

# Rio Grande Sierran



NEWS OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2007

## Club Challenges NM to Cut Emissions, One Building at a Time

Going by Gonzales Elementary School in downtown Santa Fe the other day, I noticed a solar electric array prominently displayed in front of the school. What a great way to generate solar while educating school kids and the public alike, I thought. Then I began to wonder why the school roof should not be completely covered with solar collectors, enough to heat, cool, and electrify the school. Reality hit: how on earth could Gonzalez Elementary afford to go solar on its bake-sale budget?

by Ken Hughes

That's why the Sierra Club is announcing the Cool Capital Campaign. We are challenging Governor Richardson and the Legislature to make efficient use of energy, alternative forms of transportation, and applications of renewable energy top priorities in the spending of capital outlay funds. Capital outlay requests from schools, towns, and service providers must be given priority if they reduce pollution, put our abundant sources of renewable energy to use, make efficient their use of energy, or promote less polluting ways of getting around.

Governor Richardson is campaigning on a goal of reducing carbon emissions by 90% by 2050. Let's change the capital outlay process so that we can go to work today to meet that goal, one public building at a time.

As Sierra Club lobbyist Dan Lorimier and Energy Efficiency Chair Gail Ryba testified before the Legislative Capital Outlay Subcommittee on October 16, carbon-efficient buildings take more money but are now technologically feasible. Let's outfit our senior citizen centers with energy-efficient heaters, windows, and lighting, complemented with rooftop solar. Excess electricity generated by solar cells in midday can reverse the meter to compensate for other parts of the day. Transport seniors to the center aboard plug-in hybrid vans, part of a fleet of vehicles serving schoolkids, patients, and seniors alike. The Sierra Club, through our Adopt-a-Legislator project, will ask state senators and representatives to put their share of capital outlay monies into such sustainable projects.

Siting of state-funded facilities must be cognizant of what we term location efficiency. Putting schools, clinics, and offices at the edge of town not only forces every kid, patient, and public worker to be transported there, it attracts growth along with it,

thus attracting sprawl. The Gonzales Schools of our communities, on the other hand, should be models once again for how to site schools, senior centers, affordable housing, health clinics, and state office buildings in close proximity to neighborhoods, downtowns, and transit stops. Folks should be able to make a trip for school, work, or appointments by walking, biking, or taking bus or train if they so choose and not have to rely on rides from moms or friends. The Sierra Club's Cool Cities Campaign asks the Governor to sign an executive order dictating that all new and leased state office buildings to be located in downtown areas or within walking distance of a transit stop.

Confronting climate change means changing business as usual or, in this case, New Mexico's system for doling out pork. We cannot wait for the White House and the Congress, who are captive to polluting interests, to enact meaningful steps any time before January 20, 2009. Let's confront climate change with capital outlay change here in New Mexico.

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

### Inside

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Note from the Chair                                 | 3     |
| Letter to the Editor: County Codes and Oil Drilling | 3     |
| Candidate Statements                                | 4-5   |
| Ten Years of Watershed Restoration                  | 6     |
| CFL Bulb Trade at Santa Fe Library                  | 6     |
| Legal Challenges About Chaco Road                   | 7     |
| Para Sol Dairy: A Bad Idea for Sierra County        | 7     |
| You Can Help Decide the Future of the Lobo          | 15    |
| Selected Outings                                    | 16    |
| Building Bridges to the Outdoors                    | 16    |
| <b>Group &amp; Branch News</b>                      |       |
| Pajarito Group                                      | 8     |
| Northern Group                                      | 10-11 |
| Four Corners Branch                                 | 9     |
| Taos Branch   | 9     |
| Central Group                                       | 12    |
| Southern Group                                      | 13    |
| El Paso Group                                       | 14    |



Remember to vote in the Chapter and Group elections!

The election ballot is on page 2.  
Candidate statements are on pages 4-5.



Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet



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### SIERRAN (SEE ALSO PAGE 15)

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*All numbers are area code 505 unless otherwise specified.*

## Rio Grande Chapter Official Ballot

Voting in the Chapter election is for Sierra Club members only. Please use this ballot with the Club member label information intact on the reverse side. Two-member households can each vote, using both boxes. Vote only for candidates only in Group. *Note: The El Paso Group's ballots and candidate statements will be mailed separately.* Mail your completed ballot to: Jim Hannan, P.O. Box 31042, Santa Fe, NM 87594. **Ballots are due by December 15, 2007.**

|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee</b></p> <p>There are three positions open. Do not vote for more than three.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Judith Bunney</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Laurence Gibson</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Lou McCall</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Norma McCallan</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pajarito Group Executive Committee</b></p> <p>There are four positions up for election.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Jody Benson</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Ilse Bleck</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> David Gemeinhart</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Jones</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Northern Group Executive Committee</b></p> <p>There are four positions up for election.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Kristin</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Norma McCallan</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Carol Raymond</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Robb Thomson</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Walztoni</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Central Group Executive Committee</b></p> <p>There are two positions up for election.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Rick Preston</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Patrick Redmond</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Southern Group Executive Committee</b></p> <p>There are three positions up for election.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> David Farrell</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Lou McCall</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Earle Pittman</p> |
|--|--|--|---|

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A Note from the Chair

Elections are closer than you think! In fact, you have an opportunity to vote RIGHT NOW, for members of the Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee and members of the Executive Committee of your respective groups. These are Pajarito for Los Alamos-area residents; Northern for Northern New Mexico, excluding the Pajarito Group region; Central for that part of the New Mexico; and Southern for that portion of New Mexico. El Paso Group members will have a separate mailing for their ballots.

This is your chance to select the folk who volunteer to represent you in leading the Rio Grande Chapter's efforts to explore, enjoy, and protect our Chapter's land, water, and air resources. The Executive Committee members are also active in the endorsement process for local and state elected officials, and this is an effort in which the Sierra Club grassroots members can be very effective in influencing land use and transportation policy. Please show these volunteers your appreciation for their willingness to donate their time and talents by voting for your Group and Chapter representatives.

You have another chance to enhance the Rio Grande Chapter efforts to achieve legislative victories next year. We have an Adopt-a-Legislator program headed by Dan Lorimier, the Chapter



Conservation Coordinator and lobbyist. Recently, Jane Grider of the Southern Group arranged to meet with her local state representative and senator and invited Dan to attend. The meetings were informal, but demonstrated to the politicians that the Rio Grande Chapter has members (and voters) in their districts who are concerned about their stand on environmental protection. When a specific bill impacting the environment (either positively or negatively) comes up in the legislative session, Dan can alert Jane to

contact her representatives about the measure. You can do the same thing to amplify our "clout" in the next session. I have found state representatives and senators to be very approachable in their hometowns when the legislature is out of session. Your meeting can be as short as 15 minutes – just an introduction of yourself as a Sierra Club member concerned about your area. Dan can accompany you so that he can remind the legislator that the Sierra Club has a lobbyist, and he can talk about some of our priority legislation on energy and water. Please consider helping us and Dan Lorimier (243-7767 or 575/740-2927, daniel.lorimier@sierraclub.org) in his work to protect the air, land, and water resources of the Land of Enchantment in the 2008 legislative session.

—Susan Martin

Letter to the Editor: Santa Fe County Must Enforce and Strengthen Drilling Rules

Recently, I learned that Tecton Energy, a Houston-based oil exploration company, is proposing to drill an oil well in my front yard, about 400 feet from my home and water well and within 0.5 mile of five other homes. This site, as well as a number of other proposed drilling sites, is in blatant violation of the Santa Fe County Mining Ordinance, which dictates a distance of not less than 0.5 mile from residences, and not less than 500 feet from residential water wells.

If the Oil and Gas Industry insists on degrading the pristine beauty of our Galisteo Basin in service of their greed, they should at least propose activities that comply with the setbacks specified in the existing Ordinance. Their complete disregard for homes that County residents have established with years of labor and love speaks volumes about their self-professed sensitivity to our environment. If Tecton is successful in drilling even one oil well that will cause a home to become essentially valueless from both a financial and quality-of-life perspective, then a precedent will have been set for all future drilling in the County.

The existing Santa Fe County Mining Ordinance provides some of the best protections of any mining ordinance in the country. It was enacted in 1993, and it represents the County's deliberate and considered balance of the competing interests of surface owners and mineral lessees

and its desire to safeguard the quality of life of rural residents. However, our current County Attorney – who worked as associate general counsel for the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission from 2000 to 2004 – is in the process of rewriting the Mining Ordinance at this time, and there is concern that he might use this opportunity to weaken it for the benefit of the Oil and Gas Industry. If anything, the Mining Ordinance needs to be strengthened, not weakened.

Please write to the Santa Fe County Commissioners, urging them to demand strict compliance with the County's Mining Ordinance and to impose a moratorium on the issuance of all oil and gas permits until expert independent archaeological, biological, environmental, and ecological studies are completed and shared with the public. And let them know that should the County Attorney propose a rewritten version of the current Mining Ordinance, it must not be weakened in any form for the benefit of the Oil and Gas Industry. Finally, please contribute money to Drilling Santa Fe, a nonprofit organization leading this effort. Visit www.drillingsantafe.com for links to the Commissioners' contact information as well as more news. [See "Santa Fe County Considers Applications to Drill for Oil and Gas in Galisteo Area," *Sierran*, Sept./Oct. 2007.]

—James Ziegler  
Cerrillos

## CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

### Judith Bunney

A long-time Sierra Club member, I became active in the Northern Group shortly after arriving in New Mexico to live. The issues seemed compelling: preserving Valle Vidal, protecting open space and wildlife habitat; monitoring oil, gas, and coal extraction; and conservation in general. But the Cool Cities campaign really hooked me.

Coming from Washington, DC, I have served on three national Boards of Directors and lobbied the U.S. Congress and various government agencies. I have experience in testifying before a U.S. Senate Subcommittee and served on the President's Commission for Mental Health. At the Roundhouse, I worked for the past two legislative sessions as part of a team promoting energy conservation and opposing Desert Rock. In Santa Fe, I lobbied on behalf of Cool Cities, meeting with the Mayor and City Councilors about local energy-conservation measures.

The extraordinary beauty of the state of New Mexico drew me here and I am committed to preserving our quality of life. Specific measures to address global warming as outlined by the National Sierra Club range from the simple to comprehensive. As a Chapter, many activists have done a great deal to promote these – there is more to do!

### Laurence Gibson

By profession I am a violinist-conductor-music professor with 38 years tenure at UT El Paso and as concertmaster of the El Paso Symphony. By avocation I am a backpacker and do-it-yourselfer who enjoys volunteering for the Sierra Club as my contribution to preserving and protecting what is left

of our planet for my children and their children. I have been Chair of the El Paso Regional Group since 1999. Since my appointment as Chapter Secretary in 2000, I have tried to be a consensus builder while respecting the diversity of our far-flung chapter and representing this little corner of Texas within the Rio Grande Chapter. If the Chapter is to serve its entire membership, it is important that we in the South be well represented on the Executive Committee. I would appreciate your vote in order that I may continue to serve.

### Lou McCall

Lou McCall has been working for change since before she could vote. She grew up in Farmington. In the early '70s she moved to Albuquerque and was a member of the legendary cooperative, the Sundance Café. She called Silver City home for 30 years and has been on the boards of many non-profits, including environmental, art, and community organizations. She studied at the Art Institute of Chicago, where she received her BFA in filmmaking. She has lived in Santa Fe, Las Cruces, and Gallup, where she taught media at an alternative high school and completed her Master's in Secondary Education with an emphasis on multi-cultural education.

Political activities include co-founding the McKinley County Chapter of the Green Party, being a member of the Dona Ana Progressive Voters Alliance, and working on many campaigns. She is a founding member of the Southwest Energy Alliance.

Lou currently resides in the historic village of Monticello, where she is renovating an old adobe building and gardening.

Lou has been a member of the Southern Group ExCom since 2006 and plans to continue her work as an environmental, political, and social justice activist. She likes to focus on clean energy, recycling, and saving the planet.

### Norma McCallan

A long-term activist at the group and chapter levels, I am vice-chair of the Rio Grande Chapter, on its Conservation Committee, chair of the Newsletter Editorial Committee, and on the BEC Advisory Committee. I have been co-chair/chair of the Chapter Outings Committee for some time, and served six years on National's Group & Chapter Outings Committee. I participated in all of the recent Leadership Development Program (LDP) trainings. Growing the Chapter is challenging since much day-to-day work occurs at the group level; the ExCom only meets quarterly and geography makes getting together complicated. Nonetheless, our LDP discussions reinforced for me the importance of the Chapter's role as a governing body, providing leadership for legislative and political campaigns, support for our green energy, wildlife/wildlands, and clean air and water issues, and serving as a unifying force for our far-flung groups. In New Mexico since 1975, I love our special landscape from its high peaks to its Chihuahuan deserts. My 19 years at the State Library gave me a broad understanding of Southwestern history, culture, and its diverse peoples. I want to help guide our way as a continuing member of our Chapter team and request your vote.

