

# Rio Grande Sierran



NEWS OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010

## Creating pathways to clean energy in N.M.

### PRC approves 46 megawatts of solar in PNM plan

The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC) released its Final Order in the PNM Renewable Plan case. In summary, the PRC directive approved 46 Megawatts of solar electric power to be installed in the next three years.

The new PNM plan includes 24 MW of distributed generation and 22 MW of central utility-owned solar power.

The distributed-generation program will continue to include net metering plus a Renewable Energy Credit (REC) payment for electricity generated by the customer. Net metering allows customers to run their meters backward when their solar system produces more electricity than the customer is using.

Net metering also provides the consumer some inflation protection from future utility electricity rate increases. The new REC program will have declining payments with cumulative installations that are intended to match declining costs of solar equipment.

At the end of 2009, there was about 2 MW of solar power on PNM's system. Thus, this 46 MW of new solar will substantially increase PNM's solar electricity output. This is certainly a step in the right direction.

However, solar energy produced by this new capacity will be less than 2% of PNM's total energy output. Since New Mexico has the second-best solar energy potential in the nation, we still have a long way to go.

—David Van Winkle



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Solar power accounted for only about 2 megawatts on PNM's system as of 2009, but the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission recently approved 46 megawatts to be installed in the next three years. The Rio Grande Chapter is also working for stronger regulation on coal waste and retrofits for San Juan Generating Station.

### Coalition supports retrofits to control station's pollutants

The Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club and seven other advocacy groups have sent a letter to Governor Richardson and New Mexico Environment Secretary Ron Curry supporting the Environment Dept.'s Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) for the San Juan Generating Station. This plan would upgrade PNM's San Juan station with cost-effective controls for nitrogen-oxide emissions and other pollutants and also further reduce sulfur dioxide, presenting a tremendous opportunity to protect New Mexico's enchanted landscapes, safeguard public health and welfare, promote economic prosperity, and keep New Mexico in control of its clean-air legacy.

There is much at stake with the proposed State Implementation Plan as New Mexico faces increasing air-quality challenges. Haze continues to mar vistas in many of New Mexico's defining landscapes, including areas protected

as Class I under the Clean Air Act such as the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Bandelier National Monument, the Gila Wilderness, Pecos Wilderness, Salt Creek Wilderness, San Pedro Parks Wilderness, Wheeler Peak Wilderness, and White Mountain Wilderness.

NMED's modeling for its Regional Haze State Implementation Plan shows that within these Class I areas, visibility is about twice as bad as the worst natural background conditions. This modeling shows that the San Juan Generating Station contributes to 80% of the visibility impairment in Mesa Verde National Park, 70% in the San Pedro Parks Wilderness, 45% in Bandelier National Monument, and 40% in the Pecos Wilderness. To get involved, contact David Van Winkle at david@vw77.com.

—David Van Winkle

### Chapter urges strong regulation on coal waste

Speaking through 13 of our state's most representative advocacy groups, New Mexicans are asking Gov. Richardson to support strong federal regulation of coal-combustion waste (CCW). New Mexico ranks 10th in the nation for CCW production with an amazing 6.8 million tons dumped from coal-fired electric-power generation in San Juan and McKinley Counties annually.

In response to the spill at Kingston, Tenn., last year, the EPA is proposing two very different versions of a disposal rule for this poison-laden material. The two options: regulation of coal ash as a special waste under subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) or regulation as a solid waste under subtitle D of RCRA. Subtitle C is a comprehensive regulatory structure, while subtitle D offers guidance and leaves implementation and oversight up to each state.

Signed by Amigos Bravos, Audubon New Mexico, Caballo Concerned Citizens, Coalition for Clean

Affordable Energy, Dooda Desert Rock, EarthWorks Oil & Gas Accountability Project, Environment New Mexico, Gila Resources Information Project, New Mexico Conference of Churches, Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter, San Juan Citizens Alliance, Southwest Environmental Center and WildEarth Guardians, the letter asks the Governor to support the more meaningful federal regulation.

Rio Grande Chapter Chair John Buchser voiced strong support for the Subtitle C option: "New Mexico communities continue to be threatened with arsenic, selenium, and other pollutants from unsafe storage of coal ash. New Mexicans and all Americans deserve better protection for their water and air. Subtitle C would give us all strong protection from the air and water pollution created by waste from coal-fired electrical generation," Buchser emphasized.

—David Van Winkle

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## El Paso Adopts Flow Control

Opponents of the Camino Real Landfill in Sunland Park found an unexpected champion in their campaign to close the landfill: the El Paso City Council. On Aug. 24, the council took the forward-looking step to adopt "Flow Control," an ordinance that will require all commercial waste in the city be dumped at city landfills.

Currently, residential waste goes to the City of El Paso Landfill near Clint, but all commercial waste, 600,000 tons per year, goes to the privately owned Camino Real. Diversion of commercial waste to the public landfill, starting Sept. 1, 2011, means Camino Real will lose 80-90% of its business.

Realizing that Flow Control could mean closure of the landfill, Waste Connections Inc., owners of Camino Real and one of the largest waste haulers in the nation, offered the city \$2.5 million a year if the City Council rejected Flow Control and extended its contract for another 15 years.

In its 6-2 vote in support of Flow Control, the council simultaneously voted to reject the multimillion-dollar offer. Voting in the ma-

majority were Susie Byrd, Emma Acosta, Rachel Quintana, Eddie Holguin, Steve Ortega and Beto O'Rourke.

City officials say that by more than doubling the flow of waste into city landfills, they will save residents money, while expanding recycling and initiating programs that convert waste to energy. The policy will also help the city realize a number of sustainability projects, including composting, solar projects, renewable energy, LEED buildings, and an expanded recycling program.

To handle the increased volume of waste, Clint Landfill will have to be enlarged and the McCombs Landfill will have to be reopened. This will require an upfront capital investment of \$18.5 million by the City, which it expects to recover in less than five years.

Fearing contamination, opponents have long argued it was a mistake to site Camino Real Landfill atop the Mesilla Bolson, one of two major aquifers in the region that supplies El Paso with its drinking water. Passage of Flow Control will ensure El Paso's major water supply is protected. — *Michael Casaus*

### International Day of Climate Action

Events are planned for Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Santa Fe, Bosque Farms, Dixon and elsewhere, and are being added all the time. Check [www.350.com/map](http://www.350.com/map) for details.

## On 10/10/10: Get to Work!

10/10/10 is an International Day of Climate Action with the theme "Get to Work!"

The political momentum to address climate change on a federal level has fizzled in the Senate. But is this the time to give up on our children and grandchildren? No! We must get to work.

10/10/10 is a project of 350.org, the organization founded by Bill McKibben. It's dedicated to bringing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere back to a level it has already exceeded: 350 parts per million. We're heading toward 400 at this point, but many scientists have identified 350 ppm as the safe level of atmospheric carbon dioxide. On 10/10/10, a Sunday, there will be events all over the state, including Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Las Cruces, Dixon and Bosque Farms.

Go to [350.org/map](http://350.org/map) to find and RSVP for an event near you. Events are being added constantly.

The Sierra Club organized an event last year, but this year, we are focusing on the November elections. That's how we are choosing to get to work on this issue. Please, however you do it—get to work!

—*Eva Thaddeus*

## Richardson Enacts Six-Month Ban on Lobo-Trapping in Gila

Gov. Richardson has signed a trap ban that is to be in effect for six months on public land in the Gila while a study by NM Game and Fish is completed to determine if there are any types of traps that can be allowed that pose only minimal risk to lobos. This is a tremendous reprieve for wolves, which have been the accidental victims of fur trappers' devices to the point that two have lost legs. With only 14 left in New Mexico, no threat is too small to ignore.

Around the rest of the state, fur-trapping season will take place as usual this winter. We have been promised that the trapping rules will be opened for

review this December. In New Mexico, more than 10,600 bobcats have been killed in the three years prior to 2010 because of market demand for their pelts. Even more foxes have died. There are no bag limits or quotas on small carnivores like foxes and bobcats and populations are not being monitored. The last review was in 2006, and the trapping rules have not kept pace with the demands being placed on our small carnivores, dismissively called "furbearers."

Please contact Commissioners and ask that they pass the executive order banning traps in the Gila, and contact Director Tod Stevenson and ask him to consider that a trap that can hold a wolf, even if it

does not injure it, still places it in harm's way when the trapper returns to the temptation of a helplessly restrained animal. Dozens of wolves have just disappeared in this area of the state, where anti-wolf sentiment runs high and there are many trappers.

See Page 4 for Game Commission contact information. Also ask that the promise be kept to review the trapping rules. Five years is long enough to wait, especially in the absence of scientific data about how small carnivores are faring. Please visit [www.nmsierracub.org/wildlife](http://www.nmsierracub.org/wildlife) for more information.

