

Rio Grande Sierran

NEWS OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2011

Club defends cost-saving building codes

New codes will save money, conserve state's natural resources

SANTA FE – The Sierra Club on Feb. 1 announced that the organization, the oldest and largest grassroots organization in American history, succeeded in its effort to ensure cost-saving building codes will be published in the New Mexico

State Register.

The Sierra Club had filed a legal challenge after Gov. Susana Martinez declared that she would halt publication of the codes. The new building codes, which the New Mexico Construction Industries Commission adopted in 2010, include increased energy-efficiency measures.

“These codes will save New Mexicans money, slow climate change, and conserve the state’s celebrated

natural resources,” said Shrayas Jatkar, local organizer with the Sierra Club. “This is a victory for us all.”

The previous week, the New Mexico Supreme Court ruled on two cases, *New Energy Economy v. Martinez* and *Amigos Bravos v. Martinez*, which raised similar legal challenges to the governor’s actions attempting to illegally halt several other final rules

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Skies clear — for now

Multiple attacks on clean air, water, climate at New Mexico Legislature session are all unsuccessful

By Dan Lorimier

Chapter lobbyist

During the last two years of Gov. Bill Richardson’s administration in New Mexico, key environmental and public health rules were adopted to protect New Mexico’s citizens and natural resources. Two examples are the carbon cap-and-trade regulations set to start in 2012 and the new dairy waste-discharge regulations that are ready to go into effect now.

With the election of Gov. Susana Martinez and several new legislators last November, big business in New Mexico saw a chance to undo the new regulations and increase its profits. Consequently, many bills were introduced in the 2011 Legislative session that sought



Several bills in the recent New Mexico Legislative session sought to cut renewable-energy requirements for utilities. In a hostile political environment, your actions helped us stop those and other anti-conservation bills.

to revoke the new rules, dismiss the Environmental Improvement Board and the Water Quality Control Commission, or require legislative approval of new rules.

Defensive action

The Chapter’s Legislative Committee organized and directed the on-the-ground lobbying at the

Roundhouse and the thousands of calls and e-mails to key legislators from our member activists. This coordination resulted in a very high success rate for blocking the many bills aimed at deregulating our largest industries.

We were also able to stop several

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Support EPA’s plan to control coal pollution

By Juan Reynosa

This is an opportune time to be fighting for cleaner air in New Mexico. Our friends at the Environmental Protection Agency are moving forward to make sure big industry falls into compliance with the Clean Air Act.

How does that affect us in New Mexico? Well, the first order of business for the EPA this year is to get New Mexican coal plants to install up-to-date pollution controls, also known as BART (best available retrofit technology) controls. These pollution controls will limit nitrogen-oxide and sulfur-dioxide emissions, as well as sulfuric acid and ammonia.

The San Juan Generating Station is the first coal plant in New Mexico where the EPA has proposed to install BART controls. This plant, about 10 miles west of Farmington, releases or disposes of more than 3,765,422 pounds of toxic materials every year. The emissions from this plant have dramatically increased the number of asthma and heart-disease-related cases in the area

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Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet



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Leghold traps have unintended victims

By Mary Katherine Ray

Chapter Wildlife Chair

It was a beautiful winter hike in February, and our five Sierra Club outing participants had already seen several hawks. A little group of elk had crossed right in front of us. But just after we dropped down into a deeper canyon from the gentle juniper grassland hills, a movement caught my eye. To our horror, it was a coyote, and she was caught in a leghold trap struggling to get away.

When we got closer, we could see how badly injured she was. There was broken bone showing at the trap jaw where it was clamped on her front leg. Every part of her was beautiful and perfect except for her mangled foot. She lunged to get away but was tripped when she got to the end of the chain, over and over.

We could do nothing but walk away. No one on the outing had the heart to go on, and as we made our way back to our vehicles, we kept trying to get cell service but had no luck. It wasn't until later that afternoon that I reached a local game warden who agreed to meet at the site the next day. But when we got there, the coyote was gone. There were no fresh tracks over our footprints from the day before, and the trap was just lying on the ground, still shut and exposed where the coyote had been. It had no trap ID as required by law, so there is no way to know who set the trap, how long it had been there or when the trapper last checked.

Hiking solo days later, I came upon two people on four-wheelers creating an entirely new trail on the opposite side of a wide canyon from where the road is. As egregious as it is to tear up the fragile landscape with an ORV, I was heart-sickened to discover their truck farther on with the back full of leghold traps. They had set their trapline off road and were driving along it.

The truck also had in it a dead coyote, a dead fox and a dead tassel-eared squirrel. Their four-wheelers had driven right by the Forest Service "No Motor Vehicles" sign. Squirrels are not considered "furbearers" in New Mexico and this one could not be legally possessed. But it illustrates the vulnerability and senselessness of the non-target bycatch. A trap that can mangle a coyote's leg can break the back of a little squirrel.



Photo by Mary Katherine Ray

Participants in a Sierra Club outing found this coyote stuck in a leghold trap in February. The New Mexico Game and Fish Department is reviewing trapping rules and accepting e-mailed comments at nmdept.ofgameandfish@state.nm.us

Despite "mandatory" reporting that trappers are required to return to New Mexico Game and Fish listing what they have killed each year, only 28 percent bothered for the 2009-2010 season. And non-target animals and their fates need not be reported at all. Trappers can put out as many traps as they can feasibly check in one day, but there is really no one looking over their shoulder to make sure they actually are checking. There is no bag limit on any "furbearer" like our bobcats and foxes. The trapper's goal is to profit by selling the skins of these native carnivores, and the profit motive offers a big tempta-

tion to cut corners.

There is no way for other people using public land to know where traps are, and we continue to receive reports from trap victims about injured dogs and even their own injuries suffered while trying to release their pet (see nmsierraclub.org/trapping-personal-stories-in-new-mexico).

After more than five years of waiting, the trapping rules are at last under review, and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is accepting comments now. Please send your comments of protest to nmdept.ofgameandfish@state.nm.us.

Legalized wolf-killing to resume in Idaho, Montana

By Mary Katherine Ray

Chapter Wildlife Chair

Opposition to wolves has escalated and now includes not only livestock interests but the hunting and outfitting lobby. These hunters erroneously believe that the integrity of wild places once inhabited by wolves can be maintained in their absence.

When Ken Salazar became secretary of the Interior, he delisted gray wolves in Montana and Idaho. Wyoming wolves have maintained their protections all along because that state refuses anything but a shoot-on-sight policy. "Hunting" seasons opened in the other two in 2009, and before the gunsmoke cleared, a third of the wolf populations there had been snuffed out. More than 500 wolves perished.

The Sierra Club entered litigation along with other groups to ask that wolf protections be reinstated, and in August last year, a judge complied. However, in a

The Sierra Club and nine other groups, including Defenders of Wildlife, asked the court to let delisting proceed.

disheartening reversal, on March 18, the Sierra Club along with nine other environmental groups, including Defenders of Wildlife, the Center for Biological Diversity and the Natural Resources Defense Council, asked the court to let delisting proceed.

The decision came from the national level of the Club and not the chapters. The deal is meant to assuage politicians of both parties and stop them from pressing for legislation to remove endangered-species protection from wolves. Whether this gamble will produce this result remains to be seen.

The deal also calls for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service to re-examine whether the original plan for only 300 wolves in the Northern Rockies is sufficient for recovery. More recent science suggests that that number is woefully inadequate. The science also suggests that killing even one member of a pack can be so disruptive to the highly developed social order that the entire pack can disintegrate. Sadly, game agencies more used to providing for the culling of herbivores have never taken this fact of wolf life into account.

Wolves in New Mexico are not involved in this delisting. (They could be if some of the proposed bills move forward.) Delisting as a result of this legal settlement will only apply to wolves in Montana and Idaho. But we already know what wolf "management" in these states looks like. This fall, the killing fields there will run with wolf blood again. Whether the political landscape that has backed wolves into this indefensible corner will prove to be only a check or a checkmate against their very survival is not known.

Beryllium exploration continues at Monticello Box



Beryllium mining in the Monticello Box and Warm Springs. The New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division has granted permission for 13 more bore holes to be created.

By Mary Katherine Ray
Chapter Wildlife Chair

The Monticello Box and Warm Springs are under renewed threat from beryllium mining yet again. After completing the strongly opposed five exploratory bore holes on the hills directly south of the Box, the company seeking to profit from the beryllium deposit asked for a permit modification to add 19 bore holes to its exploration. These new holes would be to depths of several hundred feet, except for one that would be to 3,500 feet—much deeper than any bore hole yet.

The danger still is that any of these holes will fracture and alter the incredible warm-springs complex and its abundant flowing water that are only several hundred yards distant. The pools and stream of the Canada Alamosa are home to the Endangered Alamosa Springsnail, the threatened Chiricahua Leopard Frog and countless other wild creatures and plants.

The corporation, in applying for a permit “modification,” avoids the more scrutinized permit “revision” process that, among other safeguards, could include a public hearing. It would appear that it is getting what it wants by this piecemeal approach that would never have been allowed under the original permit. Now that the Mining and Minerals Division is under a new administration that has shown itself not to be concerned with clean and abundant water if short-term profits are at stake, 13 of the proposed bore holes have been approved with a simple sign-off from the agency.

No additional public scrutiny will be considered even though thanks to our members, a couple of hundred emails of protest were sent. The 3,500-foot monster has not yet been approved. But the corporation has wasted no time in reapplying for it and the other five holes. Mining should not continue at this site at all. You may protest to Mining and Minerals Division Acting Director Charles Thomas, P.E., at charles.thomas@state.nm.us.

LEGISLATURE, continued from Page 1

bills proposing to allow off-highway vehicles on certain paved roads and other bills seeking to pull spending in the OHV program away from education and enforcement and direct it to OHV track/trail maintenance and expansion.

Trying to move forward

We had less success trying to move good bills through the Legislature. After our achievement last session in passing a requirement that new public buildings must be designed and constructed to be far more energy-efficient than current building codes demand, we hoped to expand energy efficiency in the commercial building sector. This year’s SB442, sponsored by Sen. Carlos Cisneros, would require commercial building owners to disclose an energy-efficiency rating for the building at the time of sale or lease. Despite our serious efforts, this bill was tabled (killed) in the Senate Conservation Committee.

