs okay. **Tobin Oruch** (820-2844 before 8 pm)
- Thursday, July 23 **Easy/Moderate Hike** Dogs okay. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
- 25 **Moderate Hike** along the Watershed fence line trail in a pleasant, little visited part of the forest, from Arroyo Hondo to the foot of Thompson Peak, reached via F.R. 79. About 8.5 miles, 2500' elevation gain, dogs okay. **Norma McCallan** (471-0005)
- 25 **Strenuous Hike** to Lake Katherine. 14.5 miles, 3300' gain. Dogs okay. **David Wargo** (216-1870).
- 26 **Moderate Hike** to Hamilton Mesa. 6-7 miles, 1000' gain. Dogs okay. Vehicles with high clearance needed. **Michael Goldey** (820-7302)
- 26 **Strenuous Hike** on Penitente, Lake, and Deception Peak Loop. 11 miles RT, 3100' gain. Dogs okay. **Miguel DeLuca** (820-0042)
- Thursday, July 30 **Easy/Moderate Hike** Dogs okay. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)

**Sat Sun June**

- Thursday, June 4 **Easy/Moderate Hike** Dogs okay. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
- 6 **Strenuous Hike** in upper Pecos Canyon. 10+ miles RT. Well behaved dogs okay. **Page Press** (946-0169)
- 7 **Easy/Moderate Hike** to Deer Trap Mesa (near LA). 5 miles RT, 500' gain, some scrambling and exposure. **Michael Goldey** (820-7302)
- Thursday, June 11 **Easy/Moderate Hike** Dogs okay. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
- Thursday, June 11 to Friday, June 19 **Abajo Mountains sojourn (SE Utah)**  
Work with Red Rock Forests Saturday on a trail closure to protect an archaeological site. One moderate hike day before, two afterwards, followed either by a three-day archeological workshop sponsored by Red Rock Forests & the Manti-La Sal Forest (\$45), or several more days of hiking in the Abajos. Limited slots for the workshop, must reserve ASAP. Dogs okay. Call for details/reservations. **Norma McCallan** (471-0005)
- 13 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** to Nambe Lake, 7 miles RT, 2100' gain, some steep, rocky sections. **Marcia Skillman** (699-3008)
- 14 **Moderate Hike** Hamilton Mesa, 6-7 mi., 1000' gain. High-clearance vehicles needed. Well-behaved dogs okay. **John Varner** (795-5948)
- 14 **Strenuous Hike** to Glorieta Baldy, 11.5 miles RT, 2800' gain. Dogs okay. **Cynthia Good** (699-2717)
- Wednesday, June 17 to Sunday, June 21 **Colorado Adventure!**  
**Car camp** in Durango area, climb Wilson Peak and Mount Sneffels. Peakbagging is optional. **Royal Drews** (699-8713)
- Thursday, June 18 **Easy/Moderate Hike** Dogs okay. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
- 20 **Easy Local Birdwatch Walk** Bring binocs. **Ron Duffy** (466-6398)
- 20 **Santa Fe River Cleanup** 9-11 AM. Paige Grant (982-4081, paigeanna@comcast.net). See article below for details.
- 20 **Strenuous Loop Hike** to Stewart Lake (Pecos Wilderness). 10 miles RT, 2100' gain. Dogs okay. **Dan Rusthoi** (690-8967)
- 21 **Moderate Hike** to Rio En Medio waterfalls. 7+ miles RT, 1000' gain. Dogs okay. **Les Drapela** (438-3306)
- Thursday, June 25 **Easy/Moderate Hike** Dogs okay. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
- Friday-Saturday-Sunday June 26-27-28 **Backpack to Pecos Baldy Lake**  
Day hikes to Pecos Baldy, Trailriders Wall, and Truchas. Dogs okay. **Tobin Oruch** (820-2844 before 8 PM)
- 27 **Strenuous Loop Hike** to Hermit Peak and El Porvenir Canyon. Many stream crossings. 14 miles RT, 2850' gain. Dogs okay. **David Wargo** (216-1870)
- 28 **Moderate Loop Hike** to Picacho and Atalaya. 8+ miles RT, 2000' gain. Dogs okay. **Miguel DeLuca** (820-0042)

**SANTA FE RIVER CLEANUP AND VEGETATION MAINTENANCE**  
Saturdays – 9 to 11 AM – May 16 • June 20

Help keep our river looking great! Park at Lower Alto Street north end of Closson. Bring work boots, gloves and drinking water. Be sure to connect with appropriate contact prior to cleanup date. Contact leader of each event.

**SANTA FE BIKE TO WORK WEEK 2009**  
**May 11 to 15**

The Week will start with a free bicycle clinic series May 11 and culminate with a Bike to Work Day celebration on the Santa Fe Railyard, Friday, May 15, from 7 to 10 AM. For further information, contact Laura Banish, City of Santa Fe Public Information Officer, (955-6046 or lbanish@santafenm.gov)

### OFFICE NEWS

We are pleased to announce that Jerry Knapczyk is now manning our office on most Wednesday afternoons from 1-4 PM. Call the office at 983-2703 to confirm during that time. A good opportunity to obtain a newsletter or other free materials, buy a hike book or look at our other merchandise. Thanks, Jerry for providing the opportunity to keep our office open on a regular basis!

To get to our office at 1807 Second Street, which is the complex just south of the traffic light at Lena Street and just north of the railroad tracks, turn into the driveway by Cloud Cliff Bakery, go past the bakery to the next building on the left (with trees and sculpture in the front), and walk up the stairs to unit 45. Outside door is open 8-5 Mon-Fri. Parking available in the lot to the east.