—*Mary Katherine Ray*

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*Letters mailed to DC offices take up to six weeks due to screening procedures, so consider sending letters to state offices to expedite delivery.*

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# Coalition Strives to Protect San Juan Badlands

Sierra Club members know that New Mexico is the birthplace of wilderness, but few realize that this is doubly true. Creation of the Gila Wilderness in 1924 in Gila National Forest set an extremely important precedent. However, the 1985 establishment of the Bisti and De Na Zin badlands wildernesses in the San Juan Basin, largely due to Rio Grande Chapter efforts, was an equally pioneering event.

These first BLM wildernesses began a paradigm change within an agency whose sole purpose had been to encourage exploitation of public lands. Today the BLM manages 222 official wilderness areas totaling 8.6 million acres in 10 western states. That's significant progress for a federal organization that until 1976 was only a "temporary" agency charged with disposing of public lands. It all started with the San Juan Basin Badlands.

When the Chapter helped Ojito, also a San Juan Basin Badlands, to become wilderness in 2005, we broke a 17-year dry spell in wilderness formation for New Mexico. Now the Rio Grande Chapter is taking the lead on behalf of the 14 San Juan Basin Badlands by spearheading a coalition consisting of the Rio Grande Chapter, the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, and the Southwest Chapter of the Wil-



**The San Juan Basin's 18 chronological sedimentary layers record 200 million years of exciting paleoecology. Go to [nmsierraclub.org/san-juan-badlands-basin-tours](http://nmsierraclub.org/san-juan-badlands-basin-tours) for information on hikes in the Badlands.**

derness Society. The San Juan Basin Badlands Coalition's goal is to upgrade protection levels for all the San Juan Basin Badlands by working with the BLM, the New Mexico Congressional delegation, and contiguous Native American and ranching communities.

The 14 San Juan Basin Badlands are high-desert icons. These unique scenic, ecological, scientific, educational, and

recreational resources deserve much greater recognition and protection. All are on public lands. Several have none whatsoever. The seemingly endless hoodoo sculpture galleries and high-desert solitude are only the beginning. The San Juan Basin's 18 chronological sedimentary layers record 200 million years of exciting paleoecology. Huge petrified logs and diverse fossils hint

at the action-packed story. The Bisti alone has produced more than 200 fossil plant and animal species. Initial paleontological finds here in the early 1980s helped spur the establishment of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History.

While some SJB badlands areas are stark, lifeless environments, others form high-desert sky islands and wildlife corridors with much greater species diversity and density than the surrounding sagebrush steppes and grasslands. Isolated mesa tops shelter hidden botanical gardens showcasing the elegant strength of New Mexico's high-desert flora. The resilient, cliff-hanging junipers, piñons and bonsai ponderosa trees are particularly compelling. Log onto [PhotoTrekNM.com](http://PhotoTrekNM.com) for extensive San Juan Basin Badlands info and almost 1,000 images. Go to [nmsierraclub.org/san-juan-badlands-basin-tours](http://nmsierraclub.org/san-juan-badlands-basin-tours) for details on a series of hikes to increase awareness.

Members received an e-mail alert in September detailing the SJB Badlands Coalition's campaign efforts. Seize this opportunity to cut through political gridlock and the abdication of responsibility. You can make a real difference. Let's continue to change the way we treat our state's diverse, far-flung public lands.

—Michael Richie

## State plans could decimate cougars and bears

New Mexico Game and Fish is proposing to drastically raise the number of bears and cougars that can be killed every year.

It wants to increase the number of bears that can die from 406 to 733, apparently based on anecdotal evidence that people are seeing "a lot" of bears.

Game and Fish wants to more than double the number of mountain lions that can be shot and of those more than triple the number that can be female. No one really knows how many bears are in New Mexico, but it is estimated that it is only several thousand. If bear populations were steadily on the rise, as the Department claims, there would be a steady increase every year in conflicts, and there has not been. Instead, over the last year there has been a large number of bear complaints mostly because of drought and a shortage of wild foods. One season does not a trend make.

For mountain lions, the Department is abandoning a rigorous \$1 million, 10-year study done in New Mexico in favor of an unpublished and unavailable paper that allegedly has dramatically increased the assumed density of cougars in our state. The Depart-

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[tod.stevenson@state.nm.us](mailto:tod.stevenson@state.nm.us)

ment has not been analyzing tooth data from each hunter-killed mountain lion in order to approximate population demographics. This data can indicate if too many are being killed, and even though it was charged to do so by the Game Commission four years ago, the Department has forfeited this opportunity to gauge how the population is doing.

Bears and cougars, like all predators, can regulate their own populations. They kill each other defend-

ing their territories and drive out intruders. When humans kill too many, there is a tendency to shift the demographics to younger and more inexperienced animals, which are more likely to prey on livestock and attack people. So this killing of lions and bears won't make people or livestock safer, nor will it create more deer, elk or bighorn sheep for hunters.

After years of prudent management, the G&F proposals, if implemented not only next year but for the three years that follow as planned, could very well lead to extermination.

Please help ensure that these plans are not enacted by contacting Game Commissioners and the Director of NM Game and Fish. Ask that the cougar and bear rules that are the result of years of progress in carnivore management stay as they are.

Please attend the next Game Commission meeting at 9 a.m. Oct. 28 at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in Ruidoso. The struggle for adequate protections for our remaining large carnivores will be decided that day. Also check our website for updated information on how you can help. See [www.nmsierraclub.org/wildlife](http://www.nmsierraclub.org/wildlife).

—Mary Katherine Ray

## 2010 Wilderness Conference Oct. 23: Create Your Wild Legacy

### 2010 Wilderness Conference

At The Bosque School in Albuquerque  
 October 23, 2010

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission of \$20 includes lunch. \$10 for students.

Register online at [www.nmwild.org](http://www.nmwild.org) or contact Trisha at 505-843-8696, ext. 1001, or Roger, ext. 1004, for details.

This year's Wilderness Conference is sure to instill new vigor and dedication in all who love, enjoy or work to protect New Mexico's wildest landscapes. A special journaling workshop delves into the richness of experiencing wild nature. Here, attendees create a living notebook from reflections on nature through drawing, writing & alternative media. A special award will be presented to Senator Jeff Bingaman for his outstanding work to protect wilderness. Renowned landscape photographer David Muench

will do a slide presentation honoring the memory of Stewart Udall, former Secretary of the Interior. Endangered species stenciling and wildlife viewing sessions will be held outside in the Bosque during lunch. A DVD highlights the work on the Mexican wolf conservation stamp and a silent auction of weekend getaways and fun items round out the day.

Join us for a day of networking, fun, and learning who is doing what for our wild public lands!

—Roger Turner, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance

# New Residential Codes Make New Mexico National Leader

New Mexico has become a national leader in energy efficiency by adopting the 2009 NM Energy Conservation Code (NMECC) for residential construction.

Starting next year, all new homes are required to be approximately 20 percent more efficient, reducing homeowners' energy consumption, monthly utility bills, and carbon footprints. From the first day of ownership, the average homeowner will benefit from almost \$25 per month in savings as a result of the efficiency improvements to the building code; net savings are closer to \$14 per month when the marginal increase in mortgage payments is taken into account.

The Construction Industries Commission also voted to adopt most of the 2009 NMECC for new commercial buildings at its July meeting.

However, Sections 503 and 506 were deemed too expensive and sent back for modification and another round of public comment before returning to the Commission for consideration. Estimates vary, but Sections 503 and 506 are responsible for providing between 3 and 5 percent of the energy savings in the 2009 NMECC. Without these two key sections, new commercial buildings will be 15 to 17 percent more efficient starting in 2011, falling short of the 20 percent target proposed to the Commission – and required of the residential sector.

Negotiations to modify Sections 503 and 506 were held in August 2010. The recommended changes to Section 503 were mostly administrative in terms of clarifying the standards for implementation and enforcement without affecting the efficiency gains of the code section. On the other hand, proposals to amend Section 506 from industry groups and some regulatory agencies would have weakened it substantially. A compromise was reached that maintains Section 506 as originally proposed to the Commission, but delays implementation until January 1, 2013, when it becomes mandatory. A two-year deferment of Section 506 is an imperfect resolution, but it is better than a weakened Section 506 that would be part of the commercial building codes well beyond 2013.

The Construction Industries Commission was scheduled to meet on Sept. 30 for a final vote on the amended Sections 503 and 506. As before, the Sierra Club will focus on generating public comments in support of adoption and swift implementation from among our members. Check the Rio Grande Chapter's website to see how the Commission voted at its Sept. 30 meeting: <http://nmsierraclub.org/clean-energy>.

Proposals for improving the energy efficiency of New Mexico's building codes were developed between August 2009 and July 2010 under the auspices of the state's Construction Industries Division

## Get Involved

For more information or to get involved with our "green buildings" efforts locally, please contact Shrayas Jatkar: [shrayas.jatkar@sierraclub.org](mailto:shrayas.jatkar@sierraclub.org), 505-243-7767.