## CENTRAL GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

### Rick Preston

I have been an environmentalist for as long as I can remember. In the face of global warming, habitat loss, and precipitous species extinction, the need for everyone to get involved and take action has never been greater. New Mexico is on the front line of the battle to save this planet. The Sierra Club is an important part of that effort for me and I look forward to continuing to work locally to play a part in this global effort.

### Patrick Redmond

I've been on the Central Group ExCom for about two years, since I began serving as political chair, and I recently started in the newly formed water chair position. As a third-year law student at UNM, I think I've been able to forge some connections between the Sierra Club and the legal and academic communities and facilitate collaboration on a few events and issues. I look forward to continuing to do this, and also to reaching out to local activists (some of whom are my classmates) in local environmental and social justice movements to help achieve our common goals. Finally, I'm looking forward to the elections of 2008, which will hopefully continue the trend toward electing environmentally conscious representatives at the state and national level.

## PAJARITO GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

### Jody Benson

After eight years as one of the community watchdogs with the Pajarito Group, the most important thing I learned is that hard work pays off – not necessarily with the hoped-for victory (as so many of you who worked on environmental issues can attest to), but as one teeny step towards more environmental consciousness. Toward these efforts, I was one of our ExCom team to graduate from the national (and amazing) Leadership Development Training, which taught us how to clarify values, identify issues, organize strategies and tactics for expanding member involvement, and finally accomplishing the task we set forth to do. Our big success this year was the community-wide Environmental Powwow. I would like to continue to struggle for this consciousness on the local level, working with like-minded members of the Group and the community.

### Ilse Bleck

My work with the Pajarito Group continues to energize and inspire me. I attended the Leadership Development Training Workshop as did others in our Group, and through this training was able to recruit new volunteers who have made us stronger and given us new ideas and initiatives. My goal is to increase that base of active volunteers who work in our community towards achieving a more environmentally conscious Los Alamos. Toward that goal we will recruit the talents and expertise of the many other groups who are active in our community by organizing another event such as the very successful Powwow of last February.

I have served the Pajarito Group as Chair for six years and hope to continue my work with this group of really remarkable activists.

### David Gemeinhart

During the past two years the Pajarito Group and I have made some significant growth changes. Other

Group leaders and I attended Sierra Club's Leadership Development Program (LDP) that ran for more than a year. During that time we learned, and put to use, new leadership and management techniques and gained insights into organizational effectiveness from national experts in the field. As a result we've been able to begin new initiatives, reinvigorate existing activities, and see more possibilities for making a difference in the future. I'd like to help continue to build on the LDP knowledge to expand the reach and effectiveness of our Pajarito Group.

### Mark Jones

I am currently completing my first term on the Pajarito group executive committee, and would like to continue in this role. Important environmental issues, both local and national, are only addressed successfully when grassroots organizations have effectively educated and energized the citizenry. The Sierra Club is one of the most effective organizations in this area, addressing a broad spectrum of environmental concerns. In particular, I believe that global warming is a critical problem, and that the Sierra Club's work on this issue will be a significant part of helping us meet this challenge. This is only possible though, if we are willing to volunteer our time, energy, and skills to making it happen. I would like to continue to do my part as a member of the executive committee.

My primary focus in this last term has been on the New Mexico legislative process. I was a registered Sierra Club lobbyist in this year's legislative session and attended many committee meetings during the session to track bills and express the Club support or opposition on specific issues. I intend to continue this work in the 2008 session. Another area of interest is electrical power generation. New Mexico is an ideal location for use of solar power, and we need to get the legislature to do everything possible to support and encourage solar and discourage increased use of coal.

## NORTHERN GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

### Richard Kristin

In my last two years of service on the Northern Group Executive Committee I have done many jobs: creating radio spots and advertising for our monthly programs, radio interviews for the successful Vidal Vidal campaign, lobbying at the Roundhouse in the successful effort to stop a multimillion-dollar subsidy to dirty coal power, serving on the chapter candidate search committee, door-to-door and phone banking on the environmental records of political candidates, letters to the editor, one-on-one recruitment of new activists, physically moving the office twice, and filling in as ExCom secretary. Also I am faculty advisor to an Amnesty International student group at the College of Santa Fe. I encourage the students to write letters to free imprisoned environmentalists worldwide. Almost any Sierra Club initiative from urban planning to preservation of roadless areas will get my active support. The main thing is that activists coordinate regionally, nationally, and even internationally to organize communities so that each battle, won or lost, strengthens the environmental movement and increases the number of our allies. Here in NM with our land-based Native American and Spanish land grant communities, issues of environmental justice especially interest me.

### Norma McCallan

A long-term activist, I am currently Vice-chair of the Northern Group. I am also a member of the Conservation committee (and sometimes Chair), chair of the Forests subcommittee, and was active in the campaign to save the Valle Vidal. I was Outings Chair/Co-Chair for many years, and still lead a hike every month. An editor of our popular *Day Hikes* guidebook, I wrote seven chapters, and revised more. I have lived in Santa Fe since 1975 and passionately love the Southwest, its landscape, culture, and peoples. Climate change is coming to

the Southwest. Working to lessen our carbon footprint, allowing no more coal-fired powerplants, and moving towards a more sustainable society must be our highest priority. Meanwhile, we need to protect our special places by creating a broader awareness of their uniqueness and fragility, and husband our precious water resources, including helping create a living Santa Fe River. We need to expand our efforts in encouraging our members to become active and in making the Northern Group more of a presence in Northern New Mexico. I request your vote to be reelected to the Northern ExCom.

### Carol Raymond

My particular environmental focus is to help the Sierra Club Northern Group to build an alliance with, and educate the local business community in the service of reducing the causes of climate change. This constituency has a natural, yet unknown and unexpressed, interest in keeping the Northern New Mexico's air and water clean, which aligns with the more obvious business goal of reducing costs. I have been working with the Sierra Club's Cool Cities initiative, specifically by helping to found and develop a business outreach component called "CoolBiz" that will educate and encourage businesses to take steps to reduce their individual carbon footprints. In addition, we are advocating for 1) a public or private recycling program for businesses (there isn't one!), and 2) Santa Fe policies that encourage the use of alternative energy without sacrificing historic design aesthetics. Additional personal interests are advocating to protect and add open space, grow transit use, and discourage sprawl.

Occupation: President and General Manager of Santa Fe Southern Railway, which has a company-wide commitment to reducing energy use. We recycle waste, use biodiesel in the locomotives, and run our onboard systems on energy gathered by solar panels on the roofs of the railcars.

### Robb Thomson

I am a retired physicist with a career in universities and the National Institute for Standards and Technology (the old Bureau of Standards). I have spent the past year becoming intensively involved in environmental advocacy. I am the environmental policy coordinator for the NM Conference of Churches and am the Energy Production Chair for the Chapter. My current interests are cap and trade for NM and the western region, solar energy, and the Four Corners coal scene. I would represent all these concerns and issues on the ExCom.

### Mark Walztoni

I am a current ExCom member and contribute to the Cool Cities campaign as the team leader for Business Outreach. We have been fortunate in garnering the support of the Santa Fe Business Alliance, Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce, and Mayor Coss for our efforts, and are actively implementing our new CoolBiz business education and recognition program. I have also been designated Chapter Wind and Solar Energy Chair due to my efforts to increase the commercial use of photovoltaic (PV) panels to generate renewable energy. I am a member of the local Climate Council Business Coalition, which leverages the business outreach opportunities of both organizations.

I am an entrepreneur who founded an individual and organizational change executive coaching and consulting practice early this year. My career spans 30 years of global human resources experience at leading organizations such as American Express Company, and working with entrepreneurs to expand their technology businesses. I am a certified executive coach and earned a Masters Degree in Organizational Psychology at Columbia University.

I believe that contributing to the Sierra Club Executive Committee is mutually beneficial as my passion for renewable energy and sustainable organizations is aligned with our local and chapter mission.

## SOUTHERN GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

### David Farrell

I've been a permanent resident of New Mexico since 1991. Coming here to paint the New Mexican landscape in the mid 1980s, I knew then I wanted to make Southern New Mexico my home. The culture, the open country, vast mountain ranges make New Mexico one of the most unique and interesting states to live in. With so much public land, New Mexicans still have an opportunity to preserve and protect vast areas of land and wildlife for future generations. This opportunity led to my long-term involvement in politics and conservation. I've been an active member of the Sierra Club and on the Southern Group executive committee from 1998 to 2004. In 1998 I became the political chair for the Southern Group until 2003, when I moved up as Chapter Political chair, serving in that position from 2003 to the end of 2004. I have had the pleasure to serve on the Chapter executive committee on and off for a few years. Having been active in leadership roles in the Democratic Party on the county level for the last few years, I found myself missing the environmental work, combined with politics, for conservation sake. It's good to come back again to Sierra Club and the friends I've made in both the group and the chapter.

### Lou McCall

Lou McCall has been working for change since before she could vote. She grew up in Farmington, NM and knows the state well. In the early '70s she

moved to Albuquerque and was a member of the now legendary cooperative, the Sundance Café. She has called Silver City home since 1978 and has served on the boards of many nonprofit organizations, including environmental, art, and community groups. She left New Mexico for five years to pursue her studies at the Art Institute of Chicago, where she received her BFA focusing on film and animation. She has lived in Santa Fe, Las Cruces, and Gallup, where she taught media at an alternative high school and completed her Master's in Secondary Education with an emphasis on multi-cultural education.

Political activities include co-founding the McKinley County Chapter of the Green Party, being a member of the Dona Ana Progressive Voters Alliance, and working on many Democratic campaigns. She is a founding member of the Southwest Energy Alliance in Las Cruces.

Lou currently resides in the historic village of Monticello where she is renovating an old adobe building and retrofitting it for alternative energy. She spends a lot of time gardening and practicing Buddhism.

Lou has been a member of the Southern Group ExCom since 2006 and plans to continue her work as an environmental, political, and social justice activist. She attended the Sierra Club Political Training in Washington, DC in October and looks forward to working on the upcoming campaigns. Her focuses are clean energy, recycling, and saving the planet from greed, hatred, and ignorance.

### Earle Pittman

I retired as an electronics engineer in Boulder, Colorado, in 1998. I moved to the desert outside of Las Cruces at that time. Every day, I'm reminded of the importance of the stewardship of our Earth that we all share and will be leaving to our descendants. The Sierra Club is one of the best ways of building that stewardship. I'm currently the Global Warming Chair of the Southern New Mexico Group.

### Webmaster Needed

By March 31, 2008, we will need to replace our very conscientious and creative webmaster for the Rio Grande Chapter as Geoff Brown is moving to Colorado.

Experience in designing and maintaining websites is important; knowledge of environmental issues desirable. Contact Editorial Board Chair Norma McCallan (nmccallan@mindspring.com, 471-0005) if interested in this critical volunteer position.

## Ten Years of Restoration in the Galisteo Watershed

Fourteen years ago this fall Earth Works Institute began helping people restore, protect, and live in harmony with their natural environment. It all started at a small demonstration ranch along the Galisteo Creek in the dramatically beautiful and illusive landscape of the Galisteo Basin between the villages of Galisteo and Cerrillos. In the early years, Earth Works' pilot projects successfully demonstrated how permaculture techniques could be used in a localized approach to combat land degradation. Ten years ago, Earth Works founder Leslie Barclay realized that it was time to scale the efforts to a community-driven and watershed-wide level to effect meaningful change.

I still remember the blistery cold November morning of 1997 when I met Leslie at the Earth Works ranch. I had proposed to her to form a watershed association of some sort to address the problems of erosion, flash floods, and dying riparian vegetation along the Galisteo Creek. That was the beginning of the Galisteo Watershed Restoration Project.