**BECOME A CLIMATE MASTER**  
**6 to 8:30 PM – May 26 to July 28 (Tuesday evenings)**  
**Santa Fe Community College, Room 213**

Make a big impact with a light footprint. A ten-week series of free classes hosted by **New Mexico Environment Department**. Learn how to reduce your carbon footprint and volunteer to train others to do the same.

For more information: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/index.html> or **Emily Geery** (emily.geery@state.nm.us or 476-4315).

**Outings Notes** – Unless otherwise noted, outings leave from Sierra office, 1807 Second Street, Unit #45. Carpooling is encouraged. It is routine that each rider pays the driver 10 cents/mile, rounded down to nearest dollar (7.5 cents/mile when 100+ miles and 3+ riders). Bring lunch, water, sturdy hiking boots or shoes and clothing suitable for the weather. Leader reserves the right to turn away anyone whose equipment or experience appears unsuitable. Leader may alter destination of hike or cancel trip due to weather, other unfavorable conditions, or insufficient number of participants. Unaccompanied minors need written permission from parents or guardians to participate—ask leader for form. Dogs permitted only if so noted in write up. To participate you will need to sign a liability waiver at meeting site.



# TIDDs, Looking Ahead: Goliath Awaits Another Round

by Lora Lucero

The defeat of SunCal's TIDDs bonds in the New Mexico House of Representatives on a breathtaking 33-33 tie vote had all of the characteristics of a David vs. Goliath battle. This year, Westland Development Corporation (aka SunCal) hired eleven lobbyists and spent \$232,540.64 on advertising alone to sway public opinion and convince Legislators that its requested tax increment development district (TIDD) bonds were the best thing since sliced bread. You probably saw some of the advertising on billboards and television, as well as the radio commercials, the Albuquerque Journal's online website and even on Joe Monahan's political blog. By all reports, SunCal's lobbyists made multiple visits to Legislators armed with all sorts of promises --- jobs being on the top of the list. If you want to see how Legislators voted, check out

<http://www.pioneerwest.net/suncal2.html>

SunCal's full court press this year was not surprising after its TIDD request failed to pass the previous year thanks to Senator McSorley's filibuster. And no one was surprised that the developer forked over nearly a quarter of a million dollars in advertising fees, and a lot more to pay their lobbyists, given the \$408 million of public tax dollars at stake. What was surprising was the public outrage over this deal because, honestly, tax increment financing can be a real snoozer.

Tax increment financing is not inherently evil. In fact, if used in the right place for the right purposes, it can be a valuable incentive to spur redevelopment and new development. California first created tax increment financing in the 1950s for just that reason -- to incentivize growth and development in areas of the community where developers felt it was just too risky to invest -- typically contaminated parcels or brownfields.

Logically, the new development then increases tax revenues (aka "increment"), which the city and county promise to divert to the developer for 25 years or longer in order to repay her for the infrastructure (eg. roads, water, sewer) that she installed. This early version of tax increment financing was justified on the basis that development would not have occurred on the site "but for" the incentive provided by the public sector. No development = no tax revenues. Thus, it was a win-win situation for everyone. The developer received tax monies for a certain period of time to offset some of the risk she was taking with the project, and the public received increased tax revenues in the future.

In 2006, the New Mexico Legislature turned tax increment financing on its head in two important ways. First, it severed any requirement that TIDDs be limited to those difficult-to-develop brownfield sites. Instead, TIDDs in New Mexico can be used to incentivize development anywhere -- a problem that many growth management advocates believe will subsidize inefficient sprawl development at taxpayers' expense. Second, the Legislature upped the ante significantly by adding the State portion of the gross receipts tax (GRT) to the pot of tax revenues that might be diverted to the developer. Since the State GRT is such a big piece of the revenue pie, TIDDs suddenly became very attractive to developers in New Mexico, as well as out-of-state developers who recognized a goldmine when they saw it.

The \$408 million in TIDD bonds requested by SunCal is problematic for many reasons. Top on my list is the issue of who should pay for growth? Assuming, *arguendo*, that the market for new development on Albuquerque's Westside is strong and a good bet for investors, why should the public incentivize or subsidize such development? On the other hand, if the Westside real estate market is weak, is it wise for the public sector to encourage premature development there? Albuquerque City Councilor Michael Cadigan aptly noted when the City considered SunCal's TIDDs: "Whatever happened to the concept of a free market?"

Traditionally, the developer is required to spend her own funds to build the roads, water and sewer lines in her project. She is also required to pay her proportionate share of the costs to build offsite roads, water and sewer lines impacted by her project (aka "impact fees"). Developers in every community in the country pencil these infrastructure costs into the project as a cost of doing business. SunCal wants to be reimbursed from the public coffers for these infrastructure expenses -- simply increasing its profit margin.

SunCal argues that it needs the \$408 million to build a "better-planned" community than the typical ticky-tacky subdivision we find on the Westside. That is a patently absurd proposition. Albuquerque and Bernalillo County today have the legal tools and powers to demand and expect "well planned" development without paying the TIDD bribe. In fact, both Albuquerque and Bernalillo County have adopted many strong plans. The rub comes in implementation, or more accurately, lack of implementation of those plans.

It's a well-known truism that the development community in New Mexico dictates, in large

Note from the Chair  
*Feeling Neglected?*  
Your Turn to Lead the Way!

