



NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO NEWSLETTER

September and October 1992

Volume XVII Number 5

YOUR PUBLIC LANDS

As an owner of millions of acres of public lands in the United States there are a few things you should be aware of. To begin, many of you will have difficulty with the concept that these lands are yours. While the lands may be managed by government agencies, it is no accident that they are "public". They were set aside for your enjoyment as well as other uses. The largest managers are the BLM and the Forest Service and they are mandated to manage according to federal regulations. Protection of endangered species is one of these mandates. The BLM is the single largest landholder in the country. Nearly 35% of the land in New Mexico is federally owned.

Your first right of ownership is access. You may travel public lands at will, respecting of course, the rules designed to protect them. In some cases, such as wilderness areas, you must travel on foot or on horseback. Wilderness designation, by the way, views man as a visitor and calls for protection of the land in a natural state, void of highly visible signs of human activity. The Wilderness Society and the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition are working to increase the amount of designated wilderness and to oversee protection of wilderness areas. On most Forest Service and BLM lands you may obtain grazing rights or rights of extraction of minerals or timber. Along with the rights come responsibilities, written or unwritten. These may entail the way you leave the land after using it. Whether you use the land for recreation, your animals graze it, or you extract resources, your impact on it should be minimal. While the effects of extraction are increasingly of concern to a public aware of public land degradation, I will deal here mainly with recreational and grazing concerns.

State Trust Lands in New Mexico, by the way, are public lands that have somewhat different rules of access. These lands form a legal

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trust whose income supports state education. They consist sometimes of large blocks but more often are "checkerboarded" with federal lands. You may cross these Trust lands on a public road, but to use them for recreation or hunting requires a hunting license or a Recreational Access Permit (\$25 annually). The latter are available from the State Land Office. Unfortunately these lands frequently are unmarked, yet it is your responsibility to recognize when you are on them.

Now, having access and being able to traverse and enjoy your public lands at will, what problems have you seen? I could tell litter stories, diaper stories, and vandalism stories that I've seen but am sure you have witnessed the trashing of our lands yourself. What about theft of protected plants? And the more knowledgeable and observant of you are aware of overgrazing and other land abuses. I'm not sure what can or should be done but feel that as a start we develop an affinity for the land when we think of it as ours. The land is ours but are we the land's? In most cases, no, our urban roots are too deep. A true land ethic escapes us. Even native Americans who have much to teach us about feelings for the land, are not always good stewards of their lands. The conclusion is, that there are many peoples who are responsible for land destruction.

The "environmental movement" no longer consists of a small group but of millions of citizens. It is expanding rapidly and is increasingly vocal. Today's children are more aware of the environmental destruction around them. The news media presents us with a constant barrage of the negative effects of people on the planet. These effects are usually the result of uncontrolled growth. Even as citizens groups grow stronger, the federal government, pressed by business interests, fails to seriously consider many of the environmental issues. Perhaps the most dangerous argument making the rounds is that of "jobs vs. the environment". That mentality and scare tactic plays upon the ignorance and fear of people such as the unemployed while attempting to maintain the corporate status quo. We must get beyond this facade because in reality, jobs, security, and standards of living are intricately tied in with the health of our environment.

From what I've seen, most environmental groups consist of well educated, middle class, middle aged anglos. The Native Plant and Audubon Societies in Las Cruces, for example, seldom draw

hispanics to their meetings or field trips despite the fact that they make up a majority of our population. We obviously need to explore why this is so. (Hispanics in some parts of the state, however, are active in environmental concerns). While cultural priorities may determine which organizations one belongs to, education plays a role as well. The Audubon Adventures Program now sponsors more than 50 classrooms in Dona Ana County. This program distributes environmental information to school children in the form of a monthly magazine. It is well received by teachers and students and results in them receiving information they would probably not receive otherwise. Perhaps it will help transform the ritual family "picnic in the woods" into a really valuable experience and an appreciation of the interconnections and intricacies of nature.