I set off in early 1998 to organize community meetings in Apache Canyon, Upper and Lower Canoncito, Eldorado, Galisteo, and in the Cerrillos area. It soon dawned on a core group of landowners, Earth Works staff, and me that the main problems we were fighting were "ghosts from the past." Beaver extermination in the 1820s had destroyed the natural dams in the headwater streams. From then on, annual snow-melt flows carved down into the unconsolidated granite soils. Railroad construction in the headwaters area in 1880 happened right in the middle of the channel of the Galisteo Creek, dividing the floodplain in half and concentrating the stream flow and its erosive forces. Mining, ranching, and logging intensified in the wake of the railroad's arrival and left most of the landscape in a barren condition. Urban development and road construction in the last 50 years added a significant acreage of paved surfaces to the landscape, which dumped a record amount of rainfall in record speeds into the Galisteo Creek, further increasing the erosive force of the water and the depth of the channel. The sum of these processes has largely reduced the natural vegetation cover and depleted the soil and its sponge-like water absorption capacity. The degradation of the rangelands gradually ruined the cattle economy in the watershed. In the last 25 years, ranch after ranch became available to accommodate the growing population in Santa Fe County.

Our little group faced a daunting task in trying to address these problems. We decided to begin our work with willing landowners and demonstrate on their land that we could halt accelerated runoff and erosion. Today, we still face a nearly insurmountable task as we fight the foreshadowing effects of population growth and the impacts of rapid urban development in the West. At the same time we are already feeling the impacts of climate change that will make local precipitation patterns more erratic and intense, leading to both drought and flooding.

Despite these new threats, the message and work approach of Earth Works are more timely and pertinent than ever before. And, I feel a sense of urgency. Land stewardship organizations like ours must make

a significant difference quickly in order to increase the resilience of communities in this region and reduce the ever-increasing damage from our overbearing human footprint on the fragile Southwestern ecosystems.

After 10 years, I have come to understand that restoring the land is not enough; we need to invest in people and build capacity in communities and counties: one county, one watershed, and one community at a time. Additionally, effective change has a chance if we invest in youth, the future generation to steward the land. Earth Works makes a strong effort to connect people to the land through hands-on stewardship work and by promoting local farming. We build local capacity in people and communities by organizing community organizations and establishing local stewardship coalitions. We inform and equip community stewardship teams to change people's thinking and behavior and promote a new collective relationship to the land. We show people at demo sites that degraded land can effectively be healed for relatively little money with bio-technical solutions. We organize dialogue to inform people and government agencies, and to coordinate initiatives and interventions. We help local government agencies prioritize interventions through Green Infrastructure planning and public input, and we seek to make interventions financially sound by identifying economic incentives.

Earth Works' comprehensive approach to restoration and protection of landscape resources in the Galisteo Watershed has become a source of inspiration for people throughout the Southwest. By



Earth Works' Staff Biologist Steve Vrooman explains stream dynamics to a group of students from Charter School 37 at a wetland restoration site near Lamy in May 2007. (Photo by Dana Richards)

combining public education, school programs, coalition building, on-the-ground pilot projects, research, monitoring, and influencing local and state policy, Earth Works and its partners reach many people and work toward systemic change in the long term. It's a team approach, and we are very grateful for the support and enthusiasm that our partners have shared with us in the past 10 years!

Santa Fe-based Earth Works helps communities build capacity to restore, protect, and live in harmony with their natural environment. Earth Works implements this mission through an integrated approach to education, community-driven land stewardship, watershed restoration, and land use planning and policy work in the north-central Rio Grande and the Chihuahuan and Sonoran Desert Bioregions. For more information, contact Executive Director Jan-Willem Jansens (982-9806, [jwj@earthworks.institute.org](mailto:jwj@earthworks.institute.org)) or visit [www.earthworksinstitute.org](http://www.earthworksinstitute.org).

—Jan-Willem Jansens

### Join Us to Trade Bulbs, Fight Global Warming, and Open a Library Resource Center!

On November 3, the Sierra Club is taking global warming solutions to the streets! We'll walk neighborhoods in Santa Fe and then be a part of the grand opening of the Santa Fe Southside Library's Environmental Education Resource Center (the first in New Mexico!).

We'll trade bulbs with people at their doorstep as part of our new program we are collaborating with PNM on, where the objective is to trade 40,000 energy-efficient compact fluorescent lights (mostly through schools).

We did similar walks in April, and people had a great time. One volunteer wrote afterwards and said, "I had a fabulous time this morning going from door to door telling people about the benefit of compact fluorescent light bulbs and swapping out their old bulbs for new energy efficient bulbs!"

Join us for the walk – we'll provide breakfast burritos. It is a fun way to get to know your neighbors and solve global warming. We'll meet

at the library at 9:30 a.m. and walk from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Then we will meet at the new Santa Fe Southside Library branch. There will be activities including opening ceremonies/ribbon-cutting, our bulb trade, a kids' marimba band, interactive solar displays, three short plays about global warming, and a showing of the "Inconvenient Truth" slide program. We will bring 2,000 bulbs to trade and will trade up to four bulbs per house. First come, first served!

- **When:** November 3; 9:30 a.m. for neighborhood walks, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. for library opening
- **Where:** 6599 Jaguar Drive, Santa Fe. Take Airport Road south to Country Club Drive. Turn left on Country Club and take it to Jaguar Drive. The Southside Library is on the corner of Country Club and Jaguar.

RSVP by contacting me at [carol.oldham@sierraclub.org](mailto:carol.oldham@sierraclub.org) or by calling 243-7767.

—Carol Oldham

#### Rio Grande Chapter Quarterly Meetings

The Chapter's Conservation and Executive Committee meetings will be held in December. Location to be determined. Contact Conservation Chair Ken Hughes or Chapter Chair Susan Martin (see masthead page 2) for more information. Carpooling is encouraged.

## San Juan County Faces Legal Challenges About Chaco Road

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for County Road 7950, the road into Chaco Culture National Historical Park, has begun, and letters written by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) Katherine Slick and by the Hopi Tribe raise serious questions about the legality of the ongoing project. The August 20, 2007 letter from the SHPO to the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), and the August 27, 2007 letter from the Hopi Tribe to the Federal Highway Administration contain charges and questions that must be answered as San Juan County presses forward in its attempt to pave the Chaco road.

The many issues raised by the actions of San Juan County and the NMDOT can seem daunting. In her letter to the NMDOT, the SHPO herself admits to finding herself “confused and asking questions.” The letter from the SHPO seeks to clarify who owns the land in the projects, whether the County has right of way, whether the initial projects were federal undertakings, why San Juan County did not obtain SHPO clearance as required by state law, why adequate tribal consultation did not take place, whether the initial work was for three or four miles, and whether San Juan County intended to chip seal all 16 miles from the beginning.

The Hopi Tribe’s letter mirrors the concerns of the

SHPO, but with the added importance of a Pueblo people who have long held Chaco sacred. The Hopi Tribe consider Chaco to be the “Place Beyond the Horizon,” and they claim Chaco as a Traditional Cultural Property. Central to the Hopi charges is the fact that tribal consultation as required by state and perhaps federal law did not take place; that the project from the beginning may be a federal undertaking and therefore non-compliant with the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act; and that lack of consultation with the SHPO makes it “clear that this ongoing project is non-compliant with state law.” The Hopi Tribe also express concern about the effects of increased visitation on Chaco, saying, “it must be determined if the infrastructure at Chaco can support any increased visitation, much less international bus tours from Albuquerque International Airport.” They add, “we believe an Environmental Impact Statement is required,” and they voice support for a buffer zone around Chaco.

Recent newspaper articles continue to cite safety and the Navajo who live near the canyon as reasons for the road paving. San Juan County has yet to provide any safety statistics to support their contention. Scrutiny of the initial request for funding for the

road indicates that far from being a Navajo request; it came from San Juan County in an effort to promote tourism and to make access to the region easier for oil and natural gas exploration. The Cimarex Corporation has scheduled seismic exploration for natural gas reserves on a 36-square-mile plot three miles from Chaco Culture National Historical Park.

Public input is being solicited as part of the EA process. Please write John Taschek, Taschek Environmental (taschek@aol.com), or Greg Heitmann, Federal Highway (greg.heitmann@fhwa.dot.gov), and tell them to address the SHPO and Hopi concerns. Urge them not to pave and to instead support improvements like good fencing, good signs, and good maintenance. In addition, this project warrants a full Environmental Impact Statement and complete evaluations of all energy development projects currently proposed for the immediate Chaco area.

For information about the upcoming November public meeting, visit the Chaco Alliance website at <http://dont-pave-chaco.com>, the San Juan Citizens Alliance site at <http://sanjuancitizens.org>, or the new blog at <http://protect-chacocanyon-blog.com>. Thank you for your support in protecting this pristine World Heritage Site.

—Anson Wright  
Coordinator, the Chaco Alliance

## The Para Sol Dairy – A Bad Idea for Sierra County

The billboard shows a black-and-white Guernsey cow in a verdant green grassy field. It is advertising milk by showing a “happy cow.” But the picture couldn’t be further from the truth when it comes to the proposed Para Sol Dairy in Percha Creek in Sierra County.

This concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) is slated to be only a few thousand feet from Caballo Lake State Park and Percha Dam State Park and there won’t be a blade of grass there. Instead, 2,000 cows will be standing in their own manure producing 8,000 gallons of toxin-containing effluent every day, pathogen-laden dust, flies, and noxious air pollution.

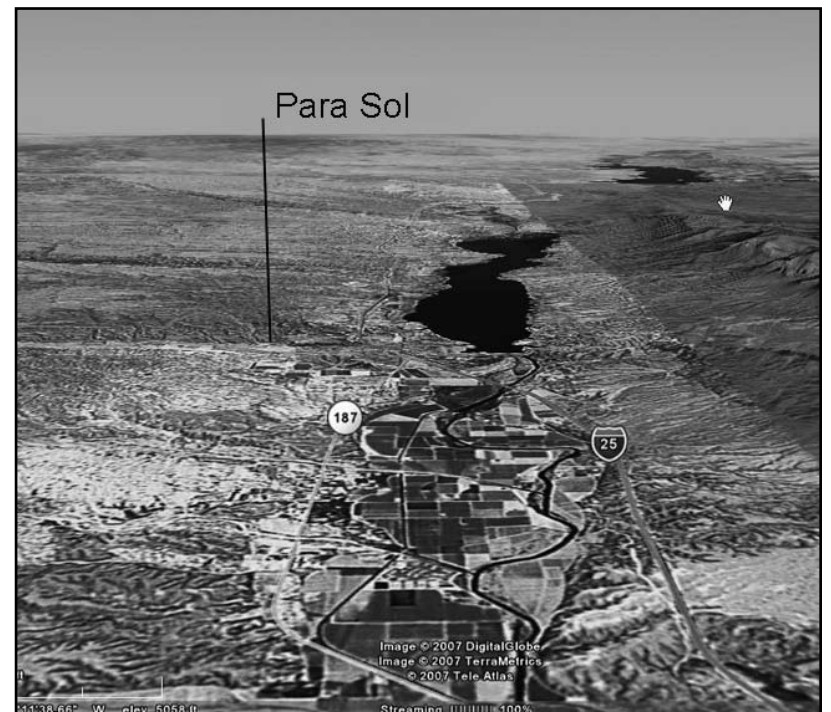
The population of Sierra County is only about 13,000 people, but according to the Environmental Protection Agency, a dairy cow produces the same amount of waste as 23 people. This proposed feedlot dairy will be the same in terms of waste as adding 46,000 people to the county with no sewage treatment plant for them. The effluent is to be stored in synthetic membrane-lined waste ponds or lagoons. These will be around 50 feet above precious groundwater. Studies in southern NM have shown that even lined with this material, leakage into groundwater will occur. The contaminants will include nitrates, which pose a serious health hazard to humans and, once escaped into the environment, can migrate well away from the dairy. The direction of groundwater flow under the dairy heads straight to the Rio Grande and the state parks, which are jewels in the region for recreation, fishing, and birding. The manure itself will be on site and removed only twice a year.

The proposed dairy is in a floodplain and even the best mitigations will not be enough to keep contaminated effluent from spilling out during an extreme flood event. We have seen such events in recent years and with climate change we are more likely to see even more frequent and more extreme flooding in the future. This type of flooding will spread not only noxious chemicals but pathogens as well. Lagoons in this type of operation contain bacteria such as cryptosporidium, E. coli, and giardia in addition to pfiesteria, which is deadly to fish. Chemically, the nitrates and

ammonia will encourage algal blooms, which can be toxic to fish and other aquatic life plus the algae consumes the nutrients these creatures need. Once leaked or spilled, these agents can persist in the environment for weeks or even months.