Past articles covering improvements to New Mexico and Albuquerque's building codes can be found on the Rio Grande Chapter's website: <http://tinyurl.com/greenbldgsNM> and <http://tinyurl.com/greenbldgsABQ>.

(CID). A "code-change committee" that included industry, regulators and efficiency and environmental advocates was convened to formulate and review potential changes to the building code based on cost-effectiveness and technical feasibility.

Sierra Club staff participated in many of the code-change meetings, though we were not on the committee and lacked voting power. Tammy Fiebelkorn of the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET) deserves special recognition for ensuring the yearlong process continued moving and that the result was worth supporting.

Every three years, the International Code Council adopts a new set of building codes such as the standard International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). In the U.S., states can then update their own codes to reflect the latest global consensus on building science and construction practices. Given the hard-fought effort to improve New Mexico's building codes during this latest code-change cycle, it is all too likely that the state will forego the opportunity to update its codes after the adoption of the 2012 IECC.

New buildings last for 50 years or more, making improvements to building codes an important tool to address global climate change as well as ambient and indoor air quality.

However, several other supporting measures are needed to realize the full potential of energy efficiency in the building sector, which accounts for about 40 percent of all energy consumed in the U.S. and nearly the same amount of our nation's greenhouse-gas emissions. Examples of supporting measures include disclosing the energy-usage history of a building to potential buyers and requiring certain energy improvements be made prior to the sale of a home or office building. It is also critical to improve the building codes covering manufactured housing, which represents a sizable share of New Mexico's housing stock.

— Shrayas Jatkar, Associate Regional Representative, Clean Energy Solutions & Federal/Int'l. Curbing Carbon campaigns

## Quarterly Meetings

The Chapter's Conservation and Executive Committee meetings will be held Saturday-Sunday, October 2-3, at Sevillita Wildlife Refuge. Contact Conservation Chair Ken Hughes or Chapter Chair John Buchser (see directory) for more information. Carpooling is encouraged.



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

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

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org) F94Q  1



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# Sustainable, Carbon-Neutral Regional Food Supply

Until the 1940s there was substantial self-reliance of towns and villages upon local farmers for their food needs. Post-World War II development of regional and national roads led to widespread truck farming and a network of grocery store chains. A booming economy, can-do attitude and agricultural subsidies combined to mask the added costs in fuel to deliver the goods. It has only gotten worse since.

The 1940 average farm produced 2.3 calories for every calorie of fossil fuel used. By 1974 that ratio had dropped to 1:1. In the 1990s global food markets and expedited shipment across distances of up to 5,000 miles became commonplace. Research from Ann Arbor Center for Sustainable Systems (University of Michigan) shows that today it takes closer to 7-10 calories of energy for each calorie of food produced and distributed ([www.sustainabletable.org](http://www.sustainabletable.org)).

The convenience of year-round kiwis or mangoes bears a huge, embedded carbon cost. Luckily, in Albuquerque there are responsible local residents providing access to locally grown food.

At the July Sierra Club 'N' Beer gathering, La Montanita Co-op Trade Regional Food-Shed employee Robin Seydel presented promising new trends and opportunities for providing food responsibly, locally and without loss of quality. See [www.lamontanita.coop](http://www.lamontanita.coop).



## Central Group Directory

### Executive Committee

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

<b>Julie Wilt</b>	Interim Chair	505/404-0972	<a href="mailto:julie@thewilts.net">julie@thewilts.net</a>
<b>Eva Thaddeus</b>	Co-Chair, Secretary, Global Warming Issue Chair, Political Chair	505/266-9646	<a href="mailto:evathad@nmia.com">evathad@nmia.com</a>
<b>Michal Mudd</b>	Website Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, General Meetings	505/715-7886	<a href="mailto:mudd_pi@mac.com">mudd_pi@mac.com</a>
<b>David Ther</b>	Treasurer, Outings Chair	505/260-1553	<a href="mailto:grelbik@gmail.com">grelbik@gmail.com</a>

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

In 2004, the La Montanita Co-op Board voted to create the Co-op Trade Initiative: a regional food-shed production and distribution system.

Through the Food-Shed warehouse,

known as the Cooperative Distribution Center (CDC), the project also provides distribution services for regional/local products to other retail businesses within the food-shed area. It seeks to

reduce food-miles with consolidated trucking routes and pickup of product with delivery of farm supplies including animal feed and egg cartons and produce packing boxes.

The Co-op Trade Initiative collaborates with the New Mexico Food-Shed Alliance, The New Mexico Agricultural Task Force of the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments, The University of New Mexico Sustainability Studies Program and others in an effort to push regional foodshed and sustainability into mainstream consciousness.

A second presentation was given by Farmer Monte of local produce distributor Los Poblanos Organics ([lospoblanosorganics.com](http://lospoblanosorganics.com)), which farms 36 acres along the Rio Grande River Valley in Albuquerque and 30 more in the Los Padillas area of the South Valley. They offer three ways to receive their produce: the Harvest Box Program, their grocery-delivery service, and through produce booths at several area Farmers' Markets.

Please support your local growers and, if you can, grow your own fresh vegetables and fruit. Go to New Mexico Farmers' Marketing Association to find your nearest growers' market: [farmersmarketsnm.org/Farmers\\_Markets/Market\\_Locations/index.html](http://farmersmarketsnm.org/Farmers_Markets/Market_Locations/index.html)

Thanks to Robin Seydel of La Montanita Co-op for her help in researching this story.

— Jeff Potter

## Getting Kids Outside Forum: Play Hard!

On August 5, nearly 200 teachers, public health professionals, conservationists and parents gathered for the first Getting Kids Outside forum at the Bosque School in Albuquerque.

The summit aimed to start a dialogue about how getting our kids moving outdoors could provide a tool to combat the growing childhood-obesity issue in the state.

Pediatric overweight is a problem all over the nation, and is on the rise in New Mexico, with 27% of high school students classified as overweight or at risk. Diabetes incidence increased an estimated 37% in New Mexico from 1990 to 2000. Young people who engage in regular physical activity and healthy eating practices decrease their risk for chronic diseases and generally live healthier and longer lives.

This health problem is also expensive. Experts have indicated that one in seven cases of diabetes could be prevented through exercise and diet, saving New Mexico \$140 million annually.

The conveners of this forum—Sierra Club, Environmental Education Association of New Mexico, Santa Fe Mountain Center, USDA Forest Service and Bosque School—hoped to spark an interest and provide tools to educators and public-health experts to address this problem in creative and simple ways.

The Forum consisted of six panels. Several distinguished guests made presentations to the crowd, including Congressman Martin Heinrich, Lt. Governor Diane Denish and Bernalillo County Commissioner Maggie Hart-Stebbins. Speaker Suzanne Gagnon of University of New Mexico said "Play

### Recommendations from the Getting Kids Outside forum:

1. Create rewards or incentive-based approaches to encourage kids to move. Consider hiking clubs at recreation or community centers.
2. Implement more Safe Routes to School programs. Identify barriers to walking/bicycling and determine solutions that don't require funding—identify low-hanging fruit.
3. Work with communities to develop an environmental literacy and outdoor recreation plan to leverage different sources of state and federal funding.
4. Develop a statewide network for sharing information, which includes statewide data, opportunities for funding, and description of programs that exist across the state.
5. Work with school and summer programs to ensure that we keep kids active in the summer.

hard!" is the prescription she gives to her patients and students.

Participants developed a number of recommendations, ranging from comprehensive state plans to encouraging teachers to just get outside with their students. Recommendations will be developed into a report and distributed to participants and decision-makers. Please see [www.sierraclub.org/youth/new-mexico](http://www.sierraclub.org/youth/new-mexico) for a detailed agenda and list of speakers.

— Kristina Ortez de Jones,  
*Building Bridges to the Outdoors*

## To Contribute to the Rio Grande Sierran

The *Rio Grande Sierran* is published four times a year – January, April, July, and October – by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club as a benefit for members living in New Mexico and West Texas. The opinions expressed in signed articles in the *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 *Sierran*. (Please let us know if you reprint.) Products and services advertised in the *Rio Grande Sierran* are not necessarily endorsed by the Sierra Club.

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

Submissions must be received by the 10th of the month prior to publication. Nonmember subscriptions are \$10 per year. Notify Norma McCallan ([nmccallan@mindspring.com](mailto:nmccallan@mindspring.com)) of your interest and mailing address; send check to our Treasurer, Barbara Scheer, 28 Cedar Drive, Roswell, NM 88203. Please allow eight weeks for processing.



## PAJARITO GROUP NEWS

### New Construction on the Pajarito Corridor

The “Pajarito Corridor” is the mesa within Los Alamos National Laboratory that stretches from TA-3 to White Rock. It is restricted to LANL badge-holders, and is home to many and varied research facilities.