The **Central Group** isn't just Albuquerque and urban issues, although—as epitomized by these pages—that's where our Executive Committee's attention is focused. We have a huge and diverse membership stretching from Gallup to Tucumcari, and covering vast agricultural lands, National Forests and other public lands, and some of the most destructively impacted communities of color in the nation. **We need to stay grounded in our grassroots, and we want to hear about your activities and concerns!**

We suspect that hundreds or thousands of our Central Group members are engaged in their own local activism—**environmental justice** movements, **local food and CSAs**, or local **stream or forest preservation and restoration** efforts—and would like the Sierra Club to provide more visible support and bring our resources and influence to bear on these issues. If that's the case with you or people you know, or if you have an idea for an article that should be published or an action that should be organized, **please engage us:**

Patrick Redmond  
Central Group Chair  
PRedmond121@gmail.com

\* \* \* \* \*

measure, where, when and how this region will grow. Adopted community plans (such as the "Planned Growth Strategy") sit on the shelf awaiting political leadership to ensure implementation. We don't need to raid the public treasury to pay for good development and a livable community. We need political leadership and backbone to change the development paradigm in this State -- a much bigger fish to fry than whether or not SunCal ultimately wins its \$408 million bailout.

Who should pay for growth? Who should control where, when and how our region grows? These questions are going to be on the front burner this election year. This is both a philosophical issue and a policy question which deserves much greater public debate before Legislators irrevocably commit millions of public tax dollars to a private developer.

Listen carefully as the debate unfolds. Sprawl developers, and the elected officials who support them, will frame the issue as "growth vs. no growth." Framing the issue this way is merely a cynical diversion from the real challenge. Will our community plans guide the future growth or will the developer? In many parts of the country, the two work hand-in-hand, but not in New Mexico. In all likelihood, SunCal will be back to the Legislature with another TIDD request on the Governor's Call for a Special Session later this year or in the short session in 2010. TIDD reformers will certainly return to do battle with measures of their own to fix the state law. Hopefully, the Davids in New Mexico will continue to challenge the Goliaths with each election and Legislative Session.

--Lora Lucero

*Lora A. Lucero, AICP, Esq. is a land use attorney and planner in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She is Natural Resources Chair for the League of Women Voters of New Mexico.*

## Central Group Directory

### Executive Committee

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

- Patrick Redmond**, *Chair, Newsletter Editor,*  
*Political Chair, Water Chair*  
PRedmond121@gmail.com 505/730-5045
- Eva Thaddeus**, *Co-Chair, Secretary,*  
*Global Warming Issue Chair*  
evathad@nmia.com 505/266-9646
- Michal Mudd**, *Website Coordinator,*  
*General Meetings*  
muddpi@mac.com 505/884-3315
- David Ther**, *Treasurer, Outings Chair*  
grelbik@att.net 505/260-1553

The Executive Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., at the Sierra Club office, 142 Truman NE in Albuquerque



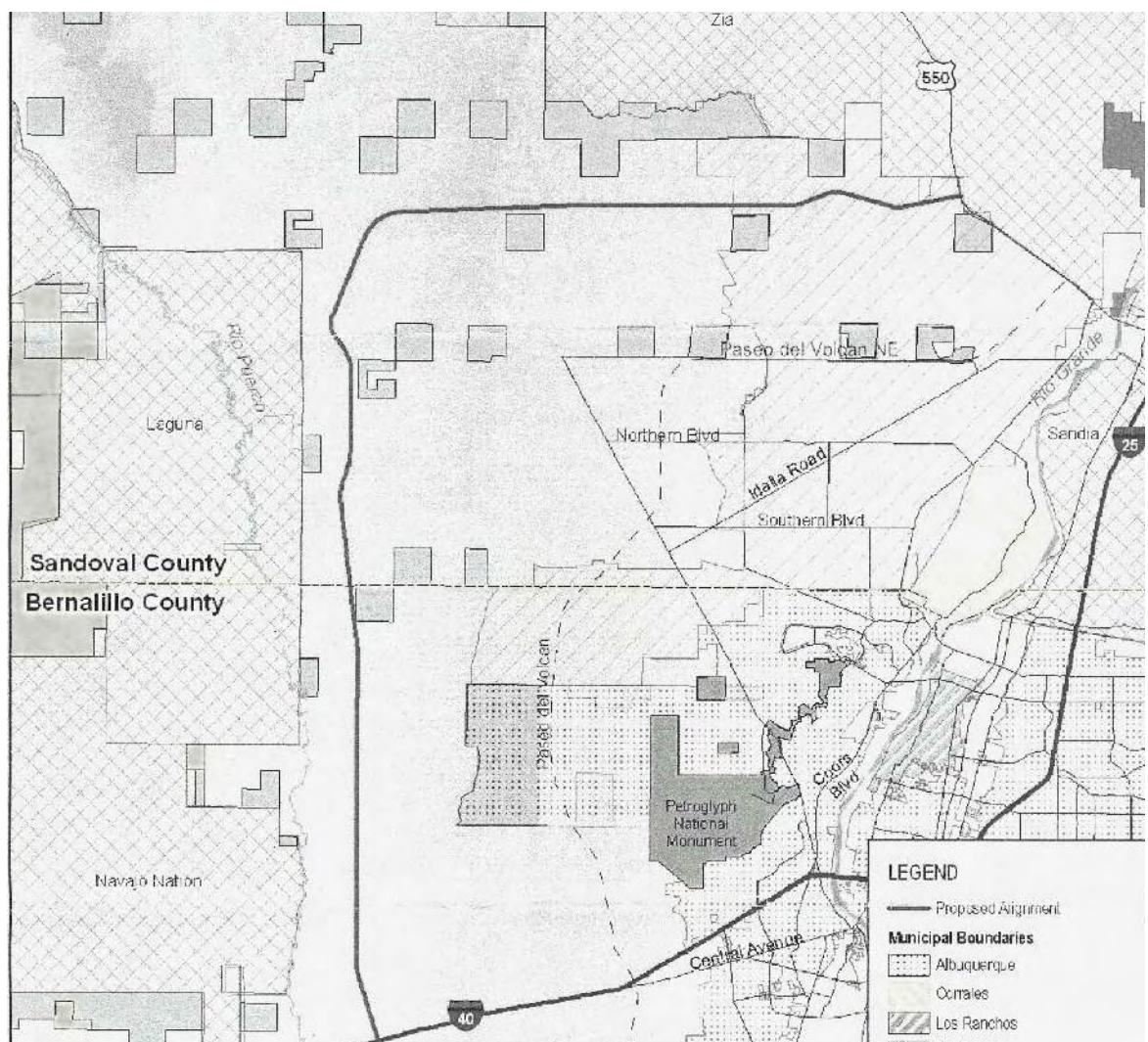
## Central Group Opposes 'Road to Nowhere'