Our new approach

This year the Rio Grande Chapter employed new communication tools with our activists. In the past we have

sent legislative alerts that required activists to compose and send e-mails to key legislators. Now, activists can just click through to automatically send a message to their own legislator. This has two big advantages; it’s faster and easier, and your message is automatically sent to your own legislator. Messages from their own constituents have a far stronger impact on legislators.

By combining our direct lobbying work with these more focused and powerful activist communications, we are much more effective in the Roundhouse than in the past.

A team effort

Our efforts were part of a larger strategy adopted by the Environmental Alliance of New Mexico. As part of this ad hoc coalition, the Rio Grande Chapter participated in coordinated lobbying and activist alerts with other organizations. It was this coordination and strategic action that resulted in our remarkable success. We were also helped by legislators, including the House and Senate leadership of Ben Luján and Michael Sanchez, in

protecting so many common-sense safeguards for our air and water.

Lay of the land

The bad economy dominated the session to the point that the Legislature expressed a general reluctance to take big chances. Big changes come with big risks, and legislators of both parties hesitated to gamble on risky changes like restructuring agencies, boards and commissions.

While the 2011 Legislative session

Support EPA pollution controls

Identify by docket number EPA–R09–OAR–2010–0683 and comment using one of the following methods:

- Follow the instructions at the Federal Rulemaking portal: www.regulations.gov
- EPA Region 9 “Contact Us” Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/comments.html>.
- Email EPA Region 9 at r9air_fcp-pbart@epa.gov.

POLLUTION CONTROLS,

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since it has been in operation.

In addition to the public health benefits, the reduced nitrogen-oxide emissions will help improve visibility in the area by about 65 percent and decrease by more than 80 percent the number of days the plant causes noticeable visibility impairment.

I attended the Feb. 17 EPA hearing held in Farmington. It was a packed house, and a variety of voices spoke in support of the pollution controls. Among these voices were Farmington locals speaking up for the health of their children and grandchildren, indignant representatives speaking about the negative legacy coal has left in their communities, environmentalists from across New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado, and proponents of a just transition away from coal and toward renewable energy.

This hearing showed that many are in favor of the EPA’s proposed pollution controls. The EPA will publish its final ruling on the San Juan Generating Station on June 21.

The fight doesn’t stop with the San Juan Generating Station. The EPA is moving forward with its BART proposal for the Four Corners Power plant, which is only a few miles away from the San Juan Generating Station. The EPA hosts four hearings in the Four Corners region from March 29 through March 31. The Sierra Club and other proponents of clean air are out in full force to support the EPA’s proposal and show that these pollution controls will reduce haze-forming emissions and improve public health in the Four Corners region.

Bills related to clean air

Bill	Club Viewpoint	Outcome
SB415	Oppose	Died on Senate floor
SB442	Favor	Died in committee
SB57	Oppose	Died in committee
SB489	Oppose	Died in committee
SB500	Oppose	Died in committee
SB535	Oppose	Died in committee
SB549	Favor	Passed
HB546	Oppose	Died in committee
SB579	Oppose	Died in committee

Bills related to clean water:

Bill	Club Viewpoint	Outcome
HB225	Oppose	Died in committee
HB276	Oppose	Died in committee

Plant cottonwoods, willows along Torreon Wash

Norma McCallan

Executive Committee Vice Chair

Last year, the Sierra Club came out to join the Rio Puerco Alliance (RPA), the Rio Puerco Management Committee (RPMC), and community members from the Ojo Encino and Torreon Chapters of the Navajo Nation to plant cottonwoods and willows along Torreon Wash under a Targeted Watershed Grant that the RPA received from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Additional planting was done in Penistaja Arroyo with three classes of schoolchildren.

This year, the RPA is starting work on a grant from the State River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative to continue planting along Torreon Wash for another two years.

Sierra Club members and friends are invited to join their community planting day on April 9.



Ojo Encino Day School second-graders carry willows at a planting day last year. The Rio Puerco Alliance continues planting this year, and Sierra Club members are invited to help out on April 9.

There will also be several more planting days with the always-enthusiastic school children,

Barbara Johnson, head of the RPA, notes that the group has visited planting sites from previous years and seen

that most of the plantings have been successful. Even trees that appeared to be dead have begun to resprout from the bottom.

The willows that were planted in 2009 have started to send roots along Torreon Wash and are beginning to sprout new trees.

The planting is also beginning to have an effect on the banks of Torreon Wash, creating a new meander pattern.

Santa Fe volunteers can carpool down to Bernalillo and pick up any Albuquerque-area members before carpooling on to Torreon Wash.

RSVP to Norma McCallan, nmccallan@mindspring.com, 505-471-0005. Spending the day working on riparian restoration with our Navajo friends is a great experience!

(Photo courtesy of Steve Fischer, Margaret Gray, and Lula Castillo.)

BUILDING CODES, continued from Page 1

intended to protect the environment.

Because the Supreme Court clearly ruled that the governor had overstepped her legal authority when she ordered the publication of rules halted, the Sierra Club agreed to drop its lawsuit in exchange for an agreement from the State that it would publish the cost-saving building codes immediately.

"We are very pleased that this issue could be resolved so quickly," said Gloria D. Smith, a senior staff attorney with the Sierra Club. "The faster the cost-saving codes are published, the faster residents and businesses in New Mexico can begin saving on their energy bills."

The new building codes will help New Mexico residents and businesses save money on electric and gas bills by reducing their energy consumption by

approximately 20 percent.

According to the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET), the residential code will result in an average net savings of nearly \$14 per month (\$167 per year) for each homeowner, which adds up to \$66 million saved over a 10-year period throughout the state. The new codes will also improve property values for homeowners and lower barriers to homeownership for low-income New Mexicans.

"A transparent, one-year public process resulted in a common-sense, cost-effective Energy Conservation Code that is good for New Mexicans," said Tammy Fiebelkorn, New Mexico Representative for SWEET. "We are thrilled that efforts to stop implementation of the new code were unsuccessful. New Mexicans deserve the cost savings and pollution reduction that

will result from this code."

Implementation of the codes will also decrease demand for energy from dirty and dangerous fossil fuels like coal and oil. New Mexico currently relies on energy from coal-fired power plants such as the Four Corners Power Plant and San Juan Generating Station in northwestern New Mexico, which threaten local communities with toxic air pollution and worsen climate change.

The new codes will stimulate New Mexico's energy-efficiency product-development sector and other clean-energy sectors, and they will make New Mexico eligible to receive its share of \$3.1 billion in funding from the state Energy Program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

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Photo by Ted Wood

The Janos-Hidalgo herd of bison, one of only five herds that now remain, can be found in the borderlands of New Mexico.

Wildlife at risk along border fence

By Scott Nicol

Co-Chair, Borderlands Team

Of the countless bison that once roamed North America, only five herds now remain, with a total population that is less than 5 percent of their historic numbers. One of the last herds crosses back and forth between the boot heel of New Mexico and the Mexican state of Chihuahua.

These bison are a critical part of the ecosystem that they inhabit, and their presence is vital for maintaining the grasslands in their natural state.

Border walls now cut across the Playas Valley, where the bison roam. These walls are Normandy-style “vehicle barriers,” with cross bars that are too high for bison to leap. One small gap remains that the herd can pass through, but if Congress enacts legislation to build more walls, this too may be closed.

On the outskirts of El Paso, the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park consists of 372 acres of native wetland habitat that has been painstakingly restored. The park is adjacent to the Rio Grande, situated along a stretch of the old, winding channel in which the river flowed before it was straightened and

channelized. 216 avian species, including 39 species of conservation concern, utilize the park. Rio Bosque is one of the few places where one can imagine what the El Paso area might have been like when the river wound freely through the mountains and desert and had ample flow to support rich wetlands and big cottonwood trees.

But the border wall has interrupted this rebirth of nature. Here Homeland Security has erected “pedestrian fencing,” 18-foot-tall steel mesh panels set on a concrete foundation. It cuts off the wetlands from the river, preventing the movement of species and diminishing the park’s value as habitat.

Any other federal project would have to take into account environmental impacts such as these, but border walls are above the law. To block lawsuits by the Sierra Club and others, Congress passed the Real ID Act, which gives the Secretary of Homeland Security the power to waive any law, environmental or otherwise, that might slow the erection of border walls. Former Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff waived 36 federal laws, including the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and the National Environmental

Get Involved

To learn more and to join the efforts of the Borderlands team, visit sierraclub.org/borderlands.

Policy Act.

Today 646 miles of wall slice through our southern borderlands. With no need to comply with environmental laws, walls fragment habitat set aside for endangered ocelot in south Texas and for Sonoran pronghorn in Arizona. Construction has caused tremendous erosion in the Otay Mountain Wilderness Area, and walls have acted as dams, causing flooding in the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

Legislation requiring more walls will almost certainly come up in the new Congress. Sen. Jim DeMint has repeatedly introduced an amendment that would require around 350 miles of new “pedestrian” border wall, at a cost of \$4 million to \$7 million per mile.

The Sierra Club has consistently opposed environmentally destructive border walls, and has challenged the constitutionality of Real ID Act waivers.

Former UNM dean was innovator

By Shrayas Jatkar

I have had the pleasure of getting to know Dr. William Allen Gross since I began working at the Sierra Club four years ago. A lifetime Sierra Club member, Bill was active into his last days – volunteering regularly with his wife, Sharon, to re-elect Martin Heinrich last fall. He will be missed greatly by all of us who work toward accelerating the transition to a clean-energy economy. The following obituary is reprinted with permission from the family:

Dr. William Allen Gross, age 86 and former UNM Dean of Engineering and professor of Mechanical Engineering, died on February 20, 2011. He displayed a rare mixture of innovation, risk-taking, technical creativity, and commitment to making a difference in other people’s lives. As Dean (1974-80), Bill established innovative programs —many of which have become national programs—to increase the number of Native American, Hispanic and women engineers in the college, and he secured support to expand and enhance the college’s curricula and research.