The environment, of course, consists of more than mountain parks. Urban environments as well as indoor environments are important too. Your city streets also meet the definition of public lands. Maintaining the urban environment may in fact be a good start to developing an awareness of environmental issues in general. To

that end a novel project is under way in Las Cruces. The Southwest Environmental Center was started in 1991 by a group of people dedicated to providing a forum for environmental issues and a distribution center for information. The group's struggle to find a meaningful project culminated in the adoption of a local park. In May 1992 approximately 60 trees and shrubs were planted in hopes of attracting wildlife and human visitors. Frenger park is located in the center of Las Cruces and neighbors and school children have become involved with the project. This type of project increases the awareness of urban environments and we hope, extends over to rural environments as well. With Las Cruces suffering from litter problems and architectural blight, this type of project may eventually bear fruit in the form of community awareness and involvement.

I recently observed a group of college students cleaning up litter on public lands on the Banks of the Rio Grande in Las Cruces. These NMSU students are part of a group called AWARE (Association for Water, Air, and Resource Education). They regularly clean up trash

The **Newsletter** is published six times per year by the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. The Society is composed of professional and amateur botanists and others with an interest in the flora of New Mexico. Articles from the Newsletter may be reprinted if fully cited to author and attributed to the Newsletter.

Membership in the Native Plant Society of New Mexico is open to anyone supporting our goals. We are dedicated to promoting a greater appreciation of native plants and their environment, and to the preservation of endangered species.

Members benefit from chapter meetings, field trips, publications, plant and seed exchanges and a wide selection of books available at discount.

We encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve the state's unique character and as a water conservation measure.

We maintain a register of business and professional people who are members and can supply information and services related to native plants. To be added to this roster or to request information, contact the Membership Secretary.

Schedule of Membership Fees
Dues are \$10.00 annually for individuals or families. "Friends of the Society" include organizations, businesses, and individuals, whose dues of \$25.00 or more provide support for long range goals. To join us, send your dues to Membership Secretary, 443 Live Oak Loop NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122

Newsletter Contributions
Please direct all contributions for the newsletter to Tim McKimmie, editor.
Deadline for the next newsletter is October 1

Advertising Schedule
Approved advertisements will cost \$40 per year.

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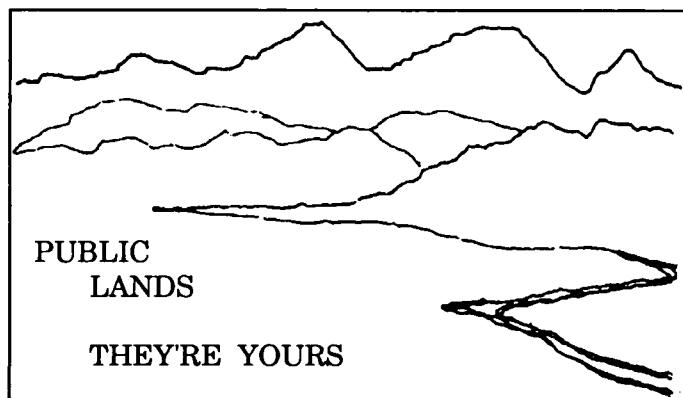
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on the river as a tangible way to make a difference in the environment. They also explained that people are less likely to litter an area which they find clean to begin with.


To return to grazing. A recent GAO report (RCED 91-17) found that on BLM lands; 1. many grazing areas are inspected infrequently if at all, 2. penalties for unauthorized or overgrazing are usually less than the minimum prescribed or none at all, and 3. grazing trespass is therefore not deterred and is leading to degradation of public lands. Will education help deter these problems? Yes if the public becomes aware and demands action. One suggestion I recently ran across was for "adopting an allotment". Citizens would regularly monitor a section of public grazing land for signs of abuse. Information such as the number of cattle run, seasonal variations, land condition etc. is public information and available from the BLM or Forest Service. Yes, you have rights of access to grazing allotments. Some ranchers undoubtedly have a great love for the land. Indeed, their would be no reason not to call them environmentalists (that dirty word). Their good stewardship can be a linkage with environmental groups. They too have a great stake in sustainability of land use. As a group, however, the ranching community fails to admit to abuses. Such admissions can go a long way toward beginning a dialogue. Ranchers can no more be stereotyped than environmentalists. Both groups harbor people of diverse backgrounds. We can hope that current research efforts will offer some solutions.