Besides the hazards that the wastewater poses, there are additional hazards in the air. The odor of the waste lagoons can contain over 170 different chemical substances. Anyone who has driven near Anthony in Southern NM on I-10 can attest to the stench a concentrated animal dairy emits. Many of these chemicals such as ammonia and hydrogen sulfide are toxic even at low concentrations when the exposure is constant. Studies of these dairies have shown that the rural population surrounding them suffers health problems directly related to the quality of the air. In addition to the volatile chemicals from the waste lagoons, there are also health concerns from flies and dust. Flies can disperse one to two miles from the dairy and can spread salmonella, amoebic dysentery, E. coli, cryptosporidium, and conjunctivitis. Some of these disease-causing organisms will be resistant to antibiotics due to their near-constant use at the dairy itself. Flies can also cause nearby crops intended for human consumption to become vectors for these diseases. Flies around this type of operation are nearly impossible to control. Dairy dust from the action of hooves and equipment on cattle feces contains microbes, endotoxins, and aerosolized allergens. Children living near dairies in Southern NM suffer higher rates of diarrhea and asthma.

Placing a concentrated animal dairy so close to groundwater and the Rio Grande, in a floodplain, and so near to the state parks – one of them among



*This view looks north at the location of the proposed concentrated animal feeding operation dairy. Note that it is in a floodplain only a short distance from Caballo Lake State Park and Percha Dam State Park at the south ends of Caballo Lake. Elephant Butte Lake can be seen further up the Rio Grande Valley. (Aerial image from Google)*

the top five birding sites in New Mexico – makes no sense. There is too much at stake for local residents, the local economy, and the environment.

Please write to the Sierra County Commission and ask them to stop the dairy. This is important if you live in Sierra County but it is also important to let the Commissioners know that NM state parks are popular tourist destinations, which are specifically mentioned in the county plan and are very important to the economy of Sierra County. The address is Sierra County Commission, 100 Date Street, Truth or Consequences, NM 87901. Please send a copy of your letter to Secretary Ron Curry, NM Environment Department, PO Box 26110, 1190 St. Francis Drive N4050, Santa Fe, NM 87505, and to the Governor.

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

—Mary Katherine Ray

## Pajarito Group Directory

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

### Executive Committee

Chair: Ilse Bleck  
 ibleck@yahoo.com 662-2368  
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 Secretary: Deirdre Witherell  
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 Mat Johansen  
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 Michael DiRosa  
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 Mark Jones  
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 Energy, Transportation: Deirdre Witherell  
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 Global Warming: Charles Keller  
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 Webmeister: Jennifer Macke  
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## Remember to Vote!

Candidate statements for both Group and Chapter elections are on pages 4 and 5. The ballot is on page 2. You may vote for four Group candidates and three Chapter candidates. The deadline for submitting ballots is December 15, 2007.

## Meetings

All meetings are held at Mesa Public Library, Upstairs Meeting Room, 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, November 7**

**John Bartlit and Don Neepor of New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air & Water will present "What Citizens Do: A Greener NM Oil Conservation Division (OCD) and Intel Corp."**

Learn about new regulations and the role citizens can play in promoting science at the OCD. Also discussed will be the national history of air regulation and the resulting authorities and limitations of the state Air Quality Bureau.

**Wednesday, December 5**

**Steve Harris, Rio Grande Restoration Presents: Long River, Short Water: A Story of Rio Grande Water Development**

This presentation was originally scheduled for October.

The essential condition of the Rio Grande has been described as "a state of perpetual drought, mitigated by brief periods of abundance." The modern Rio Grande dilemma stems from a fascinating historical drama in which claims to the waters of the river have come to exceed its ordinarily available supplies. During the past 150 years, the human relationship with the river has been a series of attempts to stretch and mold the river to accommodate changing desires of successive cultures: first for water with which to irrigate crops, more recently for water to supply

expanding urban populations and, lately, for water to maintain the river's ecological viability. Today's society continues to be challenged to equitably allocate and share the water among users of the river and to defend our lands against flooding and water logging. If, at times we have disregarded the laws of nature and physics which govern rivers, we have discovered that we will bear the consequences. This talk, then, will be about the causes and effects of converting rivers into wealth.

Says Harris: "If the past and present trajectory of the Rio Grande predicts the direction of its future, we may anticipate economic insecurity and ecological decline. Though we seldom consider the facts, today's generation is not particularly well served by past tinkering with the river. Coming generations will depend on our best efforts to correct the course. If decision-makers are able to understand how we got into our present dilemma, they may be able to apply these lessons, make policies with respect to the river and perhaps protect it as a life support system to the universe of water using communities – farms and habitats, upstream and downstream."

Harris is the founder and Executive Director of Rio Grande Restoration, a nonprofit stream-flow advocacy group.

**There will be no general meeting in January.** We will meet instead to elect new officers and plan for the coming year. If you would like to participate, please contact Ilse Bleck.

## Outings

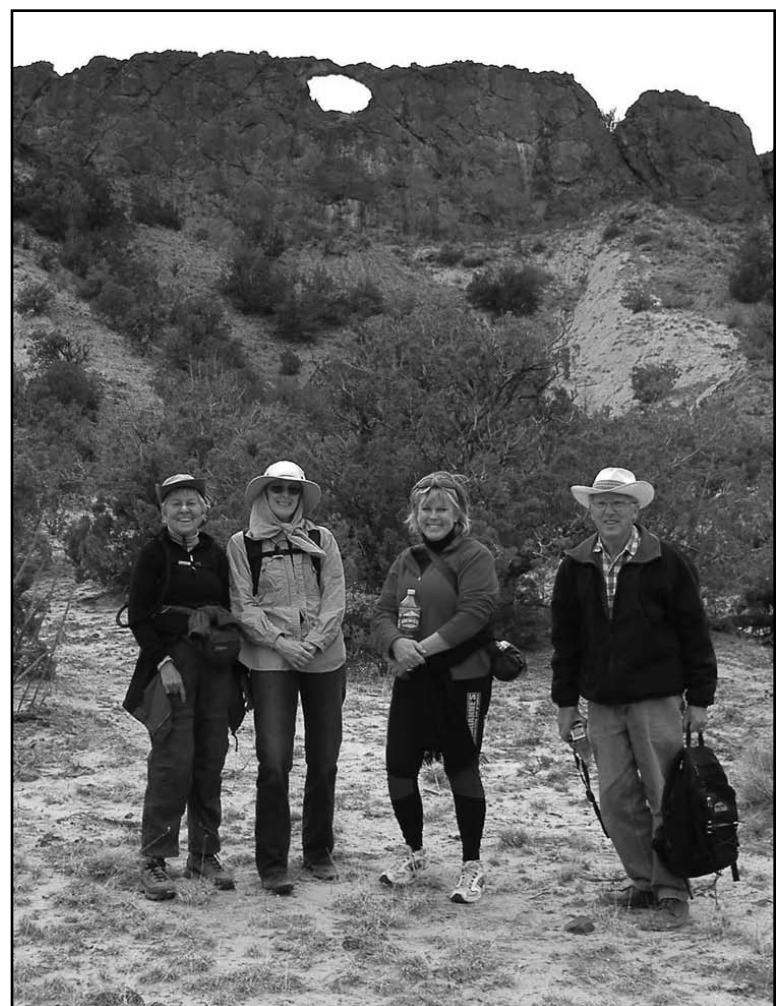
**Saturday, November 10 • Hike to Window Rock near Española** – Moderate, 8 miles. Ilse Bleck (ibleck@yahoo.com or 662-2368).

**Saturday, December 1 • Moderate hike in the Jemez Mountains** – Location to be determined. Mark Jones (662-9443).

**Saturday, December 8 • X-C (or snowshoeing) if there is snow, at Cumbres Pass** – Beginner/intermediate. X-C ski rentals available in Chama. Leave Los Alamos at 7:00 a.m., return at 6:00 p.m. Wear layers of clothes, including gaiters. Bring knapsack, lunch, water. For more information and to sign up, call Jean Dewart (662-9592 by Wed., 12/5).

**Saturday, December 15 • Ojito trail near continental divide and Rio Chama** – Moderate, 9 miles, 1000' gain, one steep/strenuous section. Michael Di Rosa (667-0095 or 663-0648).

**Saturday, January 19 • Strenuous snowshoe in Cerro Grande area** – 8 miles, 2500' gain, Valle Grande views, hike if poor snow. Michael Di Rosa (667-0095 or 663-0648).



*April hike to Window Rock*



## FOUR CORNERS BRANCH NEWS

### Update on the Four Corners Power Plants

While Al Gore wins the Nobel Prize for his work on global warming and the world gets busy on reducing carbon emissions, here in the Four Corners area, utilities are still in the dark ages of coal and are proposing to use more coal. Local citizens in the San Juan Basin still face health hazards with air quality concerns regarding two existing plants, the San Juan and Four Corners Power Plant, with a real threat of a third power plant, Desert Rock looming. The Northern New Mexico Group of the Rio Grande Chapter has been working on cleaning the air for all, while urging leaders to invest in cleaner energy from wind and solar. Here is an update about what we have been doing!

#### Four Corners Power Plant Update

Earlier in 2007, the Sierra Club and others filed suit against EPA demanding they follow through on their promised cleanup of air emissions from

the Four Corners Power Plant. Despite voluntary efforts by the managing owner, Arizona Public Service, emissions must be reduced in the San Juan Basin. Our case is now in court with great representation by Matt Kenna of the Western Environmental Law Center. EPA recently requested a delay in creating a Final Implementation Plan (FIP) that would create the highest standard for reducing harmful air emissions by this 2000-plus-megawatt dirty coal plant. The FIP process is held up while EPA tries to figure out how to handle the FIP in the coming years. Stay tuned and check out our website for court updates!

—Andy Bessler

#### San Juan Generating Station Update

The Community Advisory Board for San Juan Generating Station held its first meeting in October. There was quite a strong environmental interest from the nine members. We also toured the bag house retrofit, which was impressive just from the sheer size of the project – 1,200 contract employees for the six weeks’ effort on Unit 4 – pretty complicated stuff in comparison to my spring tour. It was the largest effort since the original plant was built. PNM was clear that even with this effort the plant would not approach what a new plant would be able to do from the standard emissions standpoint.

—Gordon Glass

### Other Northwest NM News

Farmington Electric Utility (FEU) has a growing demand issue, probably in the neighborhood of 40-50 megawatts within two to three years. It will be interesting to see if they build another gas-fired plant as they did a few years ago – unlikely they could get the great long-term gas contract they secured for that one. So Desert Rock pops up on their screen even though it would be untimely if demand goes at the expected rise.

On a smaller level FEU presented their green option/net-metering tariffs to the City Council on October 16. More than 60 “green citizens” attended to protest the proposed \$40/month service charges proposed for each service. The City Council was receptive to the protests and directed staff to return November 6th with more detailed costs and alternate proposals. It is hoped that these green policies will be adopted with no or very low service charges. Anyone with additional information that would be helpful to this effort can send it to [agglass@earthlink.net](mailto:agglass@earthlink.net). And the new SUWA slide show is in my possession – it is 15 minutes and excellent for presentation to groups. I am available in the northwest here. My goal is to get people who see this show to write to Senator Bingaman encouraging the first hearings on the America’s Red Rock Wilderness Bill.

—Gordon Glass

#### Steering Committee

**Art Jaquez, Co-Chair**

326-5229, 360-0176 • [artjaquez2@yahoo.com](mailto:artjaquez2@yahoo.com)

**Nick Cullander, Co-Chair**

334-0935 • [ncullander@hotmail.com](mailto:ncullander@hotmail.com)

**Gordon Glass, Air Quality, Outings**

564-4460 • [agglass@earthlink.net](mailto:agglass@earthlink.net)

## TAOS BRANCH NEWS

### Scott Estep Returns; Land Use Draft Is Ready for Review

Scott Estep, original founder of this branch, is back in town and looking forward to be a part of a revitalized Taos Branch. Once he hears from some interested folks, he will convene an organizing meeting. He sees the Sierra Club as a coordinating force for the many local environmental organizations and concerned citizens, a clearinghouse for constructive solutions, and a positive presence in the community. Please contact Scott and let him know your interest. Also if you have email and aren’t yet on Anna Walters email list, send it to her so she can add you to her alerts and notices of Taos-area events list.