Dr. William Allen Gross

He was born in Los Angeles to William Allen and Margaret (Hill) Gross on February 17, 1924. Always a risk-taker, Bill stepped into the unknown for a PhD in Applied Mechanics at University of California Berkeley (1951), refused to sign the UCB loyalty oath (1950) and resigned from the Iowa State University faculty (1955) to get industrial experience. Since the late 1960s, Bill’s keen concern for energy sustainability led him to develop international programs for supporting renewable energy in developing countries, revitalize the New Mexico Solar Energy Association in the 1980s, and serve on the Albuquerque Energy Conservation Council and many other nonprofit boards. Some of Dr. Gross’ many awards include: Distinguished Alumnus, College of Engineering (UC-Berkeley and U.S. Coast Guard Academy), Chief Manuelito Award of the Navajo Tribe, and N.M. Solar Energy Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Sharon P. Gross; children Constance Jackson, Ellen Philo, Mark Gross, and David Gross; 13 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He delighted in hiking, international discovery, and skiing, and was a loving husband, father and grandfather.

A memorial service will be held under the care of the Albuquerque Friends Meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 3, at the Monte Vista Christian Church (3501 Campus Dr, NE, ABQ 87108). In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to: (1) the UNM Foundation/William A. Gross Fund for Entrepreneurial Engineering (checks mailed to the University of New Mexico School of Engineering Development Office c/o Susan Georgia-Centennial Engineering Center, MSC01 1140, 1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM 87131-0001); (2) NMSEA for the William A. Gross Solar Energy Education Fund (checks mailed to New Mexico Solar Energy Association, 1009 Bradbury Dr. SE #35 Albuquerque, NM 87106); or (3) charity of your choice.

The continuing saga of the inconvenient adjudication

By Sigmund Silber

We started our coverage of the Lower Rio Grande Adjudication in the March/April 2010 edition of the *Sierra*. At that time we asked the questions: What if the actions leading to the creation of Elephant Butte Dam, the Rio Grande Project, and the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID) will soon be overturned in court? What might the impact of such a court decision be and might this change be inconvenient for certain parties?

The wheels of justice grind slowly, but this adjudication has moved forward much faster than many might have expected.

Just what is an adjudication? It is the process where water rights claimed by users and the sometime conflicting opinion of the Office of the State Engineer (the regulatory authority that maintains the records of such rights and has preliminary authority over water rights) are validated in a court procedure that allows everyone to challenge the rights of everyone else. This is called the "inter se" (among us) part of the adjudication process. Adjudication results in an official vesting of water rights so that these rights can safely be transferred to others and are no longer simply the opinion of the purported right-holder or the Office of the State Engineer.

Thus water-right adjudications are always difficult and contentious. The Lower Rio Grande

The claims of the Nathan Boyd Estate are extensive and if judged to be valid would lead to additional claims by the farmers who had contracted with Dr. Boyd's company.

Adjudication (LRGA) has more than 18,000 water-rights claimants (strangely called defendants).

Complications include the role of the U.S. Reclamation Service, which built Elephant Butte Reservoir apparently without obtaining an approved permit from the New Mexico Territorial Engineer. There is also this messy situation: a private company had earlier been granted the right to build a similar dam and may have completed parts of it before being declared to have "forfeited its rights" rather than being bought out, as other private dams were. This all took place many years ago; the U.S. Reclamation Service later became the Bureau of Reclamation and the Territorial Engineer later became the State Engineer.

The private company was the Rio Grande Dam and Irrigation Company owned by Dr. Nathan Boyd, who incidentally was an early supporter of New Mexico statehood. Boyd's great-grandson Scott Boyd now represents the Dr. Nathan Boyd Estate, which is claiming many of the rights that the U.S. Reclamation Service used to build Elephant Butte Reservoir and create what today is called the Elephant Butte Irrigation District

and a related irrigation district in Texas.

Needless to say, the claims of the Nathan Boyd Estate are extensive and if judged to be valid would lead to additional claims by the farmers who had contracted with the Rio Grande Dam and Irrigation Company for delivery of water to their ditch associations, which creates legal issues that predate New Mexico's 1907 water code.

The State Engineer rolled the dice by refusing to give the Boyd Estate an Offer of Judgment or settle the claims of the Boyd Estate, and soon we will learn if that gamble was in the best interests of the citizens of New Mexico.

The Boyd Estate claim can be found at www.nmcourts.gov/watercases/customer/file/img-110308155321.pdf

The Sierra Club provides updates on this legal struggle at nmsierraclub.org/water. The Feb. 3 update provides a good assessment of the potential implications of the Boyd Estate Issue, which is part of the LRGA, and we will provide additional updates on that aspect of the adjudication and the Pecan Settlement, another contentious aspect of the LRGA.

2011 national board election

The annual election for the Club's board of directors is now under way — you can learn more about the candidates in the online candidate forum and the candidate biographies and statements (pdf).

There's also more information in Clubhouse, including a letter to newsletter editors and webmasters.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels, and depends on your participation as a Club member.

The board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the executive director and staff to operate the Club. Please note: You can vote online even if you receive a paper ballot. Just follow the instructions on the ballot.

See www.sierraclub.org/bod/2011election/ for more information.

June Chapter Meeting

The Chapter's quarterly Conservation and Executive Committee meetings will be held June 4-5 at the Commons in Santa Fe. Contact Conservation Chair Ken Hughes or Chapter Chair John Buchser (see directory) for more information. Carpooling is encouraged.

You can make a difference

Want to find out what you can do about issues you've read about in *The Sierra*, or stay updated on local issues of wildlife, natural resources and climate? Go to our website, nmsierraclub.org, and subscribe to the chapter e-mail list. And if you're not a member yet, go to nmsierraclub.org and join us!

Also, the chapter is looking for a website volunteer and an assistant treasurer.

For assistant treasurer, prior bookkeeping/accounting experience and familiarity with Quick Books online reporting system is useful. Contact Mark Jones, 505-662-9443, jonesmm1@comcast.net, or Barbara Scheer, 575-622-6456, sheerassoc@yahoo.com.



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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.

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Citizen efforts protecting Valles Caldera

By Tom Ribe

Executive Director, Caldera Action

The yawning expanse of the Valles Caldera National Preserve in north-central New Mexico's Jemez Mountains has drawn generations to its streams, grasslands and wild forests. This outstanding remnant of a recent cataclysmic volcanic event has been cloaked in peace that belies its geologic and tumultuous human history.

The public is intensely interested in this fragile landscape, which was purchased by the federal government in 2000 from willing private owners. In 2000 when the Sierra Club and others lobbied Congress to put up funds to buy it, resistance from some conservative interests forced a compromise where the Valles Caldera would be operated by a government corporation (sort of like the Post Office) rather than being managed by an agency like the U.S. Forest Service or National Park Service.

Though still under the Forest Service budget umbrella, VCNP is operated by a nine-member, presidentially appointed Trust that supervises the preserve staff. This "experiment in land management" has had a multitude of intractable problems that have inspired continued citizen activism to revise the 2000 legislation that created the trust.

My organization, Caldera Action, has since 2007 led efforts to watchdog the Trust and seek protection and preservation of the Valles Caldera



Sen. Bingaman and Sen. Udall recently reintroduced a bill for Park Service management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve, pictured above.

while working with the New Mexico Congressional delegation to pass a bill that would transfer the VCNP to the National Park Service as a "preserve" (not a national park).

The National Park Service manages 18 other national preserves across the United States, and the preserve concept would allow the NPS to give Valles Caldera the high level of protection and interpretation for which the NPS is known while allowing some traditional uses like fishing and hunting.

In 2009, Sen. Bingaman introduced an excellent bill for Park Service management in the U.S. Senate. His bill passed the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which he

chairs, and awaited action by the full Senate, which was nearly paralyzed by partisanship. At the end of the Congressional session in December 2010, the Valles Caldera bill was included in a big Omnibus Public Lands bill that came up for a vote in the last hours of the "lame duck" session.

Objections by Sen. McCain and others caused Majority Leader Harry Reid to withdraw the Omnibus bill, and the Valles Caldera bill died with 100 other measures contained within the omnibus. Had this bill passed, it would have moved to the White House for signature without a need for a vote in the House of Representatives since the individual bills within it had largely

been considered in the House.

Rebirth

In early March 2011, Senators Bingaman and Udall reintroduced in the Senate the same bill for the Valles Caldera that had been considered in the previous Congress. This Congress will be far more difficult for all public-land conservation bills since several new senators with anti-conservation stances have joined the Senate and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Likewise, the House of Representatives is controlled by Republicans who already have directly attacked budgets for public lands, clean-air, and clean-water programs.

Caldera Action will resume a more nuanced and diversified effort to see the Valles Caldera National Preserve Management Act pass this Congress. With the retirement of Senator Bingaman looming in 2012, our efforts are urgent.

Caldera Action urges Sierra Club members to join efforts to press and support the new Valles Caldera bill in the U.S. Senate (SB564) and urge Congressmen Luján and Heinrich to introduce a similar bill in the House. Also please make comments to planning efforts currently underway at the Preserve through the Trust website: www.vallescaldera.gov. You may follow all of the Preserve's news through the excellent news blog at vallescaldera.com.

Ribe can be reached at info@caldera-action.org

A land out of step with time: Mora County

By Kathleen Dudley

Co-founder, Drilling Mora County

A land of beauty, clean air and water. A rare gem when "Nature today is considered a subsystem of the economy" yet "we cannot function without our ecosystems," says Chilean economist Manfred Max-Neef.

Unspoiled, Mora County sits at the brink of change; it is a land still possessing clean ecosystems few other lands hold intact.

Mora County sits atop a basin of extractable gases, according to the Ronald Broadhead Report, that at best supposes 3 percent total organic carbons (TOC) and on average less than 1 percent TOC. No doubt the low prices and small reserve protect both San Miguel and Mora Counties (they share this Las Vegas Basin) from natural-gas drilling today, yet as we have seen, industry raises prices at will, and we speculate do not halt their extraction until all their resources are withdrawn from beneath our feet, come hell or high water.