Even within the environmental community, priorities vary greatly. There are many environmental problems and this publication recently spoke of the need to maintain a focus and the hazards of getting involved with too many issues ("Politickin", March/April 1992). Some of us care about range or forest issues, some only for a quiet place to hike; others may never get out of the city but are fanatic about recycling or the local park. Often I have seen hikers picking up litter and leaving the land in better shape than they found it. What makes people care for the land? Why are the despoilers there in the first place? To get away from it all to a clean and peaceful area? Yes, awareness is increasing but how much is being lost in the interim? Lastly, desert lands have historically been neglected in favor of preserving mountainous terrain with its more scenic beauty. Desert lands, however, must be given their due protection, as they often contain a greater diversity of species as well as unique habitats. Education alone will not impart a land ethic. As go our feelings of responsibility to our public lands, so goes their condition and quality.

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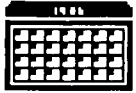
New Mexico BLM Wilderness

Recently I attended a meeting called by Larry Woodard, State Director of the NM BLM, for the supposed purpose of letting those interested know the status of the BLM Wilderness Bill. The meeting was attended by about 35 people; "environmentalists", hunters, and ranchers. At first I was angered by the comments. In fact, it was tempting to lower myself to the level of name calling that was going on, but it would have not been productive or helpful to any cause. Upon reflection of the meeting and after listening to the ranchers and hunters point of view I decided the problem, as I see it, is that every group effected by the BLM Wilderness Bill is afraid. The ranchers are afraid of not being able to use the land quite the same as they have for the past several decades. Since the ranchers use the land as part of their livelihood their fears are understandable. The Wilderness Bill would only mean a change in part of their working operations, not on the availability of the land for grazing. The Wilderness Bill also would mean a change for the hunters. This land would still be available to them for hunting, but less easily accessible by automobile. Yes, it would cause more effort to be put forth by anyone wanting to use the BLM land with wilderness designation.

As a wilderness supporter, I am afraid too. Afraid of not having enough untrampled places left in this country for the future-for my children and grandchildren. Tired of this same arguement say you. Well, let's think of wilderness as a savings account. Anybody worth their salt has put away for a "rainy day". Wilderness areas should be one of our country's savings accounts for many millions of people in the future. How much is enough you ask? I say, there can not be too much, given how little is left.

As a wilderness supporter I don't like making others with differing opinions mad and I most certainly don't like being the target for verbal abuse, but I do believe the wilderness cause is one to help mankind's future. I am sorry that it offends some, but I believe it to be a proper and necessary "use" of our land.

Eleanor Wootten



CALENDAR

OTERO

Sept. 5-7 Cottonwood Festival, Alamogordo, need lots of help

Sept. 11-13 State Meeting in Albuquerque

Sept. 24-27 Big Bend, TX Call Jean Dodd for information

Oct. 17 Sacramentos, S. of Alamogordo. Holiday Inn, 9 am

GILA

Sept. 13 S. Floridas and Tres Hermanas. 9 am. WNMU Fine Arts

Sept. 11-13 State Meeting in Albuquerque

Oct. 4 McKnight Mtn., Black Range. Fine Arts Lot

Oct. 29 Ralph Fisher speaks. Carter House, 7 pm

ALBUQUERQUE

Sept. 11-13 Host State Meeting

SANTA FE

Sept. 11-13 State Meeting in Albuquerque

Oct. 21 "Wildflowers for home gardens" by Ellen Wilde. 7:30 pm
Evans Science Building, Rm 122, St. Johns College

LAS CRUCES

Sept. 9 "Spiders at Gray Ranch." D. Richman. 7:30 Ag Bldg. 190

Sept. 11-13 State Meeting in Albuquerque

Oct. 10 Gray Ranch. Call Tim McKimmie for details 524-0401

Oct. 14 "Bats" Marsha Conley. 7:30 Ag. Bldg. Room 190

CARLSBAD

Sept. 11-13 State Meeting in Albuquerque

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is time to start thinking about and making plans to attend the annual statewide meeting of the NPS-NM. The Albuquerque chapter will be hosting the meeting this year. I have not heard all of the plans so cannot report on what to expect other than it should be good. They will be sending out more information and registration material in a separate mailing.