Those who work at LANL/LANS are at least aware of the planned construction on Pajarito Mesa that will include two of three stages of the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Facility Replacement (CMRR) relocation and consolidation: the Radiological Laboratory, Utility and Office Building and its Equipment Installation.

The CMRR is not the only new facility to be built on the mesa, however. The revitalization also includes the Nuclear Materials Safeguards and Security Upgrade Project, and the Technical Area 55 Revitalization Project.

Many of the other old research facilities are to be remodeled or replaced. Parking will be vastly ex-

panded to accommodate workers’ cars.

According to LANL’s informational webpage ([www.lanl.gov/construction/q-and-a.php](http://www.lanl.gov/construction/q-and-a.php)), the refurbishing of the mesa will last about 10 years, during which time LANL/LANS will not hire directly, but use contractors and subcontractors to do the hiring of workers for construction and crafts. The Lab will depend on “residents and businesses” to provide housing for the “large influx of workers.”

To mitigate traffic of the influx of a possible-1,000 construction/crafts workers (some of whom, according to the webpage, will be foreign nationals hired by the contractors), LANL/LANS is considering building a parking lot on the Truck Route to accommodate parking. Construction/craft workers could park here and then be bussed to the construction site.

Do you have a question? [www.lanl.gov/construction/q-and-a.php](http://www.lanl.gov/construction/q-and-a.php). How about a comment? [construction@lanl.gov](mailto:construction@lanl.gov).

### What To Do With Old DOE/LASO Building

The building that was initially a dorm and most recently the Los Alamos Area Office, was transferred to Los Alamos County. Staff and Council are finally beginning the process to decide what to do with the beautiful, canyon-rim property. Housing, business, mixed use (housing and business), or maybe a conference center, have been proposed—private

construction to generate revenue for the County. Another push is to create a Science Center or a Post-Graduate Center modeled after the Santa Fe Institute. What would you like to see constructed (or not) on this special piece of “real estate.” Have a voice. Please watch for the announcement of the scoping sessions in late September or early October.

### Affordable Housing and Where to Build It

With the high cost of housing, along with the proposed hiring of a possible 1000 construction/crafts workers, Los Alamos County has identified as “critical” the need for more affordable housing. The plan of the County is to create a public/private partnership.

One “public” portion of the partnership would be to establish grants to support people qualifying for

lower-income housing. Another “public” portion would be for the County to provide County land to a private developer who would build, as on the Los Alamos Schools property in White Rock, a mix of “affordable” and for-profit housing. Again, have a voice in this project.

Please watch for the announcement of the upcoming scoping sessions.

### Pajarito Group Directory

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

#### Executive Committee

- Chair: Ilse Bleck  
505/662-2368      [ibleck@yahoo.com](mailto:ibleck@yahoo.com)
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505/662-9443      [jonesmm1@comcast.net](mailto:jonesmm1@comcast.net)
- Secretary: Jody Benson  
505/662-4782
- Treasurer: David Gemeinhart  
505/672-6267      [ddgem@losalamos.com](mailto:ddgem@losalamos.com)
- Michael Di Rosa  
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- Nona Girardi  
[nonamg@aol.com](mailto:nonamg@aol.com)
- Chuck Pergler  
[ccpergler@gmail.com](mailto:ccpergler@gmail.com)

#### Committee Chairs

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- Environmental Education: Pauline Wilder  
505/662-7768      [xxmpxx@gmail.com](mailto:xxmpxx@gmail.com)
- Global Warming: Charles Keller  
505/662-7915      [alfonso@cybermesa.com](mailto:alfonso@cybermesa.com)
- Grazing, National Forests, Wetlands, Wilderness: David Gemeinhart  
505/672-6267      [ddgem@losalamos.com](mailto:ddgem@losalamos.com)
- Mining: David Torney  
575/829-3433      [dtorney@valornet.com](mailto:dtorney@valornet.com)
- Newsletter Editor, Publicity, Sprawl, Endangered Species/Wildlife: Jody Benson  
505/662-4782
- Outings, Parks/Refuges, Membership Co-Chair: Ilse Bleck  
505/662-2368      [ibleck@yahoo.com](mailto:ibleck@yahoo.com)
- Political, Cool Cities, Membership Co-Chair: Mark Jones  
505/662-9443      [jonesmm1@comcast.net](mailto:jonesmm1@comcast.net)
- Water Issues: Barbara Calef  
505/662-3825      [bfcalef@yahoo.com](mailto:bfcalef@yahoo.com)

### Meetings and Outings

**7 p.m. Wednesday, October 6**  
**Upstairs Meeting Rooms,**  
**Mesa Public Library**  
**Louis Pape: “One Trash Can a Year”**

Ever wonder how to reduce the bags and bags of trash you have? Are you concerned about how our earth is being ripped up to produce more and more? Come to the session “One Trash Can a Year” and have fun participating in group activities to learn how you, too, can drastically reduce your waste. Reducing waste can have enormous positive effects. One EPA estimate is that 46% of all US greenhouse gas

emissions are from the management of materials!

Learn about “Earth Dollars” and how the trash can is your last resort. Louise Pape has been achieving this goal for many years now, and makes it fun to learn how.

**7 p.m. Wednesday, November 3**  
**Upstairs Meeting Rooms,**  
**Mesa Public Library**  
**The Bioneers**

The Bioneers share the Sierra Club’s concern that “Human activity is putting such strain on the natural functions of Earth that the ability of the planet’s ecosystems to sustain future

generations can no longer be taken for granted.”

But founder Kenny Ausubel believes that in mimicking nature’s operating instructions, we can “serve human ends while enriching the web of life.”

Although many of us believe that the world is on the brink of irreversible environmental degradation, the Bioneers hope that by honoring the web of life through community—connecting people with breakthrough ideas and solutions—and by growing community through regional alliances, we can make a fundamental, large-scale shift in protecting the Earth.

Please see [www.bioneers.org/about/our-mission](http://www.bioneers.org/about/our-mission), and come join the presentation.

**7 p.m. Wednesday, December 1**  
**Upstairs Meeting Rooms, Mesa Public Library**

To Be Announced.

Do you have an idea for a program? Please contact Mark Jones at 662-9443 or [jonesmm1@comcast.net](mailto:jonesmm1@comcast.net) to present your idea. Also, please watch your email and *The Monitor* for the announcement of this program.

**Please see Page 12 for outings and adventures in our area.**

### FOUR CORNERS BRANCH

#### Steering Committee

- Art Jaquez, Co-Chair**  
505/360-0176 • [artjaquez2@yahoo.com](mailto:artjaquez2@yahoo.com)
- Nick Cullander, Co-Chair**  
505/334-0935 • [ncullander@hotmail.com](mailto:ncullander@hotmail.com)
- Gordon Glass, Air Quality, Outings**  
505/564-4460 • [agglass@earthlink.net](mailto:agglass@earthlink.net)

### The Sierra Club Is Hiring a Field Organizer

**Position:** Associate field organizer, coal  
**Location:** Albuquerque, with lots of travel

The associate field organizer builds grassroots power by leading the implementation of organizing campaigns that will increase the number of people involved, leaders trained, and engagement of people with influence to achieve Sierra Club conservation goals. He or she carries out organizing strategies and activities for the National Beyond Coal Campaign and other local campaigns or programs in New Mexico.

See [sierraclub.org/careers/conservation](http://sierraclub.org/careers/conservation) for more details. Send résumés to [resumes@sierraclub.org](mailto:resumes@sierraclub.org), with “Associate Field Organizer, Coal-SCNM#85-10” in the subject line.



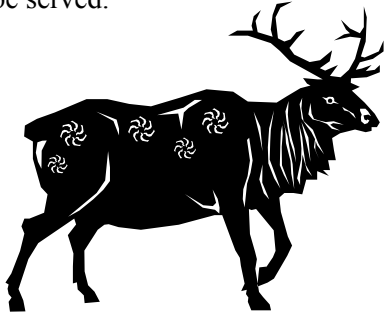
## NORTHERN GROUP NEWS

### FUTURE OF THE VALLES CALDERA

6:30 PM, Tuesday, October 19

*Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 107 West Barcelona Road  
(just north of Cordova)*

**Tom Ribe**, a long-time public land and national park advocate, will give a talk on the **Valles Caldera National Preserve** and its potential move to management by the National Park Service. Tom is the author of the recent book, *Inferno by Committee, A History of the Cerro Grande (Los Alamos) Fire, America's Worst Prescribed Fire Disaster*. Please join us. Coffee, tea and cookies will be served.