Unless ... there is a change in direction. Mora County has a new commission this year, and if its meetings are any indication of change in direction, this new leadership will pave the way for a refreshing model of possibilities in this land-based county rich

in fertile land, clean water, air and abundant wildlife.

Protecting these vital resources upon which the citizens depend for livelihood and a culture that predates corporate interests, commission chair Paula Garcia told a packed room at the March meeting "to not forget that while an economic development plan for Mora County is necessary, it must include holistic development, 'whole measures,' as indicators of health and wellbeing—the economic, human, spiritual and social wellbeing of the community," she said. "Mora County has demonstrated that people live well here, in part, due to our culture."

At a time when state and federal budgets are running in the red, there is little money to support counties such as Mora, whose needs far outweigh the tax revenue generated. But today is also not a time to tax the citizens further, the commission agreed.

In spite of the shortfall from government agencies, citizens continue to move forward in innovative ways. A local nonprofit group, Collaborative Visions, has been working to develop the agricultural and sustainable living possibilities in the county, from organic agriculture to biomass fuels for heating the Mora County Courthouse complex.

Drilling Mora County, an educational and proactive citizen group, has provided Mora County citizens with defensible documents and test results

reflecting recent baseline water-well testing for hydraulic fracturing chemicals should the oil industry begin fracking here.

Excitement over Community Rights Ordinances have become part of the local discussion in the county over the past few months based upon the courageous action taken by the Pittsburgh City Council in December 2010 to adopt a "Community Water Rights and Local Self-Government Ordinance" that prohibits industry from harming the citizens' water or interfering with their right to making governing decisions on a local level.

The work by the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund out of Pennsylvania is behind this ordinance and more than 120 such ordinances for communities across the United States that desire to protect their rights to clean air, land, water, and health from the ongoing egregious corporate activities that destroy ecosystems.

While battle is being waged elsewhere, Mora County citizens are weighing the consequences as seen in other communities. It is truly a time of preparedness, and Mora County is thoughtfully moving ahead as it always has, in time and pace with its knowing of Nature, and the heart and soul of the people. .

*www.drillingmoracounty.blogspot.com
drillingmoracounty@gmail.com*



What should the world look like?

By Jody Benson

As we look to our Jemez 11 years after the Cerro Grande Fire we see them Growing Green. But the land and vegetation is recovering primarily through the enormous community effort that went into its renewal. During The Fire, most of New Mexico stepped forward, first to get us out, and then to get us home. After The Fire, most of Los Alamos climbed on buses or hiked into The Burn to rake and shovel and break the baked earth so the rain would soak in, to scatter straw, build berms, plant trees, and rebuild trails.

After the work sessions, we would return—sooty, hands blistered, our socks prickling with straw—triumphant. We knew how we wanted our mountains to be; we had a vision, and together, we would create it.

Even though the drought continued for years and most of the trees we planted shriveled into sticks while bark beetles decimated the piñons, our dedication resulted in Vision Accomplished. Aspens, oak, and locust returned, and above the Quemazon now grow staggered rows of surviving trees.

Progress on environmental issues requires a community that cares and a neighborhood to take action. But in order to know what action to take, we must clearly define what we value and then craft a vision to actualize it.

So what about America? We don't define our values except in terms of deficit dollars. With no values, we can have no shared vision. With no shared vision, we're focusing only on who gets more. Nobody's talking about the greater good. We're simply quibbling, or stealing from each other, or feeling justified in starving our neighbor. So why not ask the question: What do we

want America to look like? And let's fund that vision.

What we're funding now is unregulated drilling, mining, sprawl expanding into public lands, contaminated resources, unrestricted vehicle access, smoke stacks, highways, dead dolphins, agribusiness, asphalt, deregulation, and tax cuts.

But what if our vision asserted clean air and water? How about public lands protected from private resource extraction, and maybe a healthy, educated population? We could fund wildlands where our species could interact with our fellow creatures in order to become more Homo sapiens and less Homo avaricious.

So what can we do? First, of course, is to remember why we are Sierrans, and to spend time relating to Mother Nature. With Mother to support us, we can step again into the fray, taking to heart advice from two of our legislators: It's time to get out and make as much noise as the Tea Party.

Granted, we don't have the coverage of major networks, or even the local paper, but neither did Tunisians or Egyptians. Many of us in the Pajarito Group are no longer young, and with no Facebook or texting skills. It doesn't matter. We need to let our nation know that our issues are as important as the right to bear arms.

Keep hitting the streets about your issues (we've seen each other at a few protests lately). If you don't know how to start a Facebook revolution, grab a kid to do the texting, and as you march, teach that kid what's important. Wolves, clean air, roadless areas—as well as that child beside you—are important. If we don't speak up, we'll lose it all. Los Alamos raked and seeded for the goal of recovery. Let's rake and seed again.

Smart students—Science Fair 2011

The insights and enthusiasm of the winners of the Pajarito Group's Special Environmental Awards for the 2011 Science Fair inspire us to remember the joy of asking questions and seeking answers about the natural world that we love.

The winners in the Elementary Category, Ainsley Thistlewaite and Bryce Gentile, each designed a solar water heater. Middle-schooler Jovan Zhang decided to measure how much both we and the environment could save if we line-dried our laundry. Our other LAMS winner, Katherine Wang, wondered how far ants roamed to

find food and how they communicated.

Senior Ryan Erickson succeeded in designing a solar-desalination device more portable than a truck-transported desalinators built by MIT. Senior Julia Murphy wondered if the county should remove or leave in place a giant boulder teetering above Diamond Drive.

All these winners have been invited to present their posters. Come encourage these students' curiosity, intelligence, and enthusiasm on Wednesday, April 6. As a community we can support them as they seek to understand how the world works.

PAJARITO GROUP DIRECTORY

riogrande.sierraclub.org/pajarito/mainpaj.asp

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Meetings and Events

Meetings

7 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, Upstairs Meeting Rooms, Mesa Public Library: **Winners of the Sierra Club's Environmental Award Present their Posters**

Please come and be astonished by the talent of our students as the 2011 Science Fair winners of the Pajarito Group Environment Awards present their posters. (See the list of students and their projects above.)

7 p.m. Wednesday, May 4, Upstairs Meeting Rooms, Mesa Public Library: **County Councilors Discuss Development**

The next four years will begin a new era for Los Alamos, with plans for development and growth. How will the County respond to LANS's proposed 20-year project/facility construction plan? What should we do with the

remaining DOE transfer lands? Two newly elected Los Alamos County Councilors, Geoff Rodgers and Ron Selvage, will discuss their vision for future development in Los Alamos County. Please come to hear their views and express your own in this informal venue.

7 p.m. Wednesday, June 1, Upstairs Meeting Rooms, Mesa Public Library: **Danny Katzman: Water Monitoring for the Buckman Diversion**

What projects are being implemented by LANL to mitigate transport of contaminated sediment in the Los Alamos/Pueblo Watershed? How does this benefit the City of Santa Fe's Buckman Direct Diversion Project's need to protect source water in the Rio Grande? Water Monitoring Program Manager Danny Katzman will present the Lab's actions to protect surface

water quality.

Other Events

Earth Day, Saturday, April 30, PEEC, 3540 Orange St.

"Growing Green" is the 2011 Earth Day theme. Our Group will again offer the opportunity to postcard our National and State Government to make our issues known. Your postcard will be entered into a drawing for cool Sierra stuff. Earth Day is also the invitation to volunteer at the booth, to help with the postcarding, sell hiking books, or to just hang out and share ideas. Please email Ilse Bleck at ibleck@yahoo.com to volunteer.

Free Admission to Bandelier from April 16 to 24: Another extraordinary invitation: from April 16 to 24, Bandelier National Monument will offer free admission.

Pajaritans Adopt-a-Trail: 6 p.m.

April 18

Pajaritans responded to Craig Martin's invitation to Adopt a Trail in time to be awarded the Quemazon. We will walk it, de-litter it, and report problems to 663-1776.

We can begin taking care of our new charge right now by paying attention to issues each time we hike it, but please attend the two-hour training at 6 p.m. April 18. Meet at the parking area at Pajarito School in the 3300 block of Arizona. Wear long pants and sturdy shoes, bring water and work gloves. Tools will be provided. For more information please see <http://www.losalamosnm.us/parks/trails/Pages/Adopt-A-Trail.aspx>

Outings: Please check the Outings listings for adventures in our area.

Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference

By Shrayas Jatkar

Associate regional representative

This year's national Good Jobs, Green Jobs conference was the best one yet, and New Mexico was well-represented: We were recognized on the opening day for having one of the biggest delegations this year with 21 people.

The Sierra Club played a lead role in recruiting the 1,500-plus attendees to the conference in Washington, DC. New Mexico's own Kristina Ortez de Jones — our youth organizer based in Taos — was in charge of the Sierra Club's national recruitment efforts, with a total of 300 Sierra Club member activists, Chapter leaders, staff, and allies participating. Sierra Club sponsored eight of the 21 New Mexicans at the conference, including:

Sierra Club volunteers Amber Harris and Maceo Martinet; Sierra Club staff Shrayas Jatkar; allies and partner organizations Laurie Weahkee (Native American Voters Alliance), Elisa Cundiff (Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce) and Allyson Siwik (Gila Resources Information Project); and youth participants Asha Stout and crew members with the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps.

Harris and Sierra Club Board President Robin Mann happened to sit next to each other at a Sierra Club luncheon the day before the conference started. From their conversation, Robin became excited about the Cool Biz program developed by volunteers in New Mexico and has already pitched the program as a potential model for clean-energy campaign work throughout the Sierra Club. Harris presented the Cool Biz program on a conference call with board members and other national Sierra Club leaders a few weeks after returning from the conference. Another Cool Biz connection was made with the head of the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce, which represents 450 businesses.

As a Sierra Club clean-energy and green-jobs organizer, I appreciate the opportunity to hear from labor leaders like Larry Cohen, head of Communication Workers of America. Cohen energized the crowd at one panel, hammering away at the Koch brothers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and explaining how big industry is attacking both workers' rights and environmental safeguards. Cohen made it clear that labor unions and environmental organizations must ramp up efforts toward a common agenda of "good jobs, a clean environment, and a green economy."