Meanwhile, Matthew Foster, Town Planner for Taos, has announced completion of the draft Land Use Master Plan and SmartCode, which came out of a series of charrettes and economic research organized by the Placemaker consultants. Matt will be presenting this plan to the community for further suggestions before it is presented to the Town Council, the County Commission, and the Planning and Zoning Commissions for both the

town and county. If you, your neighborhood, or friends would like to see a presentation, contact him at 575/751-2037 or [mfooster@taosgov.com](mailto:mfooster@taosgov.com). These documents are an important step forward in creating a comprehensive land use plan and code that should help Taos deal with traffic and sprawl issues, as well as make it a cooler, greener, more sustainable town. You can find out more at the website [www.taossmartcode.com](http://www.taossmartcode.com).

#### Contact List

**Eric Patterson, Taos contact and Director of Rios de Taos Water Sentinels** • 575/776-2833, [eepatt@gmail.com](mailto:eepatt@gmail.com)

**Anna Walters, email alert list** • [annaainsworth@kitcarson.net](mailto:annaainsworth@kitcarson.net)

**Norma McCallan, Northern Group contact** • 505/471-0005, [nmccallan@mindspring.com](mailto:nmccallan@mindspring.com)

**William Brown, The Climate Project** • 575/758-8008, [nmglobalwarming@yahoo.com](mailto:nmglobalwarming@yahoo.com), [www.nmglobalwarming.org](http://www.nmglobalwarming.org)

**Scott Estep** • 575/770-7969, [wetmtn@rmi.com](mailto:wetmtn@rmi.com)



View from Gallina Peak, Taos, NM, October 2007. (Photo by Susan Ressler)



## NORTHERN GROUP NEWS

Tuesday, November 20, 7 PM

### WATER – LIFE BLOOD OF THE SOUTHWEST

Population growth, dams, and irrigation projects have dramatically transformed the waters of the Southwest. Alterations along the Colorado, the area's biggest river, have been severe and numerous, but all waters of the Southwest will be increasingly impaired unless we change our ways. To preserve native riparian habitat and our environment, we must act now.

We will show a **45-minute DVD created by the Sierra Club Southwest Waters Committee**, which will be followed by a facilitated discussion of the issues and challenges presented.

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

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

#### GROUP COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Sierra Club Office, 1807 Second Street, Unit #45

#### Group Executive Committee:

Tuesday, November 6, 7 PM

Tuesday, December 4, 7 PM

#### Group Conservation Committee:

Tuesday, November 27, 7 PM

Saturday, December 8, 5 to 8 PM

### HOLIDAY PARTY

Save this evening for the annual Northern Group Holiday party. Thanks to the generosity of Carolyn Stephenson, the event will be held at the Mission Café and Sweet Shop, 239 East De Vargas Street, Santa Fe (behind San Miguel Mission). Please plan to bring a main course, a salad, or a dessert (for 6-8 people), or beer or wine, for the potluck dinner.

Sierra Club merchandise will be for sale – an excellent choice for holiday gifts. RSVP to Jean Watts ([jeanwatts@comcast.net](mailto:jeanwatts@comcast.net) of 989-5010). Be sure to include the names of those attending and which category of food you will bring.

Hope to see you there!

#### LEGISLATIVE THANK-YOU PARTY

In honor of Eleanor Eisenmenger

Saturday December 15, 5:30 PM

Eleanor has been housing our lobbyist Dan Lorimier for several years, at no cost to the Club. This is a substantial contribution to our legislative efforts. We ask you to join us in a celebration of our legislative efforts – a great opportunity to discuss what lies ahead. Potluck at the home of John and Linda Buchser, 606 Alto Street, Santa Fe (820-0201)

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

#### GROUP CHAIR

John Buchser

Election mania is already here. The local Club will be creating surveys, interviewing candidates, and making endorsements. Engaging local and national policies that make the U.S. an example of energy efficiency is critical. Oil companies are trying to look like they are with us, but their bottom line is profit. We need to ensure that the message of job creation is key. Tell our disadvantaged youth to “put down your handgun and grab the caulk gun,” and have those jobs ready.

A great example this year here in Santa Fe of putting our young voters to work has been the Youth Works! contract with the City. The City employed these youth to improve conditions in the Santa Fe River and its tributary arroyos. It was one of the first visible results of Mayor Coss' focus on the River. As the most endangered river in the U.S., the River Commission hopes to engage the community in the value of water in the river at a December 8 meeting at the Genoveva Chavez center, from 9 AM to 3 PM.

The Santa Fe Reporter did an excellent interview of our Cool Cities Campaign Coordinator Mark Walztoni. Mark and his team have done an incredible job of getting a business outreach campaign started.

#### A PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, November 3, 9 AM to 5 PM

Armory for the Arts, 1050 Old Pecos Trail  
Archaeologists, Climatologists, Historians, Native Americans  
Water Managers, and Public Dialogue

Speakers include **Tara Plewa**, who will discuss changes in the Santa Fe River since European settlers arrived, and **Sylvia Rodriguez**, who will speak about ongoing disputes over water ownership in Northern New Mexico. \$30, \$20 students – information and tickets, call 992-2715

#### CONSERVATION CHAIR

Dexter Coolidge

#### First round victory for the Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF).

Renegade routes created by Off Road Vehicles (ORVs) in national forests cause serious erosion problems and threats to wildlife. The nation's Forests have been tasked with determining a Travel Management Plan designating roads on which motorized vehicles will be allowed. Over the last year, we have met with the Forest Service to give input for roads in the SFNF. Against opposition from commercial interests, ORV owners and timber companies, the draft EIS for the SFNF Plan calls for reducing the roads by 70%. Support is still needed to keep the draft from being gutted, but we are headed in the right direction.

**CoolBiz is Here!** Thanks to a team effort by Carol Raymond, Anne Stauffer, Jill St. Thomas, Elspeth Hilbert, and leader Mark Walztoni, the goal to gain business support in the fight against global warming for an educational and customer recognition program to reduce energy use and shift to renewable sources of energy is succeeding. The Business Alliance and Chamber of Commerce have endorsed the program, and the Mayor has agreed to publicize it and declare a CoolBiz day early in 2008. Two organizations will provide free labor for installation of rooftop photovoltaic systems for nonprofits, and one business is willing to commit to the whole program as an example for the rest of the city. Based on discussions with National, we believe this is the most advanced Cool Cities business program in the country. Green is a perfect combination for our city, where **“Green is the new Red, White and Blue” !!!**

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

|  |  |              |
|--|--|--------------|
| <b>Chair</b> – John Buchser * ‡        | <a href="mailto:jbuchser@comcast.net">jbuchser@comcast.net</a>           | 820-0201     |
| <b>Vice-Chair</b> – Norma McCallan * ‡ | <a href="mailto:nmccallan@mindspring.com">nmccallan@mindspring.com</a>   | 471-0005     |
| <b>Secretary</b> – OPEN                |  |              |
| <b>Treasurer</b> – Anne Stauffer       | <a href="mailto:arsinm@comcast.net">arsinm@comcast.net</a>               | 986-1412     |
| Office – Joann Lucas                   | <a href="mailto:joannlucas@comcast.net">joannlucas@comcast.net</a>       | 466-6691     |
| Chapter Rep – Dexter Coolidge          | <a href="mailto:dextercoolidge@yahoo.com">dextercoolidge@yahoo.com</a>   | 988-1197     |
| Membership – Alice Cox                 | <a href="mailto:auntialice@pecosplaza.com">auntialice@pecosplaza.com</a> | 757-2145     |
| Newsletter – Kay Carlson               | <a href="mailto:kcarlsonwp@earthlink.net">kcarlsonwp@earthlink.net</a>   | 982-3926     |
| Outings – Norbert Sperlich             | <a href="mailto:bsperlich@cybermesa.com">bsperlich@cybermesa.com</a>     | 474-4354     |
| Tobin Oruch                            | <a href="mailto:oruch@lanl.gov">oruch@lanl.gov</a>                       | 820-2844     |
| Political Committee – Susan Martin     | <a href="mailto:smartin31@comcast.net">smartin31@comcast.net</a>         | 988-5206     |
| Tom Robey                              | <a href="mailto:trobey@cybermesa.com">trobey@cybermesa.com</a>           | 955-9578     |
| Phone Answerer – Bebs Taylor           |  | 983-9129     |
| Publicity – Richard Kristin *          | <a href="mailto:rkristin@csf.edu">rkristin@csf.edu</a>                   | 982-1671     |
| Social Cohesion – Jean Watts           | <a href="mailto:jeanwatts@comcast.net">jeanwatts@comcast.net</a>         | 989-5010     |
| Las Vegas Branch – Betty Quick         | <a href="mailto:betty@mathllc.com">betty@mathllc.com</a>                 | 505-454-9123 |
| Taos Branch – Eric Patterson           | <a href="mailto:eeppatt@gmail.com">eeppatt@gmail.com</a>                 | 776-2883     |
| Farmington Branch – Art Jaquez         | <a href="mailto:artjaquez@yahoo.com">artjaquez@yahoo.com</a>             | 505-326-5229 |
| Nick Cullander                         | <a href="mailto:ncullander@hotmail.com">ncullander@hotmail.com</a>       | 505-334-0935 |
| Web Master – Monika Bittman            |  | 505-466-0130 |
| Dan Rusthoi                            | <a href="mailto:rusthoi@earthlink.net">rusthoi@earthlink.net</a>         | 474-3965     |

|  |  |                      |
|--|--|----------------------|
| <b>Conservation – Chair</b> – Dexter Coolidge      | <a href="mailto:dextercoolidge@yahoo.com">dextercoolidge@yahoo.com</a>     | 988-1197             |
| Activist Outings – Norma McCallan * ‡              | <a href="mailto:nmccallan@mindspring.com">nmccallan@mindspring.com</a>     | 471-0005             |
| Air Quality – Doug Fraser ( <i>legal issues</i> )  | <a href="mailto:fraser@thuntek.net">fraser@thuntek.net</a>                 | 474-7615             |
| 4 Corners' Power Plants – Robb Thomson             | <a href="mailto:robbm@toast.net">robbm@toast.net</a>                       | 988-8958             |
| Santa Fe Nat'l Forest – Tom Gorman                 |  | 438-3932             |
| Carson Nat'l Forest – Eric Peterson                | <a href="mailto:emozart@cybermesa.com">emozart@cybermesa.com</a>           | 505-747-2422         |
| Genetically Engineered Food – Jim Hannan           | <a href="mailto:jhannan505@aol.com">jhannan505@aol.com</a>                 | 988-5760             |
| Mining – Cliff Larsen                              | <a href="mailto:clarsen1@ix.netcom.com">clarsen1@ix.netcom.com</a>         | 466-2128             |
| Cool Cities Campaign                               |  |                      |
| Coordinator – Mark Walztoni *                      | <a href="mailto:mark@leadershipchanges.com">mark@leadershipchanges.com</a> | 603-5810             |
| Eco Footprints – Brian Skeele                      | <a href="mailto:brianvida@nm.net">brianvida@nm.net</a>                     | 984-1739             |
| Resources – Ken Hughes ‡                           | <a href="mailto:b1family@comcast.net">b1family@comcast.net</a>             | 474-0550             |
| Norma McCallan *                                   | <a href="mailto:nmccallan@mindspring.com">nmccallan@mindspring.com</a>     | 471-0005             |
| Water – Sig Silber ‡                               | <a href="mailto:ssilber1@juno.com">ssilber1@juno.com</a>                   | 473-7006             |
| Paul Paryski ‡                                     | <a href="mailto:pparyski@aol.com">pparyski@aol.com</a>                     | 992-1984             |
| Wildlife/Nat'l Parks/Rangelands - Roger Peterson ‡ | <a href="mailto:rogpete@aol.com">rogpete@aol.com</a>                       | 983-7559             |
| Carol Raymond *                                    | <a href="mailto:Carol@SFSR.com">Carol@SFSR.com</a>                         | 989-8600, ext 27 (w) |