### NORTHERN GROUP COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Sierra Club Office, 1807 Second Street, Unit #45

**Group Executive Committee:** Tuesday, October 5, 7 PM  
Tuesday, November 2, 7 PM Tuesday, December 7, 7 PM  
**Group Conservation Committee:** Tuesday, November 23, 7 PM

*All meetings, outings, and activities are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC unless otherwise indicated.*

Northern New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club  
1807 Second Street, Unit #45, Santa Fe, NM 87505  
505 • 983 • 2703 ♦ NEW WEBSITE: <http://northern.nmsierraclub.org>

### FROM THE CHAIR

David Van Winkle

We have had a busy and successful summer. YOU are making a difference by supporting our programs to protect the environment. Thank you all that you do.

In July, New Mexico approved statewide residential building codes that will reduce energy consumption by 20% and save consumers thousands of dollars over the life of their home. Chapter members sent hundreds of emails to the Construction Industries Commission in support of this change.

The plan to move the Valles Caldera to management by the National Park system is making progress. Senators Bingaman and Udall introduced a bill to make this change. Our chapter again sent hundreds of emails supporting this move. The bill passed the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in early August.

In August, we began a targeted effort to get real and realistic regulations for coal combustion waste. Many of you have sent emails to the EPA and our governor in support of this. We also led an effort to deliver letters from 13 major environmental organizations to the Governor to support this change.

### ♦ ♦ NORTHERN NEW MEXICO GROUP LEADERS ♦ ♦

<b>Chair</b> – David Van Winkle * ‡	david@vw77.com	820-1006
<b>Vice-Chair</b> – Norma McCallan * ‡	nmccallan@mindspring.com	471-0005
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Tobin Oruch	oruch@lanl.gov	820-2844
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Phone Answerer – Bebs Taylor		983-9129
Publicity – Kia Mudge		474-6697
Volunteers – Patricia Carlton	carlton505@comcast.net	988-1596
SF River Cleanups – Kathleen Davis	kdav40@aol.com	505-795-3286
Social Cohesion – Jean Watts *	jeanwatts@comcast.net	989-5010

### WILDLIFE STEWARDSHIP

7 PM, Tuesday, November 16

*Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 107 West Barcelona Road  
(just north of Cordova)*

**Katherine Egleson**, Director of The Wildlife Center, will give a talk and demonstration on wildlife. Her topic will include long term stewardship of wildlife in our community, promoting land conservation, habitat restoration, and rehabilitation of species, including threatened and endangered, that live in New Mexico. She will bring some of these species burrowing owl, Mexican spotted owl, Gila monster, or other owls and raptors, that are cared for at the Center and that are non-releasable into the wild.

### NORTHERN GROUP HOLIDAY PARTY

5:30 to 8:30 PM, Sunday, December 5

*Santa Fe Woman's Club, 1616 Old Pecos Trail*

Join us for our annual holiday member party. Visit with your friends, meet new ones and help celebrate our successes for the year. We have a limit of 75 people for this event – and so reservations are required. Our entertainment will be a slide show of various Sierra Club outings.

Please bring a main meat or veggie dish, salad, dessert, wine, beer or fruit juice (sufficient for eight people, per attendee). RSVP for yourself and any guests you may be bringing to Alice Cox (505-757-2145 or [auntialice@pecosplaza.com](mailto:auntialice@pecosplaza.com)) or Jean Watts (989-5010 or [jeanwatts@comcast.net](mailto:jeanwatts@comcast.net))

In August, we signed on to a letter to the governor and NMED to enforce pollution regulations on the San Juan coal-fired power plant.

At the end of August, the PRC ruled on the PNM renewable plan. This approved plan calls for 24 MW solar distributed generation and 22 MW of central solar. This is an increase of 2300% compared to the installed base of solar PV.

In August and September, many of you testified and wrote letters to the Santa Fe National Forest management team to implore them to implement strong travel management plan.

In September, hundreds of you sent emails to the Environmental Improvement Board to insist on proper air regulations on the Helena Chemical plant.

Also in September, a focused effort to protect the San Juan Basin Badlands was started. Tours of the area will be given each weekend in October and November. We will be asking that you provide input to the BLM later this year to make this area a Special Recreation Management Area.

Las Vegas contact – Betty Quick	bettydquick@gmail.com	505-454-9123
Taos Branch – Eric Patterson	eepatt@gmail.com	575-776-2833
Farmington Branch – Art Jaquez	artjaquez@yahoo.com	505-326-5229
Nick Cullander	ncullander@hotmail.com	505-334-0935
Web Master – Monika Bittman		466-0130
Dan Rusthoi	rusthoi@earthlink.net	474-3965
Kathy Priola	kjpriola@gmail.com	466-1040
<b>Conservation – Chair – Dexter Coolidge *</b>	dextercoolidge@yahoo.com	988-1197
Activist Outings – Norma McCallan * ‡	nmccallan@mindspring.com	471-0005
4 Corners' Power Plants – Robb Thomson *	robbm@toast.net	988-8958
Santa Fe Nat'l Forest – Tom Gorman * ‡		438-3932
Mining – Cliff Larsen	clarsen1@ix.netcom.com	466-2128
<b>Cool Cities Campaign – OPEN – HELP WANTED</b>		
Cool Biz – Spence Terrell	spenceterrell@hotmail.com	801-231-6047
Eco Footprints – Brian Skeelee	brianvida@nm.net	984-1739
Green Building – Bob Taylor *	bobtaylor@greenroadsrealty.com	690-5012
Resources – Ken Hughes ‡	b1family@comcast.net	474-0550
Educational Outreach – Teresa Seamster *	tseam@qwest.net	466-8964
Water – Sig Silber ‡	ssilber1@juno.com	473-7006
Wildlife/Nat'l Parks/Rangelands - Roger Peterson ‡	rogpete@aol.com	983-7559

\* Northern Group Executive Committee

‡ Core Conservation Committee



## NORTHERN GROUP NEWS

### MORA COUNTY Agricultural Way of Life Under Attack

First it was KHL landman, Knute Lee, leasing up thousands of acres of mineral rights in Mora County's 1,944 square miles of agricultural land beginning in 2007. Then the New Mexico State Taxation and Revenue Department's plan to rid the residents of their agricultural exemption for those who live on fewer than 47 acres, which would increase land taxes 300-400% and result in yet another historical land grab.

Couple that with New Mexico State Land Commissioner Patrick Lyons' auctioning off of 26,000 acres of pristine wilderness land in the Ocate, Wagon Mound, and White Peak areas for natural-gas drilling using hydraulic fracturing.

With 144,000 acres of mineral leases currently filed in the county clerk's office (Royal Dutch Shell subsidiary employees state that many acres have yet to be filed), Mora County's agricultural way of life is most certainly under attack.

If this picture has not clearly come into focus, consider the following military industrial complex proposal by the Cannon Air Force base: three night-time flights Monday through Friday, and sometimes weekends, simulating war maneuvers bearing down onto our homes, acequias, streams, rivers, alfalfa fields, gardens, wilderness areas, domestic animals and our children from 200 feet above the ground.

One jet's fuel emissions is equivalent to that 10,000 automobiles spewing their toxic stew of benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, xylene, naphthalene and other chemicals; polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons; methanol; formaldehyde; ethylene glycol; glycol ethers; hydrochloric acid; and sodium hydroxide, contaminating with repetitive vengeance against all living things.

While the aircraft assigned for these missions will be C-130s and the V-22 Osprey, their fuel composition is similar and equally if not additionally toxic.

The constant assaults to our psyches and the health, quality of our air, land, water, domestic and wild animals, are becoming clear statements that our government is sanctioning war on multiple levels not just against named enemies, but against its own people.

*"When we sanction war against others,  
in time we war against our own people"*

— Howard Zinn

Our recent Mora County victory in the June primary election that brings John Olivas and, most likely Paula Garcia into commission office in January 2011 will give the people the support to say "NO" to the oil companies. Olivas states "There will be no oil and gas development in Mora County under his watch as Mora County Commissioner."

While the county's Development Guidance System (DGS) strictly forbids any development that pollutes or depletes the water, spews noxious chemicals into the air or causes ill health, it will take a committed county commission to fight for the inalienable human rights to which all people were born: the right to clean water, air, land, and good health. And to which the DGS clearly addresses as Mora County's laws.

State and federal laws support industry over peoples' human rights. The efforts of the upcoming Mora County Commission to protect the county will put our human rights in the ring with corporate rights.

Regarding the proposal by the military, it will take a miracle to change their plans, and the issue over taxation is age-old and currently appears a lost battle. Even our political representatives appear to have abandoned the Mora people. But the will of the people can be powerful. In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

—Kathleen Dudley

Co-founder, Drilling Mora County

[www.drillingmoracounty.blogspot.com](http://www.drillingmoracounty.blogspot.com)

<http://drilingmoracounty.org>

[drillingmoracounty@gmail.com](mailto:drillingmoracounty@gmail.com)

### WEEKLY RADIO PROGRAM

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

Project 101.5 is also a great rock and roll channel!

**OUR NEW WEBSITE IS** <http://northern.nmsierraclub.org>.

Webpage views are up 100x compared to the old website.