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson illustrated the economic benefits of Clean Air Act safeguards. "Say what you will about EPA's business sense, but we know how to earn a good return on our investment," Jackson said in explaining that the Clean Air Act has yielded \$40 in benefits for every \$1 of regulation.

The workshops on retrofitting buildings to be more energy-efficient were most relevant to my work in New Mexico. New ideas like Department of Energy loan guarantees for energy-efficiency upgrades at hospitals, schools, and commercial buildings drew considerable attention since Property Assessed Clean



Conservation chair Ken Hughes took this photo of a sign at a recent rally at the Santa Fe Capitol listing products sold by Koch Industries, whose owners are often at odds with both environmentalists and labor unions.



New Mexicans at the Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference in Washington, D.C.

Energy, or PACE, financing was quashed last year. I learned a lot from the experiments and lessons shared about growing demand, attracting high-road businesses, and training a workforce.

In New Mexico, building codes adopted in 2010 will achieve significant energy savings in new homes and commercial buildings. The large stock of existing buildings, however, continues to waste energy. The vast potential for energy and cost savings, improved comfort and indoor air quality, and good, green job

Sierra Clubbers speak at rallies

By Shrayas Jatkar

In response to attacks on workers' rights and environmental safeguards, New Mexico Sierra Club members have participated in many labor solidarity rallies organized outside the Roundhouse in Santa Fe during this legislative session. Members and activists as well as Chapter leaders and organizers have attended, and some spoke at the rallies on behalf of the Sierra Club.

In New Mexico, which boasts the third-largest movie industry in the U.S., the film and TV industries have been targeted, with the debate being whether to cut tax incentives for film and TV productions in New Mexico — a big source of clean jobs. Rio Grande Chapter leaders have developed good relationships with labor unions in working to create green-collar jobs in the clean-energy sector.

I spoke at one of the rallies and was very well received, with cheers and applause when "Sierra Club and all the conservationists" were mentioned by the head of the film workers' union. I used Sierra Club National President Robin Mann's Save the American Dream statement, which ralliers really appreciated. I had no problems giving away signs and buttons to union members, our members, and others. Several Sierra Club members introduced themselves and thanked us for speaking.

Why should environmentalists care about labor unions?

An excerpt from an essay by Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune on why the Club is supporting recent union and worker efforts across the nation:

Growing up in New Jersey, I was a huge fan of Bruce Springsteen (still am), and I've had the pleasure of seeing him perform live more than a few times. Years ago, Springsteen would kick off his encores with a pitch for a local food bank and end with his homespun credo: "And remember: Nobody wins unless everybody wins."

Believe it or not, that phrase actually became a

political issue in the 2009 gubernatorial race in New Jersey. Chris Christie, who professed to be a Springsteen devotee (apparently without listening to his lyrics), took issue with the Boss's call for fairness and equality. Now, as governor of New Jersey, Christie has cut pensions, laid off teachers, and seems to delight in antagonizing union workers who are struggling to make ends meet in these turbulent times.

Many of us, particularly in the labor and environmental movements, face similar challenges. I'm proud of the Sierra Club's role in forging a tighter bond

creation remains untapped until we develop a robust building-retrofit industry.

Attending these conferences only becomes meaningful once you begin applying some of the ideas and strategies back home. I am already working with the Albuquerque Energy Council, on which I serve, to explore ways we can leverage our "set-aside fund" in order to make larger investments in deep energy retrofits and renewable-energy installations on municipal buildings.

between the environmental and labor movements. We call it the Blue Green Alliance, and it's a natural fit, because hard hats and tree-huggers share fundamental goals and values, including the right to safe and healthy working conditions and the creation of good clean-tech jobs in America and abroad.

Martin Luther King Jr. put it best: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." If America's workers lose their voice, then corporate polluters will have won a giant victory, and all Americans will end up paying a price.

Global Population and Environment Fellowship

Iain Deason

Chapter intern

What does population have to do with the environment? Everything.

This and other questions were presented when a collection of national social and environmental advocates were challenged to make a change through the Global Population and Environment Fellowship Program.

I was one of a group of 11 young social and climate activists in a Sierra Club-sponsored training in the national office in the heart of bustling downtown Washington D.C.

“Considering that over 50 percent of the world’s population is under the age of 25, we recognize the critical role that today’s youth will play in the future of our planet.” said Kimberly Lovell, the national conservation organizer who led the fellowship. We learned that many overlaps exist between the world of environmental sustainability and population growth, and what the significance of our generation is.

Within our lifetimes the planet is expected to reach a population between 8 billion and 11 billion; the former is significantly more conducive to a healthy environment. The United States does play a role in helping organizations across the international scope, but with Congress stymied, it is up to constituents to take action to address these issues with their legislators.

The fellowship started in 2007 to help youth environmental activists consider population growth’s environmental ramifications and think about ways we can affect our local elected officials.

“Helping young people understand the complex intersections between



Youth Population Fellows in front of the Washington Monument. Top row from left to right: Karyn Smoot, Adam Hasz, Shantrell Jackson, Jana Eilermann, Joe Harrity, Steve Pesavento, Iain Deason Bottom row: Aliza Grossberg, Emily Saari, Rachel Aitkins, Katie Gibson.

population and the environment—and training youth to take action, advocate, and lobby for solutions that integrate these links—is a primary goal of our Fellowship Program.” said Lovell.

Through rigorous introspection and learning exercises at the training, new ideas started to develop and many “aha” moments were had by all. Media presentations included data from countries across the world and examples where Milky Ways, Twixes and other delectable treats represented the amount of energy discrepancies that exist across the world.

We heard from professionals from

Population Action International and the U.S. Agency for International Development as well as from organizers with the Sierra Club’s national Population and the Environment campaign. They spoke about the topic’s broad implications and aspects, including poverty, women’s rights and environmental justice; they also presented strategies to address the many challenges we face.

We must consider how to transition these ideas into actionable plans back in our communities and campuses.

With a new arsenal of information and planning, the fellows gave our farewells, fought tears, and parted

ways, returning to our own regions to start projects and inspire others.

I will use the opportunity to create a dialogue around the approaching world population increase to 7 billion; several indoor and outdoor art pieces will be presented to illustrate how healthy families can lead to a healthy environment.

To learn more about the Sierra Club’s Global Population and Environment Program, visit www.sierraclub.org/population.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved, contact Iain Deason, icdeason@gmail.com.

DON'T FORGET!

In March we sent out an appeal to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to our Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter’s budget. When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club’s work in our own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able - and remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible.

Donate at nmsierraclub.org/donate or send your check made out to Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter: 28 Cedar Dr. Roswell, NM 88203

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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Robert Gray



NORTHERN GROUP

ANNUAL SUMMER SOLSTICE POTLUCK PARTY

6 to 9 PM, Saturday, June 18

The Commons, 2300 West Alameda, Santa Fe

You are invited to join us at our annual summer solstice potluck party. There is always plenty of delicious food. Visit with your friends, meet new people and hear about the club's successes. Social hour is 6 to 7 PM, dinner is 7 to 7:30 PM, and a program from 7:30 to 8:30 PM. There is a limit of 50 people for this event – and so reservations are required.

Please bring a main meat or veggie dish, salad, dessert, wine, beer, or fruit juice (sufficient for eight people per attendee) and indicate which you choose when you RSVP for yourself and any guests you are bringing to Alice Cox (505-757-2145 or auntiealice@cybermesa.com) or Jean Watts (505-989-5010 or jeanwatts@comcast.net).

For updates on the program or to view a map, go to northern.nmsierraclub.org/northern-group-summer-solstice-party-june18.

This is a free member event, but nonmembers are most welcome to join us by becoming a member at the door or joining online via our website. The annual fee for new members is only \$15, which includes a Sierra Club rucksack.

ACTIVIST OUTINGS

Saturday, June 4 - Join long time San Cristobal resident and activist Peggy Nelson in a hike up San Cristobal Creek on the west side of the **Columbine Hondo WSA**. We are working to protect this high mountain terrain in the Carson National Forest that is important for its watersheds and lush forests. Moderate, 8-mile trek, on a steepish trail, with stream crossings. Learn more about the flora, fauna and culture of this beautiful area. For info and reservation, call Norma McCallan (505-471-0005)

Saturday April 9 - Willow and cottonwood planting along **Torreón Wash** (north of Cabezon Peak) with the Ojo Encino Navajo Chapter. For more information and reservations, see page 5.

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://northern.nmsierraclub.org>

SANTA FE COUNTY COMMISSION SUPPORTS BAN OF "INHUMANE TRAPS"

On February 22, the Santa Fe County Commission adopted a resolution to support the ban of inhumane animal traps on public land in New Mexico, while groups, cities and counties increasingly call for the removal of these devices. These traps include steel-jaw leg-hold traps, strangulation snares, and other versions of such traps.

In New Mexico, trappers are allowed to place their traps within 25 yards of trails and roads on public lands. They can be placed a quarter mile from campgrounds, rest stops and picnic areas. Targeted wildlife, such as bobcat and fox, often chew off the trapped limb to escape, and thousands of non-targeted animals are trapped every year, including dogs and cats, who are injured or killed. The Commission took a strong stand to recognize the indiscriminate nature of these traps in their resolution.

"This vote is a recognition that these devices are cruel and indiscriminate," said Teresa Seamster, county resident. "And that they can

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PARTY FOR NORTHERN NEW MEXICO GROUP

6 to 8 PM, Friday, May 6

Hilton Santa Fe, 100 Sandoval Street

This special invitation only event will recognize the many members from the Northern New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club who have volunteered during 2010. There will be hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

Please RSVP: Alice Cox (505-757-2145, auntiealice@cybermesa.com) or Jean Watts (505-989-5010, jeanwatts@comcast.net).

For a map, go to <http://northern.nmsierraclub.org/northern-group-volunteer-recognition-event-may6>.



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

Group Executive Committee: First Tuesday of every month at 7 PM
 April 5, May 3, June 7, July 5

Group Conservation Committee: Fourth Tuesday of every odd month
 May 24, July 26 – at 7 PM

harm not only wildlife but people and their pets when they are on public land."