\* Member of the Northern Group Executive Committee

‡ Member of the Core Conservation Committee



# NORTHERN GROUP NEWS

## NORTHERN GROUP OUTINGS

### Sat Sun November

- 3 **Easy/Moderate Hike** on Apache Canyon Loop. 6 miles RT. Dogs okay. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
- 3 **Strenuous Hike** in Caja del Rio, near White Rock Canyon. Some rough off-trail sections. **Norbert Sperlich** (474-4354)
- 4 **Daylight Saving Time ends!**
- 4 **Strenuous Hike** Pederal, distinctive O'Keeffe landmark, some rock scrambling to top, 8 miles, 1900' gain. **Marcia Skillman** (699-3008)
- 10 **Easy/Moderate Hike** on Penstemon Ridge (near Nun's Corner). 7 miles RT. Nice views. Dogs okay. **Norma McCallan** (471-0005)
- 10 **Strenuous Hike** to Stone Lions, in the heart of Bandelier. 13 miles RT, 2700' gain. **David Van Winkle** (820-1006)
- 11 **Easy/Moderate Hike** to Tent Rocks. Dogs on leash okay. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
- 17 **Easy Birdwatch Walk**, jointly with Audubon Society. Bring binoculars. **Ron Duffy** (466-6398)
- 17 **Santa Fe River Cleanup**. Paige Grant (982-5180 / paigeanna@comcast.net)
- 17 **Intermediate Bike/Hike** to Cerro Azul (near Ojo Caliente). 8 miles on bike, 4 miles of hiking. Call for details. **Page Press** (946-0169)
- 18 **Easy Beginner's Snowshoe Clinic** If no snow, Moderate/Strenuous Hike up Big Tesuque to Radio Towers. **Marcia Skillman** (699-3008)
- 24 **Strenuous Hike** into Tapia Canyon (Cabezon area). Rugged country with unique petroglyphs. Long drive, very early start. Dogs okay. **Stephen Markowitz** (983-2779 before 8 PM)
- 25 **Moderate Hike** to Glorieta Ghost Town. Dogs okay. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)

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

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

### Sat Sun January

#### NEW YEAR'S DAY – January 1

- Impromptu Strenuous Snowshoe or Hike** depending on interest and availability, dogs okay. **Tobin Oruch** (820-2844 before 8 PM)
- 5 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** Blowhole, Tor, and Cerro Rito (Caja del Rio). Volcanoes in our backyard. Dikes, plugs, craters, cinder cones, a gaping steam vent (extinct, of course). All off-trail, rough terrain. 9 miles RT, 1100' gain. Dogs okay. **Norbert Sperlich** (474-4354)
- 6 **Easy/Moderate Hike** in La Cieneguilla to see petroglyphs with guide Chip Conway. Short distance, but some rough sections. Limited to 10. **Dan Rusthoi** (690-8967)
- 12 **Easy/Moderate Hike** south of town, very nice, dogs okay. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
- 12 **Moderate Hike** to Alamo Canyon in Bandelier. Enjoy views and varied topography. 6+ miles and 1000' gain. **Les Drapela** (438-3306)
- 13 **Moderate Hike** to eagle traps on Bandelier mesa, or Ojito Wilderness (dogs okay) near San Ysidro if too snowy. About 7-8 miles and not steep but off-trail. **Stephen Markowitz** (983-2779 before 8 PM)
- 19 **Easy/Moderate Hike** to spectacular Tent Rocks, including Cave Loop and Canyon Trail. Hike among unique geologic formations and within slot canyons. 4-5 miles, 900' gain, some loose and rough footing, dogs okay on leash. **Dan Rusthoi** (690-8967)
- 19 **Strenuous snowshoe** Cerro Grande area, 8 miles, 2500', Valle Grande views; hike if poor snow. **Michael Di Rosa** (667-0095, 663-0648)
- 19 **Santa Fe River Clean Up** 9 to 11 AM. Beautify our adopted stretch! See inset article. **Kathleen Davis** (438-0357 or kdav40@aol.com)
- 20 **Strenuous Snowshoe** to Santa Fe Baldy or Puerto Nambe. Experience the familiar Winsor Trail in winter. 10-14 miles, 2000-3600' gain, dogs okay. **Patrick O'Keefe** (820-2359)
- 20 **Easy Birdwatch Walk** bring binoculars. **Ron Duffy** (466-6398)
- 26 **Easy/Moderate Hike** south of town (different from the 12<sup>th</sup>), very nice, dogs okay. **Eliza Schmid** (474-5846)
- 26 **Strenuous XC Ski** in Jemez or moderate/strenuous hike if poor snow. **Page Press** (946-0169)
- 27 **Easy Hike** in the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park with guest historian Bill Baxter who will provide delightful commentary on the various old mines and artifacts seen as we tour around the park. Dogs with leash okay. Meet at new SC office at 9:15 or at the CHHP parking lot at 10 AM. **Norma McCallan** (471-0005)
- 27 **Strenuous Snowshoe** to Frazier Mountain near Taos Ski Valley. 9 miles RT, 2700' gain. Great winter views of high peaks. **Hal Davis** (505-758-3949 in Taos)

### SANTA FE RIVER CLEANUP AND VEGETATION MAINTENANCE

Saturday – 10 AM to 12:00 Noon – November 17, December 15, January 19  
 Help keep our river looking great! Park at Lower Alto Street north end of Closson. Bring work boots, gloves and drinking water. **Call listed outing leader on each date.**

### Sat Sun December

- 1 **Moderate Hike** Buckman Mesa. Climb a volcano overlooking White Rock Canyon. Views, petroglyphs, some steep, rough off-trail. 5+ miles RT, 1100' gain. Dogs okay. **Norbert Sperlich** (474-4354)
  - 2 **Beginner's Snowshoe Clinic** near Santa Fe ski basin. Rent shoes and poles, come out and play in the snow for a couple of hours! Gear and technique tips will be shared. Dogs ok. **Marcia Skillman** (699-3008)
  - 2 **Easy/Moderate Loop Hike** on forest roads to an abandoned trail leading to the Rio Grande in Caja del Rio. About 7 miles, interesting views, dogs okay. **Norma McCallan/Bob McKee** (471-0005)
  - 8 **Moderate Hike** to Ancho Rapids of the Rio Grande at the bottom of White Rock Canyon. This is a good place to see animal tracks. 6 miles, 1100' gain, dogs okay. **Les Drapela** (438-3306)
  - 9 **Easy/Moderate Hike** to spectacular Tent Rocks, including Cave Loop and Canyon Trail. Hike among unique geologic formations and within slot canyons. 4-5 miles, 900' gain, some loose and rough footing, dogs okay on leash. **David Van Winkle** (820-1006)
  - 15 **Moderate Hike** to Ojito trail near continental divide and Rio Chama. A favorite cool weather hike with distant vistas. 9 miles, 1000' gain, one steep/strenuous section. **Michael Di Rosa** (667-0095, 663-0648)
  - 15 **Easy Birdwatch Walk** in local area, bring binoculars. **Ron Duffy** (466-6398)
  - 15 **Santa Fe River Clean Up** 9 AM to 12 noon. Beautify our adopted stretch! See article. **Kathleen Davis** (438-0357 or kdav40@aol.com)
  - 16 **Strenuous Hike** to Thompson Peak, off-trail and exploratory, something lower if snowy, dogs okay. **Patrick O'Keefe** (820-2359)
- December 22, 23, 24, and/or 25**  
**Impromptu Strenuous Snowshoe or Hike** depending on interest and availability, dogs okay. **Tobin Oruch** (820-2844 before 8 PM)
- 29 **Strenuous XC Ski** off Winsor trail or, if snow poor, unusual moderate off-trail hike (dogs okay) in Pojoaque valley. **Page Press** (946-0169)
  - 30 **Moderate Hike** to eagle traps on Bandelier Mesa or Ojito Wilderness (dogs okay) near San Ysidro if too snowy. About 7-8 miles and not steep but off-trail. **Stephen Markowitz** (983-2779 before 8 PM)

### WILDERNESS FIRST AID

We are offering an 8-hour Wilderness First Aid course around February next year. Such training is recommended for all hikers and outdoors people and mandatory for hike leaders. Cost is dependent on response, may be about \$45. Past courses have been lively and very valuable. Please express interest to **Tobin Oruch** (820-2844)

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

### NEW NNM GROUP OFFICE

#### Second Street Lofts, 1807 Second Street, Unit #45

Cloud Cliff opens at 7:30 AM on weekends, so hikers assembling at the office can take advantage of their food. Backroad Pizza (in Unit #1 by the tracks) and Second Street Brewery across the street are options for social time after hikes.

The outer door is open 8-5 weekdays. Our newsletters and other giveaways are in a rack in the hallway in front of the office door, which is on the 2nd floor. We are sharing again with CCAE (Coalition for Clean and Affordable Energy) and two individual researchers. It is a bright, airy space, and we are pleased to be a part of the Second Street Lofts complex.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Volunteer Coordinator** – Dexter Coolidge (988-1197) Recruit members

**Publicity** – Richard Kristin (982-1671 or rkristin@csf.edu)

Help get out announcements of our meetings and other events

**Grants Writer** – Richard Kristin (982-1671 or rkristin@csf.edu) Creative person to explore possibility of getting grant money for projects such as curriculum units on global warming for elementary and middle school.

**Forest issues** – Norma McCallan (471-0005) Need a second person for the Carson and for the Santa Fe N.F. oversight teams, which includes working on the critical Travel Management Plan.

**Social & environmental events** – Jean Watts (989-5010) Organize events

**Cool Cities Campaign** – Mark Walztoni (mark@leadershipchanges.com or 603-5810) This campaign seeks to lessen our carbon footprint. Needed – volunteers in various capacities.



## Albuquerque's Zero-Waste Initiative

The city has big plans, and we got to learn about them at September's general meeting. Albuquerque's "zero-waste initiative" aims to reduce our trash stream to literally zero by the year 2030 – rendering the landfills unnecessary.

How? John Soladay, Sustainability Officer for the city, talked us through the plan. The first goal is to increase city-wide recycling, from its current low level of 1.5% of the waste stream, to 40% by the year 2015. This may sound high, but San Francisco currently recycles 69% of its waste, so models exist. The second goal is to invest in a technology that will dispose of the remaining 60% of the waste in an environmentally responsible manner that does not produce either carbon dioxide emissions or material for the landfill. This could be a high-tech incineration or gasification plant, and would represent a long-term goal not yet feasible or affordable with today's technology. The goal is to have this in place by 2030.

Bringing recycling from 1.5% to 40% will require an investment of money, time, and public education. Currently, the residential recycling program is voluntary and has an 18% participation rate. There is no commercial recycling program. Albuquerque is modeling its first step after El Paso's recent recycling efforts. That city distributed recycling bins city-wide and greatly increased participation in recycling programs.

The key is that this kind of "automated" recycling is easier, and if it's easier, more people do it. Think about what we have to do now in order to recycle. I finally found large, clear plastic trash bags that are tough enough for the job. When they are full, I drag

their contents out to the curb. If something inside pierces the bag, I have a pile of stuff on my driveway to deal with. If the recycling folks don't like how I bundled my cardboard, they leave it for me to try again. Glass presents a special issue and requires a periodic trip to the dumpster behind Smith's. And I'm one of the lucky ones – people in apartment complexes have not had curbside pickup at all. In order to recycle, they need the dedication to drive their whole collection to Smith's. Meanwhile, to dispose of our garbage, we gradually fill a large black Dumpster, wheel it to the curb on Wednesdays, watch the jaws of the truck seize it and shake it – and our trash is gone. How much easier is that? Enough that the vast majority of residents still prefer not to deal with recycling.

The city's first step has been to provide recycling bins to apartment complexes. That requires some education (this is not trash overflow) and the roll-out (literally) is in process. The goal is to provide all 180 multi-unit dwellings within Albuquerque with a recycling bin by year's end. The next step will be to pilot a blue bin/green bin project. This will mean providing 6,000 households with two bins in addition to the black dumpster. The blue will be for recycling household materials and the green for yard waste. These will be collected weekly at curbside and the increase in recycling participation carefully studied. Then the city will plan its next move – projected to be a \$2.5 million investment in a blue bin and green bin for every household city-wide. A third step will be to provide convenient recycling for all Albuquerque businesses.

The economics of recycling are tricky. If you look just at the end game, then landfills are the cheapest

way to dispose of waste – at least here in Albuquerque, where wasteland is cheap and available. Recycling does increase the cost of disposing of materials, and markets for recyclables, while growing, are not hugely profitable. It's the life cycle, or "cradle to grave" cost of trashing vs. recycling that we need to start talking about. Producing new products means depleting natural resources. It also adds to global warming; factories produce carbon dioxide and landfills produce methane, which is a greenhouse gas over 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide. So, if we factor in all we are borrowing from our children's futures, is it really cheaper to trash our products, or do we have an obligation to start recycling them? We need to start promoting the "closed loop" vision of city living – that our cities can start becoming sustainable communities, not ones which suck resources from the surrounding world and produce huge amounts of waste and pollution in turn.

And for those of you who saw the TV coverage of that yellow truck that drove its contents past the recycling plant to the landfill – don't get cynical. There is only one recycling plant in Albuquerque. It features a single conveyor belt that moves all the city's recycling collection down a line. Employees stand on either side and sort the materials by hand. They are then bundled and sold to reprocessing plants out of state (New Mexico doesn't have any of the plants that actually reprocess recycled materials). When the city's single conveyor belt breaks, the recyclables pile up, and when that happens, it seems employees will sometimes take inappropriate steps to make their jobs easier. According to Mr. Soladay, there are plans in the works to modernize the plant.