The dates of the meeting are September 11, 12, and 13 which is during the state fair. The meeting will be held at the Albuquerque Garden Center, not at a motel with meeting rooms and a block of reserved rooms, therefore, if you plan to attend it is advisable to make your room reservations EARLY.

The Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge will be having its 'Festival of the Cranes' again this year. It is scheduled for Thursday through Sunday, November 19-22. There will be tours of the refuge, workshops, lectures, demonstrations, and, of course, birding. Our own Judith Phillips will be speaking about 'Environmentally Responsible Landscaping'. The NPS-NM has been asked to have a booth at the festival again this year. Those of you who have been to the Bosque when all the birds have come back in the fall don't need much coaxing to return. If you have never been there, you really don't know what you are missing.

Mark your calendars for both of these events. I hope to see many of you in Albuquerque in September.

Bob Reeves

1992 Native Plant Society of New Mexico State Meeting

The State Meeting will be held in Albuquerque this year. The Albuquerque Garden Clubs Center at 10120 Lomas Blvd. N.E. will be the main focal point for the meeting. Since a separate mailing is being made only the basics will be covered here. The agenda is:

Friday, Sept. 11

6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Mixer, open house, displays, silent auction, and registration at the Garden Center

Saturday, Sept. 12

8:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Field trip to the Sandia Mtns. Departs from Garden Center. Transportation and lunch will be provided.

4:00 Board Meeting at the Garden Center. This is a business meeting but members may attend.

6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Banquet. Guest Speaker, Brett Bakker. Topic is Native Seed Search which has recently expanded from Arizona into New Mexico.

Sunday, Sept. 13

8:45 - noon Field trip. Xeriscape park and home garden tour. Transportation provided.

Details: Ted Hodoba 864-0614

Jean Heflin 291-8577

Donations are needed for the silent auction.

The Albuquerque Chapter is pleased to host the annual meeting of the

Native Plant Society of New Mexico

on

September 11, 12, 13th

at the

Albuquerque Garden Clubs Center



Agenda:

Friday 6:30 - 9:30 pm	Garden Center registration, displays, and Open House
Saturday 8:45 am - 3:00 pm	Field trip into the Sandia Mountains (bus & sack lunch provided)
4:00 pm	Board of Directors meeting
6:30 pm	Banquet and silent auction* announcements
8:00 - 9:00 pm	Guest speaker: Brett Bakker (founder of the New Mexico Chapter of Native Seed Search)
Sunday 8:45 - noon	Tour of Xeriscape Park & home garden tours

**Bring your donations of plants, books, etc. for a silent auction. Bids will be accepted Friday night through Saturday night's banquet. Announcement of the winning bids will be made between the banquet and speaker on Saturday night.*

*For further information contact: Ted Hodoba
P. O. Box 600
Vegueta, NM 87062
864-0614*

RSVP by Aug. 31st



CHAPTER REPORTS

Otero-Jean Dodd

6-92

Lechuguilla signals the Chihuahuan desert where some life forms there are found nowhere else in the world. This from videos from the Chihuahua desert Research Institute near Alpine, Texas. Photography is excellent especially showing desert plants like the ocotillo during drought and the same plant after rain. Burl Ives narrates the Big Bend video speaking of the history of the area over time. "Land of the Lost Borders", the first in a trilogy about the Chihuahuan desert narrated by Burgess Meredith, showed landforms, plants, animals, and insects of the desert, soaring mountains, hot deserts, riparian areas, the Rio Grande, and deep canyons. The other two videos to complete the trilogy will surely be on our agenda for '93!