Similar resolutions have been passed by the Doña Ana County Commission, Silver City Town Council, Town of Mesilla, and Animal Service Center of Mesilla Valley.

These traps are already illegal in the neighboring states of Colorado and Arizona on their public lands. In the West, California and Washington also prohibit these devices statewide. The New Mexico Game Commission opened the trapping rules for review last year, and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is now taking comments at: nmdept.ofgameandfish@state.nm.us

For more information on trapping, visit our wildlife webpage at <http://nmsierraclub.org/wildlife>. ~ David Van Winkle

♦ ♦ NORTHERN NEW MEXICO GROUP LEADERS ♦ ♦

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Book Mailer - Gail Bryant		757-6654
Sierran Dist-Mary Ann Wamhoff/Dean Wootonsomasphere	earthlink.net	629-9210
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Alternate – Tom Gorman		438-3932
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Newsletter – Kay Carlson	kcarlsonwp@earthlink.net	982-3926
Nominating Committee – Alice Cox *	auntiealice@pecosplaza.com	505-757-2145
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Royal Drews *	royala300@aol.com	505-699-8713
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Publicity – Kia Mudge		474-6697
Volunteers – Patricia Carlton	carlton505@comcast.net	988-1596

SF River Cleanups – Kathleen Davis	kdav40@aol.com	505-795-3286
Social Cohesion – Jean Watts *	jeanwatts@comcast.net	989-5010
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Farmington Branch – Art Jaquez	artjaquez@yahoo.com	505-326-5229
Nick Cullander	ncullander@hotmail.com	505-334-0935
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Activist Outings – Norma McCallan * ‡	nmccallan@mindspring.com	471-0005
Santa Fe Nat'l Forest – Tom Gorman * ‡		438-3932
Mining – Cliff Larsen	clarsen1@ix.netcom.com	466-2128
Cool Cities Campaign – OPEN – HELP WANTED		
Cool Biz – OPEN		
Eco Footprints – Brian Skeele	brianvida@nm.net	984-1739
Green Building – OPEN		
Resources – Ken Hughes ‡	b1family@comcast.net	474-0550
Educational Outreach – Teresa Seamster *	tcseam@qwest.net	466-8964
Water – Sig Silber ‡	ssilber1@juno.com	473-7006
Wildlife/Nat'l Parks/Rangelands - Roger Peterson ‡	rogpete@aol.com	983-7559

* Northern Group Executive Committee
 ‡ Core Conservation Committee



NORTHERN GROUP

CONSERVATION CHAIR REPORT Dexter Coolidge

One of the pleasures of active involvement in the Club is in time spent with other Club members. In February I committed to going to the EPA hearing in Farmington regarding proposed restrictions on NOX emissions from the San Juan Generating Station. The Rio Grande Chapter has worked for years on reducing pollution from that plant. We successfully sued PNM to force it to install pollution control equipment, with the result that the air in New Mexico is much cleaner than it was a few years ago. Now the EPA is proposing another step to make it even cleaner, with Selective Catalytic Reduction technology. This would be a major advance in our long battle, and we want to make sure the EPA sticks to its guns.

Yet I wasn't looking forward to the trip: three-and-a-half hours each way, hours of tedious testimony, another night away from home. How wrong I was! The drive from Albuquerque to Farmington was stunningly beautiful, with the sun just right on those magnificent hills. Even better, I had terrific company driving with Tom Gorman, and lively, engaging conversation the whole way. Once we got there, there were many environmentalists whom we had gotten to know over the years and a strong sense of community. To cap it off, the environmentalists made a strong showing with our testimony and successfully made the case for stronger controls. All in all, it was a deeply satisfying and enjoyable trip.



SIERRA CLUB OFFICE IN SANTA FE

The Sierra Club office is open each Wednesday 1 to 4 PM. It is off Second Street in a small office complex, just past the traffic light at La Lena Street and before the railroad tracks, if coming from Cerrillos Road. Turn into the driveway at the entrance of El Patio (formerly Cloud Cliff), go past the restaurant to the next building on the left. Our office is on the second floor, #45. This building has trees, benches and sculptures in the front yard. Parking is beyond, on the left.

OUTINGS EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Tobin Oruch, Outings Co-Chair for our Group, has created an excellent weekly email on outings that provides information on near term outings plus useful outdoor information, like trail conditions. He also includes photos from recent hikes to the beautiful locations that our outing leaders have recently visited. We now have 160 people signed up for the email, come join the fun. To subscribe, email from desired email account to Listserv@lists.sierraclub.org with any subject and a message body that says SUBSCRIBE RIO-NORTH-OUTINGS.

WEEKLY RADIO PROGRAM

Tune in to our program on FM 101.5 every Friday at 9:15 AM to hear the latest environmental hot topics and outings with John Buchser, Chapter Chair, and other Sierra representatives.

Project 101.5 is also a great rock and roll channel!

OUR WEBSITE IS <http://northern.nmsierraclub.org>.
Webpage views are up 100x compared to the old website.

SANTA FE RIVER CLEANUP AND VEGETATION MAINTENANCE

Saturdays - 9 to 11 AM
April 16 · May 28 · June 18

Please join our river cleanups for 2011 !!!! Meet at Closson Street footbridge. Wear long pants, bring work boots, gloves and drinking water. Leader will supply trash bags and gloves.

Confirm prior to cleanup date to:

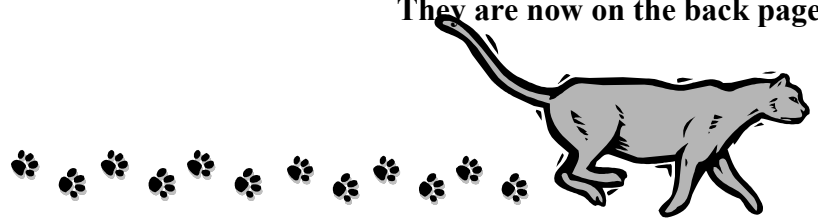
April 16 - Kathleen Davis (795-3286, kdav40@gmail.com)

May 28 - Paige Grant (paigeanna@comcast.net, 982-4081)

National River Clean Up Day - Afterwards, join the festivities at Alto Park hosted by the Santa Fe Watershed Association, including a fishing clinic.

June 18 - Greg Lower (glower@lanl.gov, 699-6893)

WHERE ARE THE NORTHERN GROUP OUTINGS? They are now on the back page



VOLUNTEERS ♥ VOLUNTEERS ♥ VOLUNTEERS

Hike Book Distributor - to assist Chuck Deucy in distributing our Day Hikes book to local bookstores, working on invoices, and following up on receipts. Chuck is working 2 jobs now and needs help to fulfill book orders in a timely and accurate fashion. Contact Chuck (505-204-6859, duecyiii@yahoo.com) or Norma McCallan (471-0005, nmccallan@mindspring.com)

Public Lands Activists - Work with other experienced conservationists to protect our public lands and wildlife. Projects include off-road vehicle issues in Carson & Santa Fe National Forests and protection of unique geological features in San Juan Basin Badlands - Tom Gorman (438-3932) or Norma McCallan (471-0005, nmccallan@mindspring.com)

PR Help - Need 1-2 people to help get out announcements of our public events. This is a key task for our environmental work, and our current volunteer leaves shortly! Contact Kia Mudge (474-6697) or Norma McCallan (471-0005, nmccallan@mindspring.com)

Phone Bank - Need several people to add to our cadre of people who would contact members by phone about various important issues. If you are interested, e-mail northern.group.nm@sierraclub.org

FACEBOOK/TWITTER

Join the other 500 fans for our page and get your latest environmental news by becoming a fan of the Rio Grande Chapter page on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sierra-Club-Rio-Grande-Chapter/122558948433>.

Also, check out our twitter page at: twitter.com/nmsierraclub

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, Swainson's Hawk shown here, 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) to make your donation and get a Richard Sloan print.

—Dan Lorimier

**Swainson's
Hawk**





San Juan Basin Badlands photo contest

By Michael Richie

The first step in gaining enhanced protection for five completely unprotected BLM badland areas west of Cuba has been taken. The fate of Mesa De Cuba, Mesa Chuijuilla, Mesa Penistaja, Ceja Pelon Petrified Forests, and Cejita Blanca is in the public's hands.

The San Juan Basin Badlands Coalition's efforts have ensured that the Rio Puerco Field Office's new Resource Management Plan Review draft contains strong provisions for increased protection for these badlands.

The 90-day comment period for this RMP draft begins in mid-April and runs through mid-July. It is time for the Coalition to energize its respective members to make "substantive comments" on behalf of these unique areas.

This past fall I conducted 16 badlands "Activist Hikes" involving participants from a wide array of groups, including the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, Native Plant Society of New Mexico, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, the Wilderness Society, the New Mexico Mountain Club and the Enchanted Lens Camera Club.

To broaden public-outreach efforts, we will hold a Badlands photo contest



The Badlands photo contest is designed to increase outreach and awareness of the public-comment period on the Resource Management Plan Review draft. Photo by Michael Richie.

involving the Cuba Area Badlands. Albuquerque-based Artistic Image Gallery and Enchanted Lens Camera Club offered enthusiastic support.

Photography is both an art and a powerful educational tool: One picture is worth a thousand words, as they say. New Mexico's most accomplished photographers have agreed to use their art to educate and energize the public regarding the need to protect the San

Juan Basin Badlands in the Cuba area. The contest is open to the public and will culminate June 3 with a "Winners Show" gallery opening and Badlands Activist Rally at the Artistic Image Gallery timed to coincide with both the Nob Hill Artscrawl and the BLM's public-comment period. The Winners Show will feature 40 badlands images. In order to maximize the educational value, winners will be chosen from

each of the Cuba-area badlands in the RMP draft and from two categories of competition: Artistic/Landscape and Educational.

Addition of an Educational category was designed to widen the types of images eligible, the kinds of photographers who might compete, and the type of visual information reaching the public. For example, geological, paleontological and botanical themes are included here as well as macro (extreme closeup) images, recreational "action shots," even documentation of environmental destruction from wood-cutting, grazing or ORV use. These images will be accompanied by a paragraph of explanation, making them an even richer educational experience for the public.