Ah, springtime! and the politics of Albuquerque growth. Just when one sop to developers has been momentarily pruned back (see Lora Lucero's TIDDs article), another sprouts up to keep us busy. Pursuant to a \$450,000 federal earmark that materialized last year, the Mid-Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has allocated almost \$1 million to the "environmental documentation and preliminary engineering phases" of a 'Northwest Loop Road' through undeveloped land connecting U.S. 550 west of Bernalillo to I-40 west of Albuquerque, near Rio Puerco (see map). In a moment of candor, the NEPA scoping notice described it as a "beltway for the expanding Albuquerque/Rio Rancho metropolitan area." That's right, an admitted "sprawl-inducer": the very type of project that environmental and community activists have historically challenged successfully when planning authorities somehow "fail to consider adequately" the destructive social, economic and environmental effects of diverting scarce resources from urban centers to subsidize high-impact, low-density development entailing drastic increases in regional vehicle miles traveled (VMT). If this proposal weren't so obviously serving reckless development interests, we might dub it, with a nod to Alaska, our own Road to Nowhere.

The Central Group has submitted comments in both the NEPA scoping and the MPO planning processes, pointing out that Albuquerque has almost the lowest density of any of the top 100 urban areas nationwide, it ranks in the upper half for vehicle miles traveled, and the city's population growth could (and should) be entirely accommodated within the existing metropolitan framework. Federal regulations even specify that transportation planning should protect the environment and promote energy conservation and consistency with "local planned growth." The City and County Comprehensive Plan's Goals include strengthening "concentrations of moderate and high-density mixed land use and social/economic activities which reduce urban sprawl, auto travel needs, and service costs." But these obvious contradictions don't of themselves stop "the process" when publicly financed windfalls for developers beckon. It takes our diligent efforts.

You can read our comments—along with the MPO's response—at the Central Group's webpage, accessed via <http://riogrande.sierraclub.org>. The Central Group will also post updates on the NEPA and MPO processes as they develop. Stay tuned!

—Patrick Redmond



## Cool Cities Launches 'Low Carbon Diet'

New Mexicans will soon have the chance to get free, fun, friendly and personalized help with analyzing their carbon footprint and designing a program to do something about it—like, "Save Money, Save Energy, and Save the Planet." The Low Carbon Diet (LCD) is offering us all a chance to shed 5000 pounds of carbon from our daily personal, household and community practices.

Once you decide to participate, we will work together, in a series of three house gatherings with 5 to 8 friends and neighbors, on adopting habits in our personal life and changes to our household to reduce our annual greenhouse gas emissions. Each participant will receive a personal Low Carbon Diet book, by behavioral change trainer David Gershon, to measure his or her carbon usage and help determine practical steps and set attainable goals for reducing it.

For example, most Sierrans probably know that installing 5 compact fluorescent bulbs allows you to lose 500 pounds of carbon annually. Reducing your vehicle miles traveled, or "VMT," by consolidating trips or taking public transit, biking or walking can shed anywhere from 450 to 4000 pounds a year. The Low Carbon Diet workbook is full of valuable tips to help identify some unexpected elements of our own CO<sub>2</sub> footprint and suggest actions we can take to minimize their impacts. Did you know, for instance, that idling your engine for more than 30 seconds produces more carbon than if you shut off your engine and turned it back on again? Just planning your commute so you have more right turns and fewer waits for left turns can actually make a measurable difference!

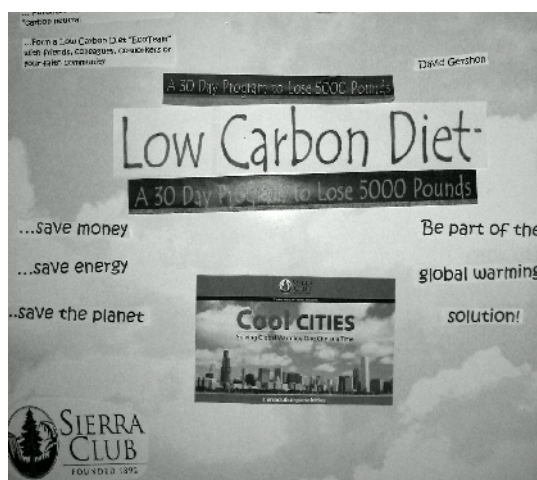
The Low Carbon Diet is sponsored by the Albuquerque Cool Cities campaign, which has over the past few years successfully engaged with the City and PNM in citywide efforts—CFL distribution in particular—to educate the public and government officials about the need and the best means for reducing local contributions to global climate change. Cool Cities has received a modest grant to help pay the cost of the LCD workbooks and some basic energy-saving materials for those who can't afford them. What better way to head into summer than by shedding those unneeded pounds?