6-27-92

Picnic at Tom & Velia Perea's Bed & Breakfast, Las Banderas, in Cox Canyon near Cloudcroft. Toad and Lucille Wilson received a Lifetime Membership in the Native Plant Society. Lucille was also presented with a pine-needle basket made by artist Nancy Garrison and dried wildflowers by Carol Beckett. Tom Perea led a walk around his property to show us the damage done to the trees by the heavy, wet, winter snows. Trees were uprooted and tops broken off.

Las Cruces-Paul & Betty Shelford

Bob Reeves and Tom Wootten spoke and showed slides on Xeriscaping at our June meeting. With proper soil preparation and judicious selection of water-conservative plants, an attractive landscape can be established and maintained while conserving water in our desert climate. All plants need enough watering in this climate until their root systems are deep enough to sustain themselves.

Our June field trip was led by Tim McKimmie to the Sacramento Mountains above La Luz. Foliage was thick and wildflowers plentiful as a result of our heavy spring rains. One very impressive area was covered with beautiful purple blooms, only to realize we were admiring the noxious knapweed that the Forest Service is trying to control. We had a picnic lunch high in a forest of Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and aspen with the bonus of realizing the white flowers were wild strawberries enjoyed by all. Miniature wool star, yellow evening primrose, Southwestern penstemon and yellow columbine were among the many wildflowers seen.

In our July meeting, a letter was read from The Nature Conservancy expressing their appreciation of our gifts of time and money in support of their projects. Paul Harmon, Clinical herbalist with the New Mexico Herb Institute, gave a talk on the use of many native plants as medicinal herbs. Creosote bush, prickly lettuce, mullein leaf, stinging nettle and yucca were among those plants discussed.

Tom Wootten led the July field trip to the Hillsboro Box, a striking riparian area along Percha Creek, totally unexpected when one is driving in a normal desert landscape. Four-wheel drive vehicles and steep rock climbing took us into this lovely area of trees and wildflowers. Littleleaf sumac, whitethorn acacia, big walnut, cottonwood, netleaf hackberry, Western soapberry, ash, and willows (common, coyote, desert and seep) were among the many trees. Maidenhair fern was the most surprising native plant found. In addition to a diamondback rattlesnake, a pigmy horned toad, and a greater earless lizard, the wildlife surprise was a nest of two turkey vultures not quite old enough to fly away. They hissed; we left.

Santa Fe - Nancy Daniel

On 17 May 1992, the Santa Fe Chapter had a good turnout for a walk in Camel Tracks Canyon. This canyon is so dubbed by the leader of our walk, Don Lowrie, because of the fossilized camel tracks near by. In this area of lava rock and petroglyphs, just west of the Santa Fe Airport, we found in bloom *Asclepias asperula*, *Astragalus lentiginosus*, *Berlandiera lyrata*, *Calochortus nuttallii*, *Erigeron divergens*, *Gaillardia pinnatifida*, *Hymenoxis argentea*, *Lathyrus eucosmus*, *Leucelene ericades*, *Malacothrix fendleri*, *Penstemon jamesii* and *Verbena wrightii* just to mention a few. Some of the shrubs lining the canyon included; *Fallugia paradoxa*, *Forestiera neomexicana*, *Lycium pallidum*, *Ptelea trifoliata*, *Prunus virginiana*, *Rhus trilobata* and *Ribes aureum*.

On 7 June 1992, despite inclement weather, a large number of people joined us for a walk in Upper Pajarito Canyon. This stream bed trail, above Los Alamos, is familiar territory to Dorothy Hoard, author of "Los Alamos Outdoors" and "A Guide to Bandelier National Monument" and illustrator and co-author of "Flowers of the Southwestern Forests and Woodlands". We were pleased to have her join us with her historical, geological and botanical insights, not to mention her exquisite line drawings. Sean Houtman (on 31 May) and Mimi Hubby (on 7 June) compiled our plant list of 70 species, 35 in bloom. Of particular note were *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Clematis pseudoalpina*, *Corallorhiza maculata*, *C. striata*, *Cystopteris fragilis*, *Hydrophyllum fendleri*, *Lithospermum multiflorum*, *Pseudocymopterus montanus* and *Pteridium aquilinum*. With the help of Brenda, the canine member of this plant walk, we also identified a very young porcupine. These two were our youngest participants by far; Brenda, a 9-month old puppy, - the porcupine wouldn't tell!