I led six photo hikes in March, one to each of the badlands under consideration to shoot the badlands during the "magic hours" of early morning and late afternoon.

Attend the Badlands Photo Contest Winners Show and Activist Rally at the Artistic Image Gallery in Albuquerque during the Nob Hill Artscrawl event on Saturday, June 3. Go to www.PhotoartNM.com for more details or e-mail mrichie@comcast.net.

Central Group

Gail Ryba Memorial Bridge

By Jeff Potter

In 2010, the City of Albuquerque completed a key link in its great bicycle-route system with the addition of the Gail Ryba Memorial I-40 Bridge, along the north side of I-40 over the Rio Grande.

It was completed in 2010 and provides a crucial link across the Rio Grande for west-side bicyclists. Gail, who passed away in 2010, would be proud.

To many Rio Grande Chapter members, Gail was an inspiring example of an activist. From Norma McCallan's tribute to Gail: "She helped advocate that the electric utility PNM supply compact fluorescent light bulbs through schools, churches, and public events, and in return Sierra Club would distribute them for free. Tens of thousands of light bulbs distributed, hundreds of folks save on electric bills, and untold pounds of CO2 avoided, are all thanks to Gail's insight and encouragement."

Gail was also very active in the bicycling community "to promote bicycling at city hall or N.M. Dept. of Transportation, and scheme about promoting energy efficiency before the Legislature or at the PRC."

From Dexter Coolidge: "At the beginning of 2008 the State Legislature passed a law, designed by the Sierra Club and other members of the Coalition for Clean Affordable Energy, under the leadership of the late Gail Ryba, to change the approach to reimbursement for electric utilities in the state. Previously, utilities made more profit when they sold more electricity. This is exactly the opposite of what is needed to address climate change."

The climate in New Mexico is really ideal for bicycling year-round, and many people are seen

riding even in the coldest weather. With spring here and longer days, warm weather and Daylight Saving Time now in effect, there is no excuse. For your health, for the good feeling and for our environment, you really should make an effort to leave your car home and bike to work or to run a local errand. In Albuquerque, there is a great cycling community that includes many recreational and also commuting cyclists. Although not perfect, the Albuquerque metro area has a safe network of trails and bike lanes to get you across the city.

Albuquerque has a network of designated bike paths throughout the city, the longest and most scenic being Paseo Del Bosque Trail. The city and county officials seem to be good about supporting bicyclists, and the future looks bright for a high-quality interconnected bike system in Albuquerque with the City committed to support future paths through bond-issue funding.

To see the network of extensive bike routes, the City of Albuquerque web site CABQ.gov has lots of information and maps. Where to begin? visit www.cabq.gov/bike.

There is a cool interactive map at www.cabq.gov/gis/bikemap.html too.

The City of Albuquerque has more than 400 miles of bike paths and trails, with more in the works. For great exercise and beautiful surroundings, there is an extensive mountain-bike trail system along the foothills of the Sandia Mountains. Access points include the Elena Gallegos Open Space and the Michael Emory Trailhead at the east end of Spain Road.

Get out and enjoy the great spring weather.

CENTRAL GROUP DIRECTORY

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Eva Thaddeus: Co-Chair, Secretary, Climate Change Chair evathad@nmia.com, 505-266-9646

David Ther: Treasurer, Outings Chair grebik@gmail.com, 505-260-1553.

Jeff Potter, 505/897-8621, jpotter@unm.edu

The Executive Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Call for location.

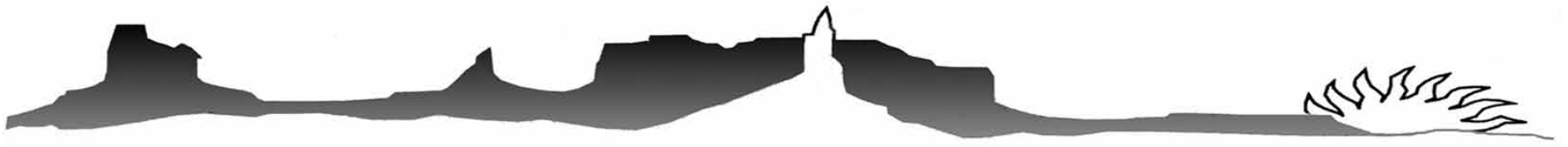
Low-Carbon Diet

By Sallie McCarthy

The Mission of the Low-Carbon Diet Team is to help slow and ultimately reverse global climate change by minimizing the "carbon footprint" of Albuquerque's residential sector. We also intend to build neighborhood Community Action Teams that remain focused on and engaged in implementing clean-energy solutions to global climate change. Objectives:

- Recruit households to participate in gatherings.
 - Recruit households to host house gatherings
 - Recruit members for Community Action Teams.
- We put some measurements on these objectives :
- 90 households will participate
 - Of the 90, 10 households will engage in hosting.

We had four house gatherings, with 18 households represented. In addition, the REI gatherings generated 10 households, the LWV 22 and the Climate Masters class generated 17, for a total of 67 households. We identified three possible hosts. Thanks to the committee, Mary Westerlund and Stacy Snyder, for all their good work.



TXDOT to El Paso: 'My Way or the Highway'

The following is from El Paso City Council District 2 Representative Susie Byrd's March 17 blog. Although TxDOT's present comment period ends April 1, the El Paso Group is pushing for a full Environmental Impact Statement on this project.—ed.

TXDOT says we have two choices. We can take their \$85 million and build a four-lane freeway with two lanes of frontage on each side and four overpasses running up side the mountain. Or we can doom our citizens to a safety hazard of a road because if we don't like their idea they are sending the money back to Austin.

The *El Paso Times* says that development along the proposed Transmountain freeway is inevitable. Nothing we can do about it but sit idly by and let it happen. The freeway is inevitable and crappy freeway development and suburban sprawl up the side of our mountain is inevitable.

Or is it? It is if we make decisions as a community and a City Council under coercion from TXDOT. It is if we accept false choices. Is that the way to build a great city?

But if we want different choices, we need to take the time to demand other choices. And we don't have much time. So what are other choices? First we need to know what the problem is.

The biggest problem that needs to be resolved is a safety issue. Right now, two lanes of roadway going west transition abruptly into one lane. Turning movements on and off of Transmountain West are perilous. Also as land develops close to I-10, there are property owners with unlimited access to the Transmountain presenting a potential hazard if they decide to build driveways onto the main lanes of traffic wherever they choose.

The other problem is that the one lane in each direction on the West side of the mountain is not enough capacity for the cars using that road today, leading to delays, congestion and some aggressive driving. So we need to solve the safety issue, and we need to expand the capacity of the roadway. Is the

Executive Committee

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TXDOT threw a boulevard out as an option primarily because they didn't think it had enough capacity to handle the projected volumes of traffic. The problem is that they used outdated information to make their case.

freeway the only road type that does this? No.

A boulevard is an option that TXDOT modeled as an alternative to the freeway in their Environmental Assessment. A boulevard has features similar to a freeway in that there is limited access to the main through lanes. These through lanes are mostly for regional trips. The boulevard also features local roads alongside it to accommodate local traffic movements, similar to frontage roads but slower, less wide and safer and more comfortable for pedestrians and bicyclists. The biggest difference between the boulevard and the freeway is that a boulevard doesn't have grade-separated overpasses and instead handles traffic through managed intersections. A boulevard could fit into the existing 200 feet of TXDOT right-of-

way, whereas the proposed freeway will be 370 feet wide. (The current roadway is about 40 feet wide.)

TXDOT threw this out as an option primarily because they didn't think it had enough capacity to handle the projected volumes of traffic. The problem is that they used outdated information to make their case. TXDOT indicated that the current traffic volumes on Transmountain today is 17,000 cars per day. TXDOT estimated that in 2015 when the project is completed the car volume would increase to 40,000, a 57% increase in traffic volumes. TXDOT estimates that in 2035 the car trips per day would increase to 71,000. Problem is that the latest and greatest numbers show that only 18,000 cars will make this trip in 2020 and only 31,000 in 2035. Using

the new numbers, the most recently adopted numbers, a boulevard holds up very well.

A boulevard also handles many of the safety concerns by eliminating the transition at high speeds from two lanes to one lane. Since it features local road alongside it, it resolves the issue of property owners building driveways directly onto the main lanes. In addition, pedestrians and bicyclists would feel safer and be safer walking or pedaling next to slow traffic on local roads rather than on fast traffic moving on frontage roads. When is the last time you thought to yourself that you would like to take a walk on frontage roads next to I10? So the boulevard is a choice. Not TXDOT's choice, but a choice for resolving our mobility and safety issues in that area.

Another choice offered up by a group of determined El Pasoans is to let them have their freeway but to minimize the environmental impact by not building the last overpass closest to the mountain and to preserve the 900 acres of Public Service Board land that straddles that section of Transmountain. Their goal is to keep Transmountain scenic in the areas that the public has control over.

That land is owned by the City of El Paso and there is nothing inevitable about it having to be developed. The public, you and I, can make a choice not to develop that section because it is more valuable to us as open space than it is as freeway development. If that last overpass closest to the State Park is built, it will set in place the line of development for all of the land north of it to the State line. Not building that overpass will create a pattern where most of the development occurs closer to I-10.

So demand a choice. El Paso deserves real choices. Do we want TXDOT to build our City? Or are we going to do the hard work of building our city, guided by our own values and priorities? It is our choice.

To Contribute to the Rio Grande Sierran

The Rio Grande Sierran is published four times a year – January, April, July and October – 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

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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. Notify Norma McCallan (nmccallan@mindspring.com) of your interest and mailing address; send check to our Treasurer, Barbara Scheer, 28 Cedar Drive, Roswell, NM 88203. Please allow eight weeks for processing. For extra copies e-mail monablaber@gmail.com.

Pajarito Group

APRIL

9 Tree planting at Torreon Wash—plant cottonwoods and willows with the Ojo Encino Navajo Chapter & Rio Puerco Alliance along Torreon Wash (north of Cabezon Peak). Michael di Rosa (667-0095(w), 663-0648(h)).