We will need help recruiting attendees and hosts for the house gatherings, so please think about people you know who might be interested in evaluating and reducing their carbon footprint, and contact Sallie, Team Leader for the LCD Project (ABQ Cool Cities) at 247-3248 or [mcsal@comcast.net](mailto:mcsal@comcast.net). We welcome everyone's commitment and participation to expand this worthy project into as many Albuquerque households as possible.

To calculate your own carbon footprint, you can visit [www.empowermentinstitute.net/lcd](http://www.empowermentinstitute.net/lcd) for the Empowerment Institute, which designed our LCD project, and [www.climatecrossroads.org](http://www.climatecrossroads.org), then click on the "MakeMe Sustainable" link to sign your name on to a commitment to living sustainably. Another site, [www.SierraClubGreenHome.com](http://www.SierraClubGreenHome.com), has short videos demonstrating household projects and practices, such as starting a compost heap and weatherizing your home. Check these out!

To be sure, many Sierrans are at the head of the pack in a lot of these practices, but we can all learn a thing or two, and it's so important that we reach out to touch the lives and inform the habits of those who don't know where to start or are still coming along. One practice I learned recently was to collect all unused plastic bags—not just grocery bags—and recycle them at the indoor bin of most grocery stores. I was astonished at how much plastic accumulates from the cleaners and the newspaper delivery on our infrequent rainy days.

—Sallie McCarthy



**Southern NM Group  
Directory**

**Executive Committee**

P.O. Box 735, Mesilla, NM 88046

**Glenn Landers**

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

**Margot Wilson**

Vice Chair, Outings, Conservation Chair,  
Parks/Refuges  
575/744-5860 sierratrekker70@live.com

**Cheryll Blevins**

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

**Mary Katherine Ray**

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

**Lou McCall**

575/312-3174 lou@pixelcircus.org

**John Waugh**

Endangered Species/Wildlife  
575/526-7116 cactoblast@hotmail.com

**Earle Pittman**

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

**David Farrell**

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

**Paul Pierce**

Sustainability  
505/670-7653 pablopaddle@msn.com

**Outings**

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

**Saturday, May 2 • Hike up a little-known stream, Tierra Blanca, and visit the trout pools that are located in the southern Black Range**

– To access the trailhead, high-clearance vehicles are needed and four-wheel drive would be good. This is a fairly strenuous hike of about 11 miles with stream crossings. We will leave the Forest Service parking lot in Truth or Consequences at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch, water, and everything you might need for a day out. Call Margot Wilson (575/744-5860) for the details.

**Saturday, May 16 • Percha Box day hike** – 4 miles. Easy hike to a scenic riparian area and box canyon near Hillsboro. Hopefully the box will still be wet. Call Paul Pierce (505/670-7653) for meeting place and time of departure.

**Saturday, June 20 • A Saturday outing to Sawyer's Peak in the Black Range** – We will meet at the General Store in Hillsboro at 8:00 a.m. for those who want breakfast and then walk in mostly shade on a good trail to the Peak. There are opportunities for bird watching along the way. Bring lunch, rain gear, cameras, and snacks. Call Margot Wilson (575/744-5860) for other details of if you need a ride.

## The Jaguar Embodies Conservation Challenges in the Southwest

We all celebrated to learn that a wild jaguar in Arizona had been captured and collared for study. How grand would it be to learn more about these incredible animals so long absent from the Southwest United States, and wasn't it amazing that this creature had come back to historical jaguar habitat on his own! In fact it was the same jaguar that has been captured many times on remote sensing cameras. We know because the spot pattern on these big cats is unique to each individual. He came to be called Macho B, a jaguar estimated to be around 15 years old and who had been in the United States for a good part of that time.

Then it turned tragic. Macho B's collar indicated he had stopped traveling several days after capture. Arizona Game and Fish officials found him, captured him again, and took him to a veterinarian for care, where the determination was made he had kidney failure and he was euthanized. He was the only jaguar known to be in the United States. Celebration turned into bleak sadness.

But that is not the whole story. A necropsy was done, but it was only superficial because officials wanted to preserve the pelt for display. Why was more not done to find the actual cause of Macho B's predicament? An independent expert on wildcats found no indication of kidney failure. Macho B did appear dehydrated but might have recovered with intravenous fluids. At the least, there was no reason to hurry killing him. The sedatives used could have been tough on an old cat's kidneys, but with palliative care he might have recovered.

It gets worse still. Arizona Game and Fish said that the trap was set originally to capture cougars and bears to collar and study them and that the jaguar capture was accidental. But now allegations have been made by a Game and Fish field worker that the department purposefully baited the trap for jaguar and that his capture was *not* an accident at all. They baited a leg snare with the droppings of a female jaguar. Arizona banned leg-hold traps and killing traps on public land in the mid-1990s by ballot initiative, but snares were already illegal

at that time statewide. The law does allow these devices to be used for scientific research, but even so the jaguar's paw had significant injury from the snare and he was so stressed by capture that he left claw marks 7 feet up the trunk of the tree to which he was tied. He also lost at least one claw embedded in the trunk. It's not clear how long he was in the snare but during that time, he struggled mightily against the taut wire restraining him, cutting off the circulation in his paw. Even without external injury, and without sedating drugs, the stress of capture can result in a condition called capture myopathy, which can take several days to manifest. It is a condition that starts with muscle death, which can spread to organs, causing failure. Once that cascade begins, death is inevitable. Several Mexican wolves have also died from it.

We may never know if that is what happened to Macho B. Game and Fish officials are in denial mode, but it appears that an incredibly rare and endangered animal died needlessly because of human interference. It remains to be seen what will emerge as the truth, but investigation is ongoing. Meanwhile, a judge has struck down a Bush administration decision



(Photo courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

that refused to allow a jaguar recovery plan or to protect critical habitat for them in the U.S., siding with conservation interests and the mandate of the Endangered Species Act to recover these creatures. The border wall was also built by the Bush administration without environmental review. It is impenetrable to wildlife like jaguars and is being reconsidered. Plus, this incident shines the light on the practice of restraining a wild animal with any kind of limb- or body-gripping device, and shows the brutality that can result even when professionals do it and even if the motive has a positive goal in view.

Rest in peace, Macho B. The arroyos and oak-covered hills you called home for so long won't be the same without your presence. Maybe someday, humans who ought to know better will learn that wildlife, including predators, add up to more than the constraints of our statistics and data points.

—Mary Kay Katherine



### A Will is a Way

Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering Sierra Club in your will. Your support will help others preserve the intricate balance of nature.

Contact  
Gift Planning Program  
(800) 932-4270  
planned.giving@sierraclub.org



## El Paso-Santa Fe Commuter Rail

Leaving the car in the garage and taking a passenger train from El Paso to Santa Fe sounds inviting. Building it most definitely would be expensive, El Paso City Council members were told April 15th in a briefing on the concept.

Connecting El Paso and Las Cruces to the Rail Runner Commuter System that now runs between the Albuquerque area and Santa Fe could cost up to \$735 million. That was the price quoted to the El Paso and Las Cruces city councils by officials with the New Mexico Department of Transportation. The councils, which met in El Paso, agreed to keep working on securing money for the project that would probably first connect El Paso and Las Cruces using Burlington Northern Santa Fe tracks. Then it would be expanded north to connect with the existing Rail Runner system in Belen, N.M., south of Albuquerque.

“Commuter rail is something we definitely need to look at. We have a lot of people that make the commute every day,” El Paso Mayor John Cook said. “And if we want to really think green when we think about transportation, we need to start talking about this now.” Roy Gilyard, the executive director of the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization, said about 18,000 people commute between El Paso and Las Cruces every day. He said 30 percent of them come from Juárez.

New Mexico transportation officials say it is not easy to come up with a concrete figure on the cost of connecting the border region to the Rail Runner system because the project’s scope is unclear. Figures from New Mexico ranged between \$175 million if existing rails were used to well over \$700 million if crews were required to build or upgrade tracks. With the probability of unforeseen problems, cost overruns, change orders and delays, it’s best to figure on the higher price — if not a lot more. New Mexico has spent more than \$300 million since 2006 to buy tracks from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad to establish the Rail Runner Express, which runs between Belen and Santa Fe.

Members of both city councils said the most feasible option for the region would be to lease the right of way covering existing tracks instead of buying it outright. Rich Wessler, the director of passenger train operations for Burlington Northern Santa Fe in Fort Worth, said significant work would be needed on 222 miles of track linking El Paso and Albuquerque. Chief among the concerns is the condition of the rails, which allows for a maximum speed of 55 mph. “That’s conducive for freight, but it wouldn’t work for passenger service,” Wessler said. He said signs and crossings along the route would also need to be upgraded. “We are prepared to have a dialogue if we address the safety improvements and liability issues that I have brought up,” Wessler said. “Once that happens, there’s a very good chance that a partnership could be created.”

This isn’t the best of times to be looking for \$700 million, especially if some of it is to be wrung from local taxpayers. With both the city and county facing possible budget deficits, and El Pasoans staggering under already onerous tax burdens, caution should be used in digging up the money. The councils didn’t take action in April, but New Mexico state Rep. Jeff Steinborn of Las Cruces urged each body to adopt a resolution supporting the expansion of the commuter rail system into the region. Steinborn said the New Mexico Legislature should have a feasibility study on expansion of the system by next year, and he said that some money is available from the federal government to get the project started. “The stimulus package has \$6 billion to \$8 billion for commuter rail development,” he said. “Transportation is going to be a challenge as our regions grow. We need to be ahead of it.”

El Paso’s Eastridge/Mid-Valley city Rep. Steve Ortega asked that any study that is commissioned include the expansion of commuter rail services into Mexico. “There should be some efforts to include the state of Chihuahua into our conversations,” he said. “When we talk about the region, Juárez is definitely the big dog” in population.

*Adapted from El Paso Times articles by Gustavo Reveles Acosta and staff —Ed.*

## Book Review

*With Speed and Violence* by Fred Pearce

Many see global warming as a gradual process unlikely to affect life as we know it for centuries. So what if the earth’s temperature increases a couple of degrees? Who cares if sea levels rise a few inches? Would anyone even notice? If this is what you think, you need to read *With Speed and Violence* (2008), where you’ll find compelling evidence that the earth’s climate can change profoundly on time scales of just a few years.