### FACEBOOK/TWITTER

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

Also, check out our twitter page at: [twitter.com/nmsierraclub](http://twitter.com/nmsierraclub)

### WHERE ARE THE NORTHERN GROUP OUTINGS? They're now on the back page



### SANTA FE RIVER CLEANUP AND VEGETATION MAINTENANCE

Saturdays - 9 to 11 AM

October 16 • November 20

Please join our last two river cleanups for 2010 !!!! Meet at Closson Street footbridge. Wear long pants, bring work boots, gloves and drinking water. (No river cleanup in December)

**Confirm prior to cleanup date to:**

**October 16 -** Greg Lower ([glower@lanl.gov](mailto:glower@lanl.gov), 699-6893)

**November 20 -** Kathleen Davis ([kdav40@aol.com](mailto:kdav40@aol.com), 505-795-3286)

### VOLUNTEERS ♥ VOLUNTEERS ♥ VOLUNTEERS

**Cool Cities Team Leader** – coordinate local Sierra Club activities with both Santa Fe City and the County, who have committed to support the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which calls for municipalities to meet the Kyoto Agreement goal to address Climate Change. – David Van Winkle (820-1006, [david@vw77.com](mailto:david@vw77.com))

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

**Wildlife Monitoring** – assist with wildlife monitoring in the County of Santa Fe – Teresa Seamster (466-8964, [tcseam@qwest.net](mailto:tcseam@qwest.net))

**Volunteer Coordination** - Work with the Volunteer Coordinator to match volunteer interests to volunteer opportunities. Contact Pat Carlton (988-1596, [carlton505@comcast.net](mailto:carlton505@comcast.net))

## Bring Nature Indoors with This Beautiful Richard Sloan Print

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

—Dan Lorimier

*Swainson's Hawk*



# Chapter Elections Are Under Way!

Elections for the Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee and the executive committees of the five Groups is under way. You will find the ballot and voting instructions on Page 2 of the members' edition of this newsletter. After voting, please cut out the ballot (be sure to include your mailing label on the reverse side) and mail it to the address listed on Page 2. Candidate statements appear on Pages 10 and 11. (El Paso Group votes separately.)

## Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee

### Judith Bunney

Having served on the ExCom for the past several years, I have learned a tremendous amount about all the programs the Chapter is involved in across the environmental spectrum. My focus has been to work with the Legislative Team and lobby the NM Legislature to promote our legislative initiatives. We were successful in the last session to have our bill for energy efficient public buildings pass both houses and signed by the Governor.

The upcoming legislative climate is predicted to be challenging at even

greater levels. I would like to continue to serve on the ExCom to follow up on the two legislative initiatives the Chapter has proposed. The networks we on the Legislative Team have developed over the years will require nurturing and new networks will need to be established.

### Laurence Gibson

I am a just-retired professor of music (violinist/symphony conductor) living in El Paso for 40 years now. A Sierra Club member since 1981 and dedicated backpacker, I have served as El Paso Group Chair and Rio Grande

Chapter Secretary for ten years now. I serve out of a feeling of obligation to "preserve and protect" our world. My philosophy is that small contributions from many of us will get the job done. I'm a grass-roots guy who believes the club should be driven from the bottom up as opposed to the top down. Please re-elect me!

### Norma McCallan

Joined Club in 1968, been involved in NM since moving here 1975. Still serving on Northern Group ExCom, was co-outings chair, still lead monthly outing. Active at chapter level for

years, Chapter Vice Chair, Editorial chair, Northern NM Public Lands team leader, Outings co-chair, Conservation Committee, etc.

Very involved with political work on behalf of endorsed candidates, care deeply about the environment and the health of our public lands working on protection for San Juan Basin Badlands, Wilderness for Columbine Hondo WSA and forest travel-management plan. Just won national's One Club award. Appreciate your vote to continue my efforts.

## Northern Group

### Teresa Seamster

My involvement with the Northern Group arose out of a chance encounter at a PRC meeting. Sierra Club had a plan to present energy assemblies at the public schools. I liked the idea and had contacts at the schools, after 20 years as a teacher-school administrator. I coordinated the CFL Program for 3 years, joined Excom in 2008, and serve as education/outreach coordinator, help plan seminars and workshops, and collaborate with wildlife groups and coalitions on identifying/mapping key habitats in NNM. My overriding interest is wildlife—preserving our common species as well as threatened ones.

### Dexter Coolidge

As a member of the NNM Excom for the last six years, I focused first on increasing the number of our members who are active volunteers, in order to increase our effectiveness as an organization. I believe I was successful in this, in that we tripled the number of active volunteers. I have also chaired the Conservation committee and the Chapter Membership committee, and been active on the Group Political committee. While the Northern Group has been remarkably effective for many years, I believe we have just scratched the surface. I ask your support in electing me, so that we can continue to strengthen the Club in Northern New Mexico.

### David Van Winkle

I have been the Chair of the Northern New Mexico Group Excom for the past two years. In addition to my role with the Northern New Mexico Group, I am also the Rio Grande Chapter Communications Team Chair, the Rio Grande Chapter Energy Team Leader, and I lead national/international Sierra Club outings.

Our Communications Team has increased interaction with our members/supporters by 100 times by revamping all websites in the chapter and utilization of advanced-technology e-mail systems. At the same time, we have reduced communications expenses by 30%. Your vote will be appreciated.

### Tom Gorman

I am running again for the Northern Group Executive Committee. I have served on the Excom for the past two years and have focused on public land issues, primarily National Forest Travel Management Plans and all the problems and issues that affect quiet users of the forests, particularly damage caused by motorized travel on public lands. I have also been active on the Group's Political Committee, working on behalf of those candidates endorsed by the Sierra Club, who have demonstrated a strong environmental ethic. I would like to continue my work in these areas and would appreciate your vote.

### Jean Watts

During the past four years my contributions to the Sierra Club Northern New Mexican Group have been focused on support activities to help promote what I consider to be very important issues that need to be addressed. I have served on the ExCom as secretary and have helped with the annual potluck dinner, volunteer-appreciation party, and setting up for the monthly program meetings. My background includes several years as a high-school history teacher after graduation from college and, later over 20 years in the real-estate and mortgage banking fields. Volunteer activities in the past have been focused on children's issues.

## Central Group

### David Ther

I have been a Sierra Club member since 1979. My experience with the Sierra Club includes having served four previous terms on the Central Group ExCom. I am presently the Treasurer and Outings Chair for this Group. My conservation interests include wilderness preservation and endangered species protection. I closely follow the scientific literature regarding climate change and I recognize the overwhelming evidence that rising levels of greenhouse gases will eventually have grave consequences.

### Eva Thaddeus

Eva has been active in the Sierra Club for six years. During that time she founded the Albuquerque group of the Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" campaign, and represented the Sierra Club on the New Mexico Climate Change Advisory Group and the Albuquerque Climate Change Task Force. She is completing her first full term on the Central Group's executive commit-

tee, and seeks re-election in order to help the Central Group keep a focus on the climate issues that are so key to the future of our children and grandchildren. She is instructional coach at an Albuquerque charter school, and mother of two young children.

### Michal Mudd

Our group has had an amazing impact through the hard work of others on the ExCom, particularly through the efforts of the Cool Cities Team.

I'd like to continue as part of the Central group ExCom and further explore how we might seek new venues and means of involving, educating, exciting and lighting a fire under members and potential members alike, combining action with fun. One idea might be to explore issue outings as active general-meeting substitutes. Whether through outings, socials, educational means or participatory democracy, I'd like to see us remain in the forefront of engaging people's inclinations to protect our environment/ecology.

## Pajarito Group

### Jody Benson

I have served many functions with the Pajarito Group Executive Committee, including Recording Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Publicity, and Vice Chair, as well as chair of several Committees including Sprawl and Endangered Species/Wildlife. I have worked with the Los Alamos School Board to bring "a Consciousness of Green" into construction of the new high school as well as to considerations for facility upgrades. If elected, I would work to expand Pajarito Group collaborations with other effective and lively environmental and political groups in Los Alamos.

### Michael Di Rosa

I am currently serving as Conservation Chair on the Executive Committee of the Pajarito Group. I have been an active outings leader, sharing hikes to places new and familiar. Leading and sharing hikes is a quiet form of activism, an implied advocacy for wild wide-open spaces and sensible environmental policy. As an Executive Committee member I will continue to direct these sentiments in not so silent ways into local issues that, in whatever small way, help preserve the larger landscape we all enjoy.

### Nona Girardi

I am a family physician who has lived in Los Alamos for the past 9 years, and been a member of the Pajarito chapter for several years. I enjoy the unique opportunities for hiking, camping, canoeing, and nature study available in Los Alamos, Northern New Mexico, and the Southwest, and will work to preserve and expand them. As a physician I am concerned and knowledgeable about environmental health issues and support science-based measures to protect against health-endangering environmental degradation.