16 Moderate Loop in Los Alamos: Los Alamos Canyon/Knapp/Quemazon/Devaney. Good birding opportunity. 9 miles, 1500' gain. Michael Di Rosa 667-0095 (w), 663-0648 (h).

MAY

5 Valles Caldera spring highway cleanup. Meet at Ponderosa Campground at 4:30 p.m., carpool to our stretch of road at the Valles Caldera. Bring work gloves (bags supplied). David Gemeinhart (505/662-6267).

22 Strenuous hike, possibly bike-and-hike to Caballo Peak, Michael Di Rosa 667-0095 (w) and 663-0648 (h). Check website in May for details.

JULY

2 Strenuous hike to South Truchas Peak. 13 miles, 4000' cumulative up. Michael Di Rosa (667-0095 (w), 663-0648 (h)).

Northern Group

The Northern Group has a weekly Outings Email with updates and news. To subscribe, e-mail Listserv@lists.sierraclub.org with any subject and a message body that says SUBSCRIBE

APRIL

2 Moderate/Strenuous Loop Hike into White Rock Canyon (with car shuttle). Down Ancho Rapids Trail, follow river to Frijoles Canyon, up on Falls Trail to Bandelier Visitor Center. 8+ miles, 700' gain. Some rough off trail sections, some steep sections with poor footing. Limit of 12 hikers. Norbert Sperlich (505-474-4354).

3 Strenuous Hike to Tapia Canyon near Grants. Slot canyon, arch, ruins. 14 miles, 2000' gain. Off trail, scrambling, long drive, very early start. High-clearance vehicles needed. 1-2 dogs ok. Tobin Oruch (505-820-2844).

9 Mod/Strenuous Loop Hike – up Tesuque Creek, down Chamisa Trail and Trails 232 and 399. 9 miles, 1500' gain. Many stream crossings. Dogs ok. Dan Rusthoi (505-690-8967)

9 Tree Planting at Torreon Wash - Plant cottonwoods and willows with the Ojo Encino Navajo Chapter & Rio Puerco Alliance along Torreon Wash (north of Cabezon Peak). Meet in Santa Fe, carpool to Torreon Wash via Bernalillo. Norma McCallan (505-471-0005).

10 Easy Hike on Borrego/Bearwallow loop. 4 miles, 760' gain. Dogs ok. Alan Shapiro (424-9242 or nm5s@yahoo.com).

16 Santa Fe River Cleanup—see p. 13 for details.

16 Moderate Loop near Los Alamos—Los Alamos Canyon/Knapp/Quemazon/Devaney. Good birding opportunity. 9 miles, 1500' gain. Michael Di Rosa (505-667-0095 (w), 505-663-0648 (h)).

17 Strenuous Hike to Cat Mesa (near Jemez Springs). 12 miles RT, 1700' gain. Some off trail, some steep sections with poor footing. Bogdan Mihaila (505-795-3316).

23 Trail Work day on St. Peter's Dome Trail near Sanchez Canyon (Dome Wilderness). We'll be instructed by a USFS ranger, and maybe joined by some members of NM Volunteers for the Outdoors. We will do trail clearing and drainage improvement.

Tools and safety glasses provided; bring your own work gloves. RT hiking to and from work area about 4 miles. Daisy Levine (505-466-8338).

23 Moderate Hike to Los Griegos Ridge. 8 miles RT, 1300' gain. Dogs ok. Dan Rusthoi (505-690-8967).

24 Moderate Hike to La Vega. 7 miles RT, 1500' gain. Les Drapela (505-438-3306).

30 Strenuous Hike on Rio en Medio/La Junta Loop. 13 miles, 2900' gain, fairly fast pace, many stream crossings. Limit of 8 hikers, one or two dogs. Mary Thompson (505-469-6499, mxtmary@yahoo.com).

30 Moderate Hike to East Fork of Jemez and Box Canyon, with car shuttle. Limit of 10 hikers. Well behaved dogs ok. 5+ miles, 720' gain. Miguel DeLuca (505-820-0042).

MAY

1 Moderate/Strenuous Loop Hike to Gates of Hell and Window Rock. 9 + miles RT, 1000' gain. Some off-trail sections. Dogs ok. Cynthia Good (505-699-2717).

7 Strenuous Loop Hike to Glorieta Baldy and Thompson Peak. 18 miles, 3000' gain, some off trail, 1 or 2 dogs ok. Tobin Oruch (505-820-2844).

8 Moderate Hike to Wild Rivers, north of Taos. 7+ miles, 1200' gain, steep and rocky trail sections. Long drive. Limit of 12 hikers. Norbert Sperlich (505-474-4354).

14 Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Rabbit Hill (between Capulin and Alamo Canyon). 10 miles RT, 1200' gain, some off trail. Bogdan Mihaila (505-795-3316).

14-22 Easy/moderate hikes on a car camping loop in Utah's redrock country, probably in the Henry Mountains/Capitol Reef/Escalante area. Norma McCallan (505-471-0005).

15 Moderate Hike to Raven's Ridge overlook. 4 miles, 1500' gain. Alan Shapiro (505-424-9242, nm5s@yahoo.com).

21 Strenuous Hike to Sandia Crest and Upper Tram Terminal (La Luz Trail). Hike up, return on the tram. 9 miles, 4,200' gain. Limit 10 hikers. No dogs. Tram fee \$12. Miguel DeLuca (505-820-0042).

22 Strenuous Bike-and-Hike through gorgeous meadows to Caballo Peak. Call leader for details or check Northern Group website in May. Michael Di Rosa (505-667-0095w, 505-663-0648 h).

28 National River Cleanup Day/ Santa Fe River Cleanup. See p. 13 for details.

28 Moderate Hike near Ojo Caliente. 7 miles, 700' gain. Dogs ok. Possible soak afterwards. Dan Rusthoi (505-690-8967).

29 Moderate Hike along the Santa Barbara West Fork, Pecos Wilderness. 8+ miles, 1000' gain. Dogs okay. Hike up a beautiful canyon to an open meadow with views of the higher peaks. Canny Green (505-699-4747, cinny@cinnycan.com).

29 Strenuous Hike to Hermit Peak and Porvenir Canyon. 14 miles, 2850' gain. Fairly fast pace, many stream crossings. Limit of 8 hikers, one or two dogs. Mary Thompson (505-469-9499, mxtmary@yahoo.com).

JUNE

4 Strenuous Hike to Gold Hill, near Taos, 12 miles, 4000' gain. Up Long Canyon, return on Gavilan Trail. Early start, 1-2 dogs ok. Tobin Oruch (505-820-2844).

4 Moderate Hike along San Cristobal Creek, north of Taos, with guest leader Peggy Nelson. 8 miles in a lush forest, steepish trail, stream crossings. Norma McCallan 505-471-0005. More details p.13

5 Moderate Hike to La Vega with lunch potluck.

7 miles, 1500' gain. Wildflowers! Rochelle Gerratt (505-795-3254).

11 Strenuous Hike to San Antonio Mountain (10,900'), near Colorado border. Long drive, great views. 6 + miles RT, 2300' gain. Mostly off trail. Dogs ok. Page Press (505-946-0169).

12 Moderate Hike to Cerro Grande and Valle Grande. Some steep sections. 7 miles, 1800' gain. Great views, wildflowers. Cynthia Good (505-699-2717).

18 Santa Fe River Cleanup—see p.13 for details.

18 Strenuous Hike to Brazos Cabin, Pecos Wilderness. 11 miles, 2500' gain. Dogs ok. Dan Rusthoi (505-690-8967).

19 Moderate Hike to Rio En Medio waterfalls. 5 miles, 800' gain. Art Judd (505-982-3212).

25 Moderate Hike to the caves on Cave Creek, Pecos Wilderness. 4+ miles RT, 500' gain. Limit of 10 hikers, dogs ok. Miguel DeLuca (505-820-0042).

25 Moderate/Strenuous hike to Schoolhouse Mesa, Jemez Mountains. 10 miles RT, 900' gain. Bogdan Mihaila (505-795-3316).

26 Strenuous Hike to Jicarita Peak, Pecos Wilderness. 11 miles RT, 2450 gain. Daisy Levine (505-466-8338).

JULY

2 Strenuous Hike to South Truchas Peak. 13 miles, 4000' gain. Michael Di Rosa (505-667-0095 (w), 505-663-0648 (h)).

3 Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Nambe Lake. 7 miles, 2100' gain. Some steep, rocky sections. Les Drapela (505-438-3306).

Unless otherwise noted, Northern Group Outings leave from our office, 1807 2nd St., Santa Fe. See Sierra Club Office, page 13, for directions.

When carpooling, it is routine for each rider to pay the driver 10 cents/mile rounded down to nearest dollar, or 7.5 cents/mile when 100 or more miles and 3 or more riders.

Southern Group

APRIL

16 Moderate all-day walk along the stream in Railroad Canyon. You might get your feet wet! Margot Wilson (575-744-5860).

MAY

21 Visit the the mud cave, aka Robinson Cave, near Kingston. Bring lunch and all the rest for a day out. Margot Wilson (575-744-5860).

JUNE

18 Join Margot for the annual trek up Hillsboro Peak. Leave the parking area in front of the Forest Service at 8:00, or meet up at the General Store in Hillsboro. at 8:45. Be prepared for a day out. Margot Wilson (575-744-5860).

These Southern Group hikes leave the parking area in front of the Forest Service Office in TorC at 8:00, or meet up at the General Store in Hillsboro at 8:45.

El Paso Group

APRIL

17 Strenuous-moderate Hillsboro Peak Hike, Black Range, Gila Nat'l Forest. 10 miles, about 1900' gain. Harry Newman (h_k_n@hotmail.com).

OUTINGS NOTE: Check all Groups' websites for updated or new outings information.

All mileages are round-trip. Participants must sign a liability waiver. Bring water, lunch, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, and clothing suitable for the weather. Leader reserves right to turn away anyone whose experience or equipment ap-

pears unsuitable. Leader may alter destination or cancel trip due to weather, other unfavorable conditions, or insufficient number of participants. Unaccompanied minors need written permission from a parent or guardian to participate – ask leader for form. Dogs permitted only if so noted in write-up. Always call leader ahead to confirm participation and details.