*With Speed and Violence* reports the latest research into “tipping points” in the earth’s climatic system. These “on-off” switches can drastically change the climate very quickly if they are triggered. For example, in 2002 the Larsen B ice shelf broke off from Antarctica after 50 years of gradually rising air and water temperatures. Its mass had held back glaciers behind it. With Larsen B gone, these glaciers now flow eight times faster than before, raising sea levels as they calve icebergs. Combined, they carry enough ice to raise sea levels nearly 20 feet. Think about what that will do to coastal areas worldwide. And there’s no going back from a tipping point. We can’t reassemble Larsen B and glue it back onto Antarctica. Once it’s gone, it’s gone.

*With Speed and Violence* describes many tipping points. If even just a few of them occur, the earth could change beyond recognition virtually overnight. With our continuing reckless burning of fossil fuels, we humans seem determined to make climate change as fast, violent and inevitable as possible. We are close to reaching conditions “beyond which there is no redemption,” according to the nation’s top climate modeler. I recommend this book to all conscientious citizens. Read it, think about it and take action before it’s too late.

—Terry Sunday

### El Paso Group Directory

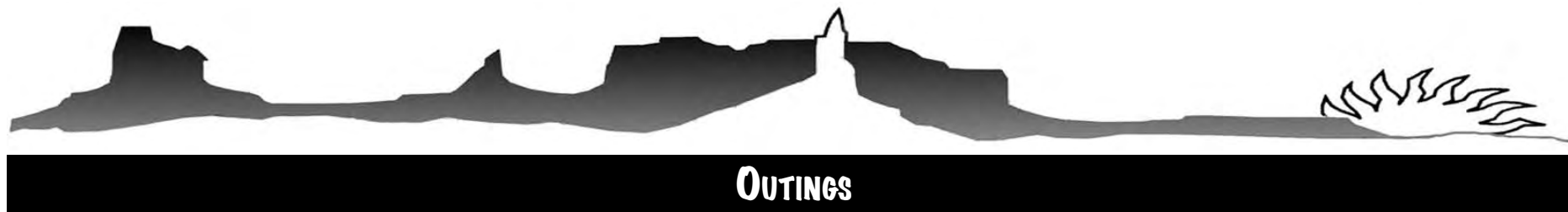
<http://texas.sierraclub.org/elpaso>

#### Executive Committee

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

#### Committee Chairs

<b>Chapter Delegate</b>		
<b>Bill Addington</b>	915/369-2541	aguavida@valornet.com
<b>Editor, Outings</b>		
<b>Laurence Gibson</b>	915/309-5419	lgibson@utep.edu
<b>Inner City Outings, Membership</b>		
<b>Ted Mertig</b>	915/852-3011	tmertig@earthlink.net
<b>Outings</b>		
<b>Rollin Wickenden</b>	915/855-6697	rwickgila@aol.com
<b>Webmaster</b>		
<b>Terry Sunday</b>	915/584-9301	sundayt@zianet.com



## OUTINGS

### Selected Sierra Club Outings for May and June 2009

**Saturday, May 2 • Tierra Blanca Creek hike** – 11 miles. Moderate/strenuous. Visit trout pools in the southern Black Range; stream crossings. Margot Wilson (575/744-5860 – Southern Group).

**Saturday, May 2 • Ojo Caliente hike to mica mine, then soak in the hot springs** – 5 miles, 700' gain. Easy. Marcia Skillman (505/699-3008 – Northern Group).

**Sunday, May 3 • Shaggy Peak and Deer Creek loop hike, from east via Apache Canyon** – 13 miles, 3000' gain. Strenuous. Off-trail, rough terrain. Dogs okay. Tobin Oruch (505/820-2844 – Northern Group).

**Saturday, May 9 • Tetilla Peak loop hike** – 3-plus miles. Moderate. Off-trail and rocky, great views from top. Dogs okay. Norma McCallan (505/471-0005 – Northern Group).

**Sunday, May 10 • Shaggy Peak and Deer Creek loop hike, from west** – 12 miles, 2000' gain. Strenuous. Off-trail, steep sections. Dogs okay. Norbert Sperlich (505/474-4354 – Northern Group).

**Saturday, May 16 • Bike and hike, maybe in El Malpais National Monument** – Moderate. Page Press (505/946-0159 – Northern Group).

**Saturday, May 16 • Percha Box hike** – 4 miles. Easy. Hike to a scenic riparian area and box canyon near Hillsboro. Paul Pierce (505/670-7653 – Southern Group).

**Saturday, May 16 • Grass Mountain/Rio Mora area hike** – 10-12 miles, 2000' gain. Strenuous. Some off-trail. Michael Di Rosa (505/667-0095 or 505/663-0648 – Pajarito Group).

**Sunday, May 17 • Rio en Medio hike** – 6 miles, 1000' gain. Moderate. Numerous waterfalls, lush vegetation. Art Judd (505/982-3212 – Northern Group).

**Saturday, May 23 • Geocache hunting hike in Buckman area** – Easy/moderate. Locate geocaches and maybe petroglyphs. Alan Shapiro (505/424-9242 – Northern Group).

**Sunday, May 24 • Otowi Mesa hike, outside Los Alamos** – 5 miles, 500' gain. Easy/moderate. Some rock scrambling. Michael Goldey (505/820-7302 – Northern Group).

**Saturday, May 30 • Jemez Mountains hike** – Moderate. Norbert Sperlich (505/474-4354 – Northern Group).

**Saturday, May 30 • Tour of Mesa Prieta petroglyph site, north of Española, with docents** – Easy/moderate outing to this world-class rock art area. \$10, reserve by May 23. Daisy Levine (505/466-8338 – Northern Group).

**Sunday, May 31 • Bike ride to San Antonio Hot Springs** – 15 miles. Moderate. Limit of 8 participants. Bring suit, towel to soak in springs. Michael DeLuca (505/820-0042 – Northern Group).

**Sunday, May 31 • La Luz trail to Sandia Crest** – 14 miles, 3600' gain. Strenuous. Great views. Cynthia Good (505/699-2717 – Northern Group).

**Saturday, June 6 • Upper Pecos Canyon hike** – 10 miles. Strenuous. Off-trail. Dogs okay. Page Press (505/946-0169 – Northern Group).

**Sunday, June 7 • Deer Trap Mesa hike, near Los Alamos** – 5 miles, 500' gain. Easy/moderate. Hike on a volcanic tuff ridge. Some scrambling. Michael Goldey (505/820-7302 – Northern Group).

**Thursday-Friday, June 11-19 • Abajo Mountains sojourn, SE Utah** – Car camp, moderate hikes, a work day helping Red Rock Forests close a route to an archaeological site. Option of a three-day archaeological workshop with the Manti-La Sal N.F., \$45. Dogs okay. Call for reservations. Norma McCallan (505/471-0005 – Northern Group).

**Saturday, June 13 • Nambe Lake hike** – 7 miles, 2100' gain. Moderate/strenuous. Marcia Skillman (505/699-3008 – Northern Group).

**Sunday, June 14 • Glorieta Baldy hike** – 11.5 miles, 2800' gain. Strenuous. Dogs okay. Cynthia Good (505/699-2717 – Northern Group).

**Sunday, June 14 • Hamilton Mesa hike** – 7 miles, 1000' gain. Moderate. Many wildflowers. John Varner (505/795-5948 – Northern Group).

**Sunday-Sunday, June 14-21 • Gila Wilderness backpack** – 50 miles, 10,000' gain. Strenuous. 5- to 10-mile days, camps at springs or on river. Laurence Gibson (915/309-5419 – El Paso Group).

**Wednesday-Sunday, June 17-21 • Colorado adventure car camp in Durango area** – Climbing fourteeners Wilson Peak and Mount Sneffels. Royal Drews (505/699-8713 – Northern Group).

**Saturday, June 20 • Annual summer solstice hike and potluck dinner at the top of Pajarito Mountain** – Moderate, but steep. Jean Dewart (505/662-9592 – Pajarito Group).

**Saturday, June 20 • Sawyers Peak hike, in the Black Range** – Moderate.

Shady trail, opportunities for bird watching. Margot Wilson (575/744-5860 – Southern Group).

**Saturday, June 20 • Stewart Lake loop hike** – 10 miles, 2100' gain. Strenuous. Dogs okay. Dan Rusthoi (505/690-8967 – Northern Group).

**Sunday, June 21 • Rio en Medio hike to waterfalls** – 7 miles, 1000' gain. Moderate. Dogs okay. Les Drapela (505/438-3306 – Northern Group).

**Friday-Sunday, June 26-28 • Backpack to Pecos Baldy Lake, day hikes to Pecos Baldy, Trailriders Wall, and Truchas Peak** – Dogs okay. Tobin Oruch (505/820-2844 – Northern Group).

**Saturday, June 27 • Loop hike to Hermit Peak and El Porvenir Canyon** – 14 miles, 2850' gain. Strenuous. Many stream crossings. Dogs okay. David Wargo (505/216-1870 – Northern Group).

**Sunday, June 28 • Picacho and Atalaya Peaks loop hike** – 8 miles, 2000' gain. Moderate. Dogs okay. Miguel DeLuca (505/820-0042 – Northern Group).

*Upcoming:*

**Wednesday-Sunday, July 1-5 • Colorado Adventure car camp in Lake City area, climbing Wetterhorn and Uncompahgre Peaks** – Royal Drews (505/699-8713 – Northern Group).

**Saturday, July 4 • Santa Fe Baldy hike** – 14 miles, 3600' gain. Strenuous. Dogs okay. Dan Rusthoi (505/690-8967 – Northern Group).

**Sunday, July 5 • Cerro Grande hike, highest peak in Bandelier** – 4 miles, 1300' gain. Moderate. Optional additional hike on 2-mile Valle Grande Trail. Cynthia Good (505/699-2717 – Northern Group).

*Please check the appropriate Group page for additional information on these abridged outings, as well as for additional activities.*

*And please check the Chapter website (<http://riogrande.sierraclub.org>) for the latest information on all our outings. All mileages are round trips.*

*Participants must sign a liability waiver.*

### Bring Nature Indoors with This Beautiful Richard Sloan Print

Support the Rio Grande Chapter and enrich your home's ambiance by ordering this or another of the seven striking prints offered only by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club. These stunning 17-by-22-inch representations of some of our high desert's endangered raptors are numbered and signed by the artist, Richard Sloan, the world-renowned master wildlife painter. To see full-screen color pictures of the seven Sloan prints (Burrowing Owl, Aplomado Falcon, American Kestrel, **Spotted Owl** shown here, Swainson's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, and Golden Eagle) reserved as a thank-you for contributors to the Rio Grande Chapter, visit the Chapter's website (<http://riogrande.sierraclub.org>). A contribution of \$140 will be recognized with the delivery of your choice of a signed and numbered Sloan print, shipped flat and ready for framing. Contact Dan Lorimier (575/740-2927, [daniel.lorimier@sierraclub.org](mailto:daniel.lorimier@sierraclub.org)) to make your donation and get a Richard Sloan print.

—Dan Lorimier



*Spotted Owl*