### Charles Pergler

I will bring experience and passion if elected to the Executive Committee. I have been a past Executive Committee Member and Conservation Chair for the Pajarito Group of the Sierra Club; founding member of La Purisima Audubon Society in Lompoc, California; member of the LANL Biosafety Committee, appointed by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to the BLM's New Mexico Resource Advisory Council and elected President, and appointed to a Class I Hazardous Waste Disposal Site Local Assessment Committee. My professional experience consists primarily of 26 years in the assembly, management, and supervision of multi-disciplinary National Environmental Policy Act scientific teams.

# Join International Walk and Bike to School Day

We have a great opportunity to be part of a definitive childhood movement with the International Walk and Bike to School Day, from 6:45 am to 8:30 am Wednesday, Oct. 6, in Taos.

There will be two locations for parents to drop off their children, called a remote drop. One will be at the Kit Carson Park to service Enos Garcia Elementary School, and the other will be at the Taos Youth and Family Center to service both Taos Middle School and Taos Charter School. Both will have a tent, food, goodies for the children, and plenty of adults to lead the kids to walk/bike to their respective schools, called a "Walking School Bus" or a "Bicycle Train."

Walk to School Day was founded in 1997 as a way to build awareness

## Taos Contact List

**Eric Patterson**, *Taos contact and Director of Sentinels—Rios de Taos* • 575/776-2833, eepatt@gmail.com  
**Anna Walters**, *email alert list* • annaainsworth@kitcarson.net  
**William Brown**, *The Climate Project* • 575/758-8008, nmglobalwarming@yahoo.com, www.nmglobalwarming.org  
**Scott Estep** • 575/770-7969, wet-mtn@rmi.com

of the need for communities to be more walkable. In 2009, students and parents from more than 3,500 U.S. schools laced up their sneakers to walk or strapped on their bicycle helmets to pedal to school.

The National Safe Routes to School

## Walk to School Day

Rose Blair Bauhs, SRTS Coordinator, rose\_bauhs@msn.com  
 575-758-0015 Home Office  
 575-613-6766 Mobile  
 PO Box 826, Taos, NM 87571  
 www.nmsaferoutes.com and www.nmsaferoutes.com.

(SRTS) has partnered with the Sierra Club and the Clorox Company and its Green Works home-care products. The hope is to encourage people to use walking and bicycling to school as a simple way to spend more time outdoors and live a more natural lifestyle.

My hope as the local coordinator for the SRTS program is that we can build on the Walk to School initiative.

This initiative comes during a time of increased attention to the sedentary lifestyles of both adults and children throughout America.

Walking and bicycling to school provides an easy way for many families to take a step toward more physical activity in their everyday routine. In fact, First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" anti-obesity campaign has repeatedly identified walking to school as an option for children and families to reach the goal of "60 minutes of active and vigorous play every day to grow up to a healthy weight."

Communities are using walking and bicycling to school as the first step to change their culture and create environments that are more inviting for everyone, young and old.

— Rose Blair Bauhs

## Southern Group News

### Outings

Contact outing leaders in case of any changes in plans due to weather or other events.

**Saturday, October 16:** Knave Springs Hike in the San Mateo Mountains. Meet at the Black Range Forest Ranger Station in T or C at 7 a.m. This is a moderately strenuous hike and the trailhead starts at the Springtime Campground. Approximately 10 miles.

For details, please call Kass Akers (575)430-1834

**Saturday, October 30:** Basalt Mountain Hike in the San Mateo Mountains. Meet at the Black Range Forest Ranger Station in T or C at 7 a.m. This is a moderate hike to explore the unusual basalt formations, as well as the flora & fauna of this area. Some exciting surprises await.

This is approximately a 5-mile hike. For further details, please call Kass Akers (575)430-1834

**Saturday, October 30:** A fall outing in the mountains, destination: Sawyer's Peak. We will leave the Forest Service office in TorC at 7:15 a.m. or meet Margot at the General Store in Hillsboro for breakfast at 8:00. It might be a bit chill, so bring appropriate gear and lunch. For information call 505-744-5860.

**Saturday, November 6:** Luna Park Hike in the San Mateo Mountains.

We will meet at the Black Range Forest Ranger Station in T or C at 8 a.m.. This is a moderate hike to explore the mountain areas that lie to the east and south of the park. This exploratory hike will be approximately 3 to 5 miles.

For further details please call Kass Akers (575)430-1834

**Saturday, November 20:** Explore a BLM petroglyph site near Deming. We will leave the Forest Service office in TorC at 7:30 a.m.

The road is a two-track and high-clearance vehicles are a must. Bring lunch and of course your camera. This will be an all day outing. Call Margot Wilson at 575-744-5860 for information.

**Saturday, December 4:** Tonuco Jeep Road & Mountain Hike. We will meet at the Black Range Forest Ranger Station in T or C at 8 a.m.

This is a moderately strenuous 6 mile hike with a huge surprise that will make you want to go back again and again. For further details please call Kass Akers (575)430-1834.

**Saturday, December 18:** An outing to another petroglyph site. TBA. Call Margot for the details at 575-744-5860.

### Sarah's Green Tip of the Week

by Sarah, age 8

Hi, everyone. I'm Sarah, with your Green Tip of the Week.

Today's green tip is Paper is Precious! Trees make clean air for us to breathe. So every time you use a piece of paper or make a big mistake, flip over your paper and use the other side. Once you've used both sides of the paper, recycle it!

That way you can avoid cutting down too many trees.

## Southern NM Group Directory

### Executive Committee

P.O. Box 735, Mesilla, NM 88046

#### Glenn Landers

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

#### Margot Wilson

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

#### Cheryll Blevins

Treasurer, Editor Southern NM Group Page

575/524-4861 spotblev@earthlink.net

#### Mary Katherine Ray

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

#### Earle Pittman

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

#### David Farrell

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

#### Robert Gray

Sustainability

## Executive Committee Candidate Statements (from Page 10): Southern Group

### Mary Katherine Ray

Our family moved to New Mexico 20 years ago from El Paso, where I grew up. New Mexico has always felt like home. Since I can remember I have experienced the draw of the landscape from the open endless vistas of the desert to the cool green of the tall pines. The natural world here seems so ageless and indestructible. But it is in fact very fragile and there is a never-ending parade of schemes that would cause it harm. I feel a deep obligation to insure that the beauty, inspiration and diversity that surround us are defended. I currently serve as chapter wildlife chair and am secretary for the Southern Group excom.

### Cheryll Blevins

I am a native New Mexican and a Sierra Club

member for more than 20 years. Some of the bigger concerns we have in New Mexico is retaining habitat for wildlife, preserving open space, and keeping the public lands for the people. I hope to see more members take advantage of the opportunities to become more involved in the many conservation issues that face our state, as well as nationally and globally.

### Glenn Landers

I have been a longtime environmental advocate. Prior to moving to New Mexico four years ago, I was employed by the Sierra Club for nine years in Cleveland, Ohio, working on air and water pollution issues. Since moving to Las Cruces, I have served for three years on the Southern Group Excom and been Southern Group Chair for the past year.

### Margot Wilson

While I have been a Sierra Club member for over 25 years, I became an activist when I moved to southern New Mexico almost 20 years ago. I have been active in the Southern Group for over 15 years in different positions such as an outings leader, Chapter delegate, and chair of the Warm Springs Section. I have served as the Southern Group Chair, Conservation Chair and Chair of Parks and Refuges. I am a member of the Chapter Ex-Com.

Because of my experience working collaboratively with government agencies, citizens, and environmental groups I feel I have a unique ability to assist in bringing environmental campaigns to good outcomes.

## Pajarito Group

### OCTOBER

**Thursday, 10/21:** Valles Caldera fall highway cleanup. Meet at Ponderosa campground 4:30 p.m., carpool to our stretch of road at the Valles Caldera. Bring work gloves (bags supplied). David Gemeinhart (505/662-6267).

**Saturday, 10/30:** Hike to Apache Springs, a lightly used trail in upper Frijoles Canyon, with guest leader Kevin Stillman, Backcountry Ranger. Learn about flora, fauna, geology and issues in or near Bandelier National Monument. Big trees, meadows, lush canyons. 9 miles RT, 1200' gain, some off-trail. Wear long pants. Norma McCallan 505-471-0005. Los Alamos hikers meet at Upper Crossing parking lot.

## Northern Group

### OCTOBER

**2** Moderate Hike to La Vega with loop on trail 160. 9 miles RT, 1700' gain. Dogs ok. Les Drapela (505-438-3306).

**3** Moderate Mountain Bike Loop to San Antonio Hot Springs. 15 miles RT, 400' gain. Mostly on dirt roads. Limit of 8. Bring swim suit and towel. Miguel DeLuca (505-820-0042).