A three hour drive to see some wild flowers might not be the way some would choose to spend a Saturday, but Saturday, 20 June 1992 many joined our Santa Fe Chapter on a trip to Canjilon Lakes. This distance spans zones contrasting the dry, wind swept Abiquiu Echo Amphitheater to the marshes of Canjilon Lakes. Through this broad spectrum we listed 74 species, 56 species in bloom. Accompanied by ethnobotanist, Phyllis Hughes, a mere plant list became a glimpse of our native history and a provocative indicator of our edible plants. The *Caltha leptosepala* (Marsh Marigold) was in full bloom, leaving little hint of any young, crisp spring leaves and buds. From most reports the boiled or roasted roots are also edible, but every reference cautions that this plant is poisonous unless the leaves, buds and/or roots are repeatedly blanched and drained. The leaves and corms of the *Erythronium grandiflorum* are eaten raw. But, this

Santa Fe Chapter Report Cont'd.

secluded Avalanche Lily with it's yellow flowers looked more delicate and beautiful than edible. A single *Mimulus guttatus* (Yellow Monkey Flower) was again only to be admired, although the plant is purported to be used raw in salads. Many more trust-worthy edibles were found, including: *Allium species*, *Cichorium intybus*, *Fragaria californica*, *Lepidium montanum*, *Potentilla anserina*, *Prunus virginiana*, *Rosa woodsii*, *Sisymbrium linearifolium*, *Viola species*, etc.. No question but the length of this trip was well worth it.

On two successive Sundays, July 5th and 12th, we went in search of butterflies, flowers and that combination of plants, sunshine and butterflies which often inexplicably intertwine to create the picture-perfect landscape. We were not disappointed. On July 5th, the walk along Tesuque Creek with lepidopterist, Steve Cary, introduced the novices among us to 18 species of butterflies. On July 12th, 33 species of butterflies were tallied for an official butterfly count. This search began at Aspen Vista under a unrelenting cloud cover. *Allium cernuum*, *Dodecatheon pulchellum*, *Ipomopsis aggregata*, *Penstemon barbatus*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Ranunculus inamoensis* and *Townsendia formosa* provided a colorful display. Purple/pink flowers of *Geranium caespitosum* and *G. richardsonii* blanketed the ground through the stands of Aspen. The white blooms of *Rubus deliciosus* appeared occasionally among the Geraniums. Plenty of flowers but no butterflies. No sun! Steve Cary was undaunted and the trip was completed at Tesuque Creek where the clouds relented and the 33 species were counted including 266 butterflies sighted in total. Different families of butterflies and skippers can have different host plants on which their caterpillars feed. More often than not, the butterflies do not stray too far from their larval host. For example: Grasses are the primary host plant for Skippers (the most numerous on our count) and for the family of Satyrs, Nymphs & Arctics (of which we saw only six). Variegated Fritillary caterpillars feed on Violets while Swallowtails can be found around *Prunus*, *Fraxinus*, Willows and Aspen. Coppers, Hairstreaks & Blues primarily feed on Legumes. And, there was a profusion of *Medicago sativa*, *Melilotus alba* and *M. officinalis*, thanks to the questionable foresight of the Forest Service. Also along Tesuque Creek we found *Equisetum species* and *Monotropa latisquama*. Our thanks to Linda Wiener, Entomologist, and Steve Cary, Lepodoperist, for broadening the scope of these two rewarding Sunday walks.

Our Chapter has spent some weeks adding butterfly names to our vocabulary and on 19 July 1992 bird guides and binoculars were added to the normal baggage, as we spent the day prowling the areas around Cow Creek in the Pecos Wilderness. We were able to identify 30 species of birds, a few by song alone, most were seen: some sitting still just long enough for an inspection through the binoculars (Olive-Sided Flycatcher, House Wren, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Western Tanager, etc.), Some climbing along tree trunks (White Breasted Nuthatch, etc.), Some flying by or darting between the trees (Western-Wood Pewee, Northern -Red-Shafted" Flicker, Violet-Green Swallow, etc.), and some just plain hiding (Steller's Jay, Cassin's Finch and Evening Grosbeak). Listening, looking, pointing, informing us and making this count of 30 species possible

was Ornithologist, Christopher Rustay. Also joining us on this walk was Carol Torrez, Wildlife Biologist with the Forest Service. And with the knowledgeable aid of Sean Houtman and Ellen Wilde, we identified approximately 63 species. Of particular interest were *Aetaea arguta* and *Zygadenus elegans*, which we know not to eat! Areas were blanked by *Antennaria parviflora*, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursa* and numerous flowers including; *Aquilegia caerulea*, *Campanula parryi*, *C. rotundifolia*, *Hymenopappus newberryi*, *Mimulus guttatus*, *Penstemon barbatus*, *Potentilla anserina* and *Sidalcea candida*, just to mention a few. A group of *Cypripedium calceolus* had just finished blooming. *Epilobium angustifolium*, *Heuchera parviflora*, *Orobanche fasciculata*, *Potentilla thurberi*, *Saxifrage bronchialis*, *Swertia radiata* and *Thalictrum fendleri* (in full bloom) where of special interest. The plant list could go on and on, as does the list of insects, butterflies, birds . . . that are dependent on our native plants.

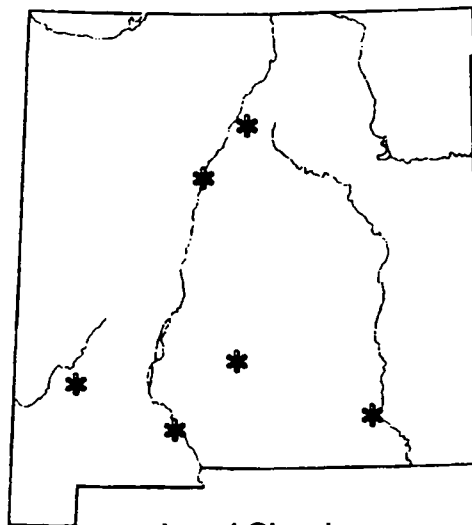
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1992 Native Plant Society of New Mexico



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A new species of violet has apparently been discovered
 in Logan Canyon in Utah. This plant, *Viola* sp. has not
 yet been named.

BALLOT

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 Director at Large: Lucille Wilson Alamogordo _____
 Director at Large: Becky Smith Silver City _____
 Director at Large: Mark Rosacker Carlsbad _____

(Mark yes or no for each or write in other nominations
 below. Five members are needed for each nomination.)

Mailed Ballots or nominations must be received
 no later than Sept. 9, 1992. Ballots or nominations
 may also be presented in person (to any board
 member) at the NPS State Meeting in Albuquerque
 any time before 3 pm. Sat., Sept. 12, 1992.

Mail ballots to:
 Bob Reeves
 475 La Colonia
 Las Cruces, NM 88005

This ballot may be photocopied.

View from the South
(One member's opinion)

ACEC-Friend or Foe

Area of Critical Environmental Concern is a designation used by the Bureau of Land Management only. The designation is applied to an area of public land where BLM has determined (through land use planning) that "special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources and other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards". BLM has used a number of designations in the past, but is trying to consolidate all these under the ACEC umbrella.

People for the West and a number of vocal members of the mining and livestock community openly oppose any ACEC designation fearing a loss of their "rights" to use of public lands.

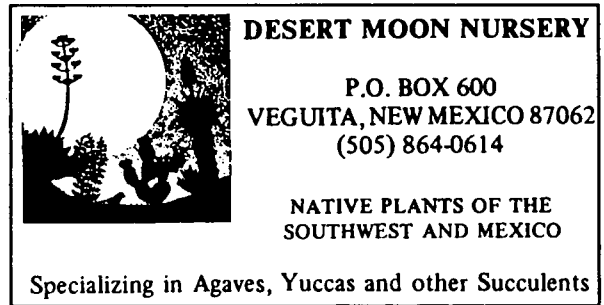