—Eva Thaddeus

### Central Group Directory

#### Executive Committee

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

#### Michal Mudd, Chair

mudd\_pi@mac.com 884-3315

#### Eva Thaddeus, Co-Chair, Secretary, Global

Warming Issue Chair

evathad@nmia.com 266-9646

#### David Ther, Treasurer, Outings Chair

grelbik@att.net 260-1553

#### Patrick Redmond, Political Chair, Water Chair

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#### Rick Preston, Newsletter Editor

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#### Howard Karnes

einstructionhk@aol.com 379-1294

The Executive Committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., at the Sierra Club office, 142 Truman NE, Albuquerque.

### Outings

#### Saturdays, November 10 and 17, December 1 • Desert Exploratory Hikes

Come and visit some of New Mexico's most incredible and beautiful landscapes hidden in its desert places. These hikes are not difficult but will require a sense of adventure on the part of participants.

There will rarely be a trail and the route will be very rocky and uneven at times. We may encounter dense growth and downed logs in canyon bottoms, though we will try to minimize this. Sometimes we scramble (easy climbing) over rock surfaces and walk narrow ledges, if this can be done safely. Typical hike length is between 6 and 10 miles and we may gain 500 to 1500 feet of elevation. Leader determines outing details and meeting time by previous Wednesday, so you may call for details at that time.

Please contact Tom Petencin no later than Thursday preceding the hike.

You may also request to be included on an email list for receiving the same info, so you won't have to call. Meeting time will vary from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Meeting place will always be Smith's at Carlisle and Menaul. Both Sierra Club and Outdoor Adventures For Singles are invited for these outings.

Contact: Tom Petencin, 271-9928, tompeten@juno.com

#### Sunday, November 11 • Petroglyph Walk

Take a guided tour of Piedras Marcadas, one of the

three canyons in the Petroglyph National Monument open to the public, but one that many people don't know about. Easy to get to, there are more than 2,000 petroglyphs on this part of the escarpment that can be seen on an easy three-mile round-trip walk on flat terrain.

Carol Chamberland and Dick Yeck will co-lead the hike and provide background history and map handouts that focus on 14 of the best locations in the canyon. Both do volunteer petroglyph survey and recording for the Albuquerque Archeology Society, and Dick is a former interpretive guide on the Monument.

Meet at the Piedras Marcadas parking lot off of Golf Course Road on the west side at 10:00 a.m. Wear sturdy shoes and appropriate clothing. Also bring water and lunch.

Directions: From east of the river, take Paseo del Norte west. Cross Coors and continue west about 2 miles to the new traffic light at Golf Course Road. Turn right and go about a quarter of a mile and look for Jill Patricia Street on the left. Turn there into the parking lot. If you come to the traffic light at Paradise Road, you have gone too far. If you use the I-40 or Montano bridges, go north on Coors Road to Paseo del Norte, turn west and follow the directions above.

Leaders: Carol Chamberland (341-1027) and Dick Yeck (898-5136).



## SOUTHERN GROUP NEWS

### Outings

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

**Sunday, November 11 • Doña Ana Peak** – It's a moderate 8-mile hike with about 1500 feet of elevation gain. We will meet at the K-Mart parking lot on Highway 70 at 9:00 a.m. If it's a clear day, the view will be spectacular from the southern end of the Jornada del Muerto. Up to 10 other mountain ranges can be seen from the Dona Aña mountains, a jewel in southern New Mexico. Contact

John Waugh (575/526-7116) or assistant leader Paul Bronson (575/525-1935).

**Sunday, December 9 • Cuchillo Mountains Exploratory Hike** – We will walk in the vicinity of Edward's Draw and Reilly Peak north of Winston in the mid-elevation pinyon-juniper savannah and hope for a crisp and crystal-clear early winter day. Expect an easy to moderate walk with some elevation gain. Meet at the Black Range District Forest office in T or C at 8:30 a.m. Contact Margot Wilson (575/894-5860) or Mary Katherine Ray (575/772-5655).

## Monticello Box Outing

*Below: The Monticello Box is defined by perennial water, a beautiful cottonwood and willow forest, and tall cliffs.*

*Right: On the Monticello Box outing on September 30, we discovered a Chiricahua Leopard Frog in one of the best habitats it still has left. We also found a fossilized tooth, two groups of mule deer, turkey tracks, water bugs, sucker fish, plentiful birds including big flocks of pine siskins, and thousands of new cottonwood seedlings.*



Hikers on the outing to Monticello Box enjoying the watery trail and the amazing riparian regeneration after flooding in 2006. (All photos by Mary Katherine Ray.)

### Southern NM Group Directory

#### Executive Committee

P.O. Box 735, Mesilla, NM 88046

#### Glenn Landers

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

#### Margot Wilson

Conservation Chair, Parks/Refuges  
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#### Cheryll Blevins

Treasurer, Editor Southern NM  
Group Page  
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#### Mary Katherine Ray

Wildlife, Membership  
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#### Lou McCall

Political Co-Chair  
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#### John Waugh

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Wildlife, Chapter Delegate  
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#### Earle Pittman

Global Warming  
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#### David Farrell

Political Co-Chair  
dafarrelli@hotmail.com 575/875-3352

### Thank you, Margot!

Margot Wilson has served as Southern NM Group chair for four years and has decided that rehabilitation from her knee surgery will take more time and energy than anticipated. Because of that, she is relinquishing the chair position, and we want to thank her for her dedication and hard work. Margot has tirelessly been there through wilderness issues, forest restoration projects, consideration of biomass for fuel, protecting Otero Mesa, and speaking out against the injustice of traps while at the same time making sure we had outings to offer and articles for the *Sierran*. There could not be such a tireless advocate for our wonderful Southern New Mexico environment or the Sierra Club.

We hope her recovery continues to progress and are grateful she will continue to serve as Conservation Chair along with Parks and Refuges for the Southern Group and will stay on the Chapter Executive Committee as well. Get well soon, Margot! We will forever appreciate your guidance and inspiration.

—Mary Katherine Ray



## NM Governor Richardson Opposes ASARCO Smelter Reopening

New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson has sent a letter to Texas Governor Rick Perry voicing New Mexico's opposition to the renewal of the air permit that would allow the reopening of the ASARCO copper smelter in El Paso, Texas. With his letter, Richardson joined Mexican legislators, Sunland Park Mayor Ruben Segura, El Paso Mayor John Cook, Texas State Senator Eliot Shapleigh, Congressman Silvestre Reyes, and thousands of El Pasoans in opposing the smelter's air permit renewal. Congressman Reyes' letter appeared on this page in the September/October *Sierran*.

The New Mexico Environment Department has also written to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), asking it to review how air emissions from the smelter would affect New Mexico's residents and environment. The TCEQ will soon decide whether to renew the permit for the facility, which is less than a mile from New Mexico's border and directly across the Rio Grande from Juarez, Mexico.

New Mexico had voiced technical concerns about the permit renewal for the last three years. Air monitoring in the Paso del Norte air shed has shown elevated levels of ozone and particulate matter. That air shed includes the governments of Doña Ana County, New Mexico, El Paso, Ciudad Juarez, and the State of Chihuahua, Mexico.

Along with air pollution issues, southern Doña Ana County and Sunland Park, New Mexico have soils contaminated with lead due, in part, to past operations of the Asarco El Paso plant. Those communities today face other air quality concerns, including elevated levels of airborne particulate matter and ground level ozone pollution. El Paso fears that the 7,000 tons of emissions to be permitted would force the city back into the non-attainment status of previous years and have a negative effect on the city's efforts to attract new, high-quality growth.

Unfortunately, the TCEQ has limited hearings on the permit renewal to issues of air pollution, ignoring the widespread soil contamination from 100 years of smelter operation, the ongoing cleanup of hundreds of residential properties in West El Paso, and worst of all, the untold numbers of children affected by elevated levels of lead in their blood.

Fighting the ASARCO air permit renewal has been at top of the El Paso Regional Group's agenda for five years now. The group was also involved in the controversial sign-off on the patented contop technology installed at the smelter shortly before the plant shut down in 1999 after the price of copper fell in the 1990s. Asarco, though bankrupt, still operates nationwide and has been able to afford an extensive public relations campaign in El Paso with regular city-wide mailings of slick brochures designed to improve its negative image.

Governor Richardson's timely letter should help to convince the three-member TCEQ to side with the people in opposing the reopening of the 100-year-old smelter. Unfortunately, Texas has a tradition of populating its commissions with ex-industry appointees. The open seat on the TCEQ, which Texas Governor Perry may fill by the time you read this, could very well determine El Paso's future. A TCEQ decision on the permit renewal is expected within the next few months.

The following is the text of the letter sent October 1, 2007 by Governor Bill Richardson to Governor Rick Perry:

Dear Governor Perry:

I am writing to express the State of New Mexico's opposition to the proposed reinstatement of the ASARCO, Inc. air quality permit by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). I have serious concerns about the environmental harm and public health impacts that may occur with the renewal of the ASARCO El Paso plant's air quality permit, especially in Doña Ana County, New Mexico. Our states share the Paso del Norte air shed. We are concerned about additional impacts from air pollution from the plant on New Mexico citizens as well as the residents in Texas. The residents in this area of our state are already burdened with pollution issues that negatively affect their health and environment.

New Mexico has voiced technical concerns about the permit renewal for ASARCO for the last three years. Monitoring in the Paso del Norte air shed has shown elevated levels of ozone and particulate matter. Along with air pollution issues, southern Doña Ana County and Sunland Park,

New Mexico have soils contaminated with lead due, in part, to the ASARCO El Paso plant.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed reinstatement of the ASARCO El Paso air quality permit. The potential negative impacts to public health and the environment in southern New Mexico and western Texas will be significant. I look forward to working with the State of Texas to protect and improve air quality and the environment in the Paso del Norte region. Please have your staff contact Sarah Cottrell, my Energy & Environmental Policy Advisor, at sarah.cottrell@state.nm.us or 505-476-2241 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Bill Richardson, Governor of New Mexico

### Selected Outings

#### Nov 10: Railroad Canyon Dayhike

Place: Gila National Forest

Length : 5-7 Miles

Leader: Carl Horkowitz 915/755-3968 chorkow1@elp.rr.com

We will head up towards the wilderness boundary at the Black Range Crest along a scenic trail that roughly follows the canyon drainage. After about a hour and a half we will leave the trail and climb up a ravine to explore the ridgeline between Gallinas and Railroad Canyons. There are also some spires in the vicinity which we may scope out, time permitting.

#### Nov 10-12: Bandelier Backpack

Place: North of Los Alamos, NM

Length: 23.5 miles

Class: Moderately strenuous

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

Saturday morning we'll hike up Frijole Canyon, probably with some ankle-high stream crossings, to our first camp. Sunday we will hike along the mesa, stopping to see the ruins if time permits as we loop around to meet Frijoles Canyon again at the end of the loop. Sunday afternoon we'll set up camp near the waterfall. Monday we will hike out to the vehicles.

### El Paso Group Directory

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

#### Executive Committee

|                                |                          |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Chair: Laurence Gibson</b>  | lgibson@utep.edu         | 915/309-5419 |
| <b>Vice-Chair: Gil Pinon</b>   | bifflehead@yahoo.com     | 915/307-3398 |
| <b>Secretary: Ann Falknor</b>  | afalknor@sbcglobal.net   | 915/833-9162 |
| <b>Treasurer: Kathy Sunday</b> | sundayt@zianet.com       | 915/584-9301 |
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| <b>Juan Garza</b>              | projectair@sbcglobal.net | 915/565-2690 |
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#### Committee Chairs

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

## You Can Help Decide the Future of the Lobo

In 1998, before the first Mexican wolves were reintroduced to the wilds of the Southwest, the rules that govern the program were adopted in accordance with the Endangered Species Act. The reintroduction program has been operating under those same rules to this day. But we now know that if things continue the way they have, the wolves are unlikely to ever get beyond a stagnant population of a handful of packs. Fortunately, wildlife officials are exploring changes to these rules and we need your help to ensure that they reflect the lessons we've learned.

Under the current rules, Mexican wolves must stay within the boundaries of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area, which includes the Gila National Forest in New Mexico and the bordering Apache National Forest in Arizona. But with good habitat outside of these areas, wolves often cross the political lines in search of new homes and prey. When they choose to live outside the boundaries, they are captured and relocated back into the Blue Range, which thwarts expansion of the population, disrupts packs, and sometimes causes serious injuries to individual wolves.

Current rules do not require ranchers using public lands to remove or render inedible (as by lime, for example) the carcasses of livestock that die for a number of non-wolf-related reasons like disease and starvation. Wolves are attracted to and often scavenge on these carcasses, and then begin to prey on live cattle or horses nearby. After three livestock

kills in a year, the wolf is either killed or placed in captivity for the rest of its life.

After nearly 10 years of management under the 1998 rules, only about 60 Mexican wolves exist in the wild. Expanding wolf populations to healthy, sustainable levels will require a new approach that supports Mexican wolf recovery. We should learn from past failures and adjust the recovery rule to assure a long-term future for Mexican wolves in our wild lands.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will hold "scoping" meetings beginning in November to get ideas from people like you on future wolf management under revised rules. Your participation in these meetings is critically important to the future of the Lobo in the Southwest. Changes to the Final Rule will have the force of law for many years, so it is extremely important that we propose the positive changes necessary for recovery and that we send a loud and clear message to the decision makers that the citizens of New Mexico and Arizona want the Lobo to stay and make a full recovery.

Below are the dates, times, and tentative locations for the scoping meetings. Final meeting details will be released closer to the meeting date. Please mark your calendar and spread the word.

- **November 29:** Best Western, Grants, 5:00-9:00 p.m.
- **November 30:** Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Albuquerque, 5:00-9:00 p.m.

- **December 1:** New Mexico Tech, U Macey Center, Socorro, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- **December 3:** NMSU, Tays Center, Alamogordo, 5:00-9:00 p.m.
- **December 4:** Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, Las Cruces, 5:00-9:00 p.m.
- **December 5:** Community Center, Glenwood, 5:00-9:00 p.m.

You are also encouraged to submit written comments for the scoping process. They can be submitted via any of the options below. Deadline to comment is December 31, 2007. Be sure to include "Attn: Mexican Gray Wolf NEPA Scoping," your full name, and your return address in your message.

- Mail: Brian Millsap, State Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office, 2105 Osuna NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113
- Fax: 346-2542
- Email: r2fwe\_al@fws.gov
- Online: www.mexicanwolfeis.org

For more information visit [www.defenders.org/mexicanwolf](http://www.defenders.org/mexicanwolf) or [www.mexicangraywolf.org](http://www.mexicangraywolf.org), or contact Lisa Hummon ([lhummon@defenders.org](mailto:lhummon@defenders.org), 248-0118 ext. 5).

—Lisa Hummon

## Preserve the Future

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering the Sierra Club in your will.

There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, please contact:

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



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## To Contribute to the Rio Grande Sierran

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

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

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

Nonmember subscriptions are \$10 per year. Send checks to Cliff Larsen, 824 Los Lovatos Road, Santa Fe, NM 87501. Please allow eight weeks for processing.

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

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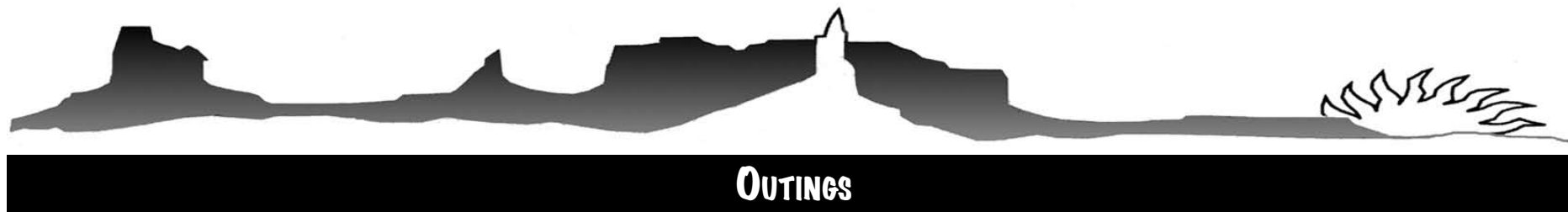
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Contributions, gifts, and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletter.



## Selected Sierra Club Outings for Nov. and Dec. 2007, Jan. 2008

**Saturday, November 10 • Hike to Window Rock, near Española** – 8 miles.

Moderate. Ilse Bleck (662-2368 or ibleck@yahoo.com – Pajarito Group).

**Saturday, November 10 • Penstemon Ridge hike, near Nun's Corner** –

7 miles. Easy/moderate. Nice views. Dogs okay. Norma McCallan (471-0005 – Northern Group).

**Saturday, November 10 • Stone Lions hike, Bandelier** – 13 miles, 2700' gain.

Strenuous. David Van Winkle (820-1006 – Northern Group).

**Sunday, November 11 • Tent Rocks hike** – Easy/moderate. Dogs okay on leash.

Eliza Schmid (474-5846 – Northern Group).

**Sunday, November 11 • Doña Ana peak hike** – 8 miles, 1500' gain. Moderate.

Great views. Meet at K-Mart parking lot on Highway 70 at 9 a.m. John Waugh (575/526-7116 – Southern Group).

**Saturday, November 17 • Cerro Azul, near Ojo Caliente** – Bike 8 miles, hike 4

miles. Intermediate. Call for details. Page Press (946-0169 – Northern Group).

**Sunday, November 18 • Easy beginner's snowshoe clinic** – If no snow,

moderate/strenuous hike up Big Tesuque to radio towers. Marcia Skillman (699-3008 – Northern Group).

**Saturday, November 24 • Tapia Canyon hike, Cabezon area** – Strenuous.

Rugged country with unique petroglyphs. Dogs okay. Stephen Markowitz (983-2779 – Northern Group).

**Sunday, November 25 • Glorieta Ghost Town hike** – Moderate. Dogs okay.

Eliza Schmid (474-5846 – Northern Group).

**Saturday, December 1 • Moderate hike in the Jemez Mountains** – Location to

be determined. Mark Jones (662-9443 – Pajarito Group).

**Saturday, December 1 • Moderate hike to Buckman Mesa** – 5-plus miles,

1100' gain. Climb a volcano overlooking White Rock Canyon. Views, petroglyphs, some steep, rough off-trail sections. Dogs okay. Norbert Sperlich (474-4354 – Northern Group).

**Sunday, December 2 • Beginner's snowshoe clinic, near Santa Fe Ski Basin** –

Rent shoes and poles and come out and play in the snow! Gear and technique tips will be shared. Dogs okay. Marcia Skillman (699-3008 – Northern Group).

**Saturday, December 8 • Moderate hike to Ancho Rapids, near White Rock** –

6 miles, 1100' gain. Dogs okay. Les Drapela (438-3306 – Northern Group).

**Saturday, December 8 • Cross-country skiing (or snowshoeing) if there is**

snow, at Cumbres Pass – Beginner/intermediate. Cross-country ski rentals available in Chama. Leave Los Alamos at 7 a.m., return at 6 p.m. Wear layers of clothes, including gaiters. Bring knapsack, lunch, water. Jean Dewart (662-9592 by Wed., 12/5 – Pajarito Group).

**Sunday, December 9 • Tent Rocks hike** – 4-5 miles, 900' gain. Easy/moderate

hike to Cave Loop and Canyon Trail. Some loose and rough footing. Dogs okay on leash. David Van Winkle (820-1006 – Northern Group).

**Sunday, December 9 • Cuchillo Mountains exploratory hike** – Near Edward's

Draw and Reilly peak north of Winston in the pinyon-juniper savannah. Easy/moderate, some elevation gain. Meet at the Black Range District Forest office in T or C at 8:30 a.m. Margot Wilson (575/894-5860 – Southern Group) or Mary Katherine Ray (575/772-5655 – Southern Group).

**Saturday, December 15 • Ojito trail hike, near Continental Divide and Rio**

Chama – 9 miles, 1000' gain. Moderate, one steep/strenuous section. Michael Di Rosa (667-0095 or 663-0648 – Northern & Pajarito Groups).

**Saturday, December 15 • Easy birdwatch walk in local area** – Bring binoculars.

Ron Duffy (466-6398 – Northern Group).

**Saturday, December 15 • Santa Fe River cleanup with Kathleen Davis** – See

article on Northern Group pages.

**Sunday, December 16 • Thompson Peak hike** – Strenuous, off-trail, and

exploratory, something lower if snowy. Dogs okay. Patrick O'Keefe (820-2359 – Northern Group).

**Saturday, December 29 • Strenuous cross-country ski off Winsor Trail or**

unusual moderate/strenuous off-trail hike in Pojoaque Valley – Dogs okay for hike. Page Press (946-0169 – Northern Group).

**Saturday, January 12 • Alamo Canyon hike, in Bandelier** – 6-plus miles, 1000'

gain. Moderate. Les Drapela (438-3306 – Northern Group).

**Saturday, January 19 • Strenuous snowshoe in Cerro Gordo area** – 8 miles,

2500' gain. Valle Grande views. Hike if poor snow. Michael Di Rosa (667-0095 or 663-0648 – Northern & Pajarito Groups).

**Sunday, January 20 • Strenuous snowshoe to Santa Fe Baldy or Puerto**

Nambe – 10-14 miles, 2000-3600' gain. Dogs okay. Patrick O'Keefe (820-2359 – Northern Group).

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

## Building Bridges to the Outdoors: No Child Left Inside

Most of us can recall fond memories of growing up in the great outdoors. Climbing trees. Riding your bike through the desert sand. Playing hide-and-go-seek in the backyard. Hiking in the forest. Regrettably, though, children today are staying inside, watching more television, playing more video games, and eating more junk food than ever before. This change in our relationship with nature has profound implications for the mental, physical, and spiritual health of future generations.

In an effort to counter these trends and increase exposure of New Mexico's youth to the outdoors, the Sierra Club has launched a statewide Building Bridges to the Outdoors (BBtO) program, which is committed to ensuring that local communities are empowered to connect their children with nature. The goal of the BBtO program is to ensure that every New Mexico youth is provided an outdoor experience. BBtO is moving towards this goal through a combination of several organizing strategies:

**Public Education:** Promoting the positive benefits of outdoor experiences on children's health and academic achievement, especially in science and math. In 2005 the Sierra Club funded a study administered by the California Department of Education that looked at how a week-long, outdoor education experience affected children's test scores and self esteem. The results were astounding: Students raised their science test scores by 27%, improved their conflict resolution and

problem-solving skills, and they experienced better self-esteem and motivation to learn.

**Movement Building:** Working with a diverse set of coalition partners including educators, health organizations, organized labor, community-based organizations, faith-based groups, Latino and Native American advocacy groups, and outdoor recreation groups to showcase how outdoor experiences are critical in helping children acquire leadership skills, gain respect for themselves and the environment, and develop positive relationships with their peers and community members.

**Legislative Advocacy:** Engaging public officials to provide funding for outdoor education and recreation programs. Earlier this year, for example, BBtO was instrumental in getting the New Mexico State Legislature to pass the Outdoor Classroom Initiative (OCI). The OCI is a collaboration between the Public Education Department and the New Mexico State Parks. It has four components: teacher training institutes and curriculum development, transportation grants, educational materials for students, and service learning. Our goal at the legislature in 2008 is to reauthorize the OCI and to establish a sustainable funding mechanism that would support outdoor education and recreation programs across the state.

**Leadership Development:** Providing young people with leadership and campaign skills through summer Environmental Leadership Trainings with

the Sierra Student Coalition, in order to go back to their communities and create positive social change.

**Targeted Grant Making:** Thus far in 2007 the BBtO program has provided over \$170,000 in funding to support a wide range of programs that utilize outdoor education and recreation as a vehicle for ensuring excellence in education, making education relevant to learners, developing a workforce capable of meeting the challenges of the future, and improving the quality of life for communities throughout New Mexico. An additional 4,000 New Mexico children will be able to attend these programs free of charge thanks to the funding by the Sierra Club.

So what can you do? Organize a family outdoor outing! Take a walk through a local park! Enjoy a backyard picnic! Contact a decision-maker in your community and let them know that getting kids outside is an important issue to you. Get an organization you are involved with, your city council, and your county commission to endorse the "Resolution Supporting Leaving No New Mexico Child Inside."

Connecting children with nature is a community investment for all of us. New Mexico can, and should, lead the way to a different future with programs and legislation that reconnect children with the outdoors. By working together we will leave no child inside.

To learn more or subscribe to our listserv, contact me at 243-7767 or BBTO-NM@sierraclub.org.

—Michael Casaus