**3** Strenuous Loop Hike to Stewart Lake. 10 miles RT, 2100' gain. Dogs ok. Tobin Oruch (505-820-2844 before 8 pm).

**7** Easy/Moderate Hike. Dogs ok. Eliza Schmid (505-474-5846, call leader by Tuesday).

**9** Strenuous Hike in Jemez. Call for details. Norbert Sperlich (505-474-4354).

**10** Moderate Aspen Hike on Dockwiller Trail (Pecos). 8 miles RT, 1700' gain. Dogs ok. Royal Drews (505-699-8713).

**11** Monday, Columbus Day Strenuous Loop Hike to Tesuque Peak, down on Aspen Vista. 9-10 miles RT, 2000' gain. Dogs ok. Dan Rusthoi (505-690-8967).

**16** Santa Fe River Cleanup - See p. 11

**16** Strenuous Hike to Painted Cave, Bandelier. 13 miles RT, 2400' gain. High Clearance vehicles needed. Bogdan Mihaila (505-795-3316).

**17** Strenuous Hike on Holy Ghost Creek Trail to Stewart Lake. 14 miles RT, 2150' gain. Rochelle Gerratt (505-795-3254)

**23** Moderate Hike to San Antonio Mountain (near Colorado Border). 6 miles RT, 1800' gain. Long drive. Dogs ok. Leave at 7:30 am, back around 6 pm. Page Press (505-946-0169).

**23** Hike with writer Cinny Green as she links elements of writing craft to moments of quiet, creative inspiration in the wild. Bring your journals for spontaneous writing en route. Moderate/Strenuous Hike from Rio En Medio TH to La Junta and back. 9 miles RT, 1200' gain. Cinny Green (505-699-4747, cinny@cinnygreen.com).

**24** Strenuous hike to Lake Peak by way of Raven's Ridge. 6.5 miles RT, 2600' gain. Short but steep. Marcia Skillman (505-699-3008, marciaskillman@hotmail.com).

**30** Moderate loop hike to Apache Springs, a lightly used trail in upper Frijoles Canyon, with guest leader Kevin Stillman, Backcountry Ranger. Learn about flora, fauna, geology, while enjoying the big trees, meadows and lush canyon bottom. 9 miles, 1200' gain, some off-trail. Brushy areas, poison ivy, wear long pants. Norma McCallan

505-471-0005).

**31** Moderate Hike/Scramble to the top of Cabezon. 1300' gain. Short but steep. Lots of steep scrambling. Marcia Skillman (505-699-3008, marciaskillman@hotmail.com).

### NOVEMBER

**4** Easy/Moderate Hike. Dogs ok. Eliza Schmid (505-424-5846, call by Tuesday).

**6** Strenuous Hike on La Junta Loop. 13 miles RT, 2900' gain. Dogs ok. Tobin Oruch (505-820-2844, call before 8 pm.)

**7** Daylight Savings ends! Easy Hike to Tent Rocks. 3.5 miles RT, 675' gain. Marcia Skillman (505-699-3008, marciaskillman@hotmail.com).

**13** Strenuous Hike to "Pointy Peak", Espanola badlands. Mostly off-trail, some steep sections. Lots of sand. About 10 miles RT, 1600' gain. Dogs ok. Norbert Sperlich (505-474-4354).

**14** Easy/Moderate Hike along Penstemon Ridge, 7+ miles, near Nun's Corner. Nice vistas, short drive, dogs ok. Norma McCallan (505-471-0005)

**20** Santa Fe River Cleanup - see p 11.

**20** Moderate Hike near Ojo Caliente (Mica mine, Overlook Rock). 6 miles RT, 700' gain. Dogs ok. Cynthia Good (505-699-2717).

**21** Moderate Hike to Buckman Mesa. 6 miles RT, 1100' gain. Some steep, rough off-trail sections. Dogs ok. Bogdan Mihaila (505-795-3316).

**26** Day after Thanksgiving workout. Strenuous Hike from Big Tesuque Campground to Radio Towers. About 10 miles RT, 2200' gain. Marcia Skillman (505-699-3008, marciaskillman@hotmail.com).

**27** Moderate Mountain Bike Ride in Cabezon area. 22 miles on dirt roads, minimal elevation gain. Usually sunny and windy. Limit of 8. Miguel DeLuca (505-820-0042).

**28** Moderate Loop Hike on White Mesa (near San Ysidro). 6 - 8 miles RT. Several 100' gain. Marcia Skillman (505-699-3008, marciaskillman@hotmail.com).

### DECEMBER

**2** Easy/Moderate Hike. Dogs ok. Eliza Schmid (505-424-5846, call by Tuesday).

**4** Moderate Hiking/Writing Trip. Destination TBA. Hike with writer Cinny Green as she links elements of writing craft to moments of quiet, creative inspiration in the wild. Bring your journals for spontaneous writing en route. Cinny Green (505-699-4747 or cinny@cinnygreen.com).

**5** Easy Hike on Nun's Corner Loop, one steep hill, short drive, dogs ok. Norma McCallan (505-471-0005).

**11** Moderate/strenuous Hike in Abiquiu red rocks to Kitchen Mesa. 8 miles RT, 1800' gain, some off-trail sections. Dogs ok. Tobin Oruch (820-2844 before 8 pm).

**11** Beginner's Snowshoe Clinic, near Ski Basin, snow willing. Rent shoes and poles, play in the snow for a couple of hours. Gear and technique tips shared. Marcia Skillman (505-699-3008, marciaskillman@hotmail.com).

**12** Moderate/Strenuous Hike in La Bajada area. Some steep off-trail scrambling. Norbert Sperlich (505-474-4354).

**18** Moderate/Strenuous Hike into White Rock Canyon (Blue Dot/Red Dot Trail), 8-9 miles, 800' gain. Some off-trail sections. Fabulous

petroglyphs, great views. Limit of 10. Miguel DeLuca (505-820-0042).

**19** Moderate Snowshoe Outing, if there is snow. Call for details. Marcia Skillman (505-699-3008, marcia\_skillman@hotmail.com).

**25** Easy Christmas Morning Hike to frozen waterfall on Rio en Medio Trail. 4 miles RT, 300' gain.

Early return time. Limit of 10. Bring pastries and Christmas cheer. Hot cocoa provided. Miguel DeLuca (505-820-0042).

**26** Easy Hike in Cerrillos Hills. 4.5 miles RT, dogs on leash ok. Cynthia Good (505-699-2717).

## Central Group

### OCTOBER

**9** Desert Exploratory Hike - Explore the desert canyons, mesas, arroyos, and badlands that can be found on New Mexico public lands. Many are a 1.5- to 2.5-hour drive from Albuquerque but well worth the travel if you enjoy colorful, rocky, and sparsely vegetated landscapes. The hikes are mostly off-trail, so expect difficult terrain and wear sturdy boots. Capable children welcome. No pets. Please RSVP by 3 p.m. the day before the hike. Get hike specifics by requesting to be added to my email list. I usually send the hike plan out three days before the date scheduled. Tom Petencin (505-271-9928, tompeten@msn.com)

**Sun. 10/24, Sat. 11/6, Sun. 11/21, Sat. 12/4, Sun. 12/19** Desert Exploratory hikes, see above. Tom Petencin (505-271-9928, tompeten@msn.com)

## Southern Group

### OCTOBER

**16** Knave Springs hike, San Mateo Mountains. Moderately strenuous, 10 miles. Starts at Springtime Campground. Kass Akers (575-430-1834)

**30** Basalt Mountain hike, San Mateo Mountains. Moderate, 5 miles. Explore the unusual basalt formations and flora & fauna; some exciting surprises await. Kass Akers (575-430-1834)

**30** Fall outing in the mountains, destination: Sawyer's Peak. We leave Forest Service office in TorC at 7:15 a.m. or meet Margot at General Store in Hillsboro for breakfast at 8 a.m. It might be chilly, so bring appropriate gear and lunch. For information call 505-744-5860.

### NOVEMBER

**6** Luna Park hike, San Mateo Mountains. Explore the mountain areas that lie to the east and south of the park. 3-5 miles, exploratory hike. Kass Akers (575-430-1834)

**20** Explore a BLM petroglyph site near Deming. We will leave the Forest Service office in TorC at 7:30 a.m. The road is a two track and high-clearance vehicles are a must. Bring lunch and a camera. All-day outing. Call Margot Wilson at 575-744-5860 for information.

### DECEMBER

**4** Tonuco Jeep Road & Mountain hike. Moderately strenuous, 6 miles. A huge surprise that will make you want to go back again & again. Kass Akers (575-430-1834).

**18** An outing to another petroglyph site. TBA. Call Margot for the details at 575-744-5860.

**OUTINGS NOTE:** Check all Group's websites for updated or new outings information. All mileages are round trip. Participants must sign a liability waiver. Bring water, lunch, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, and clothing suitable for the weather. Leader reserves right to turn away anyone whose experience or equipment appears unsuitable. Leader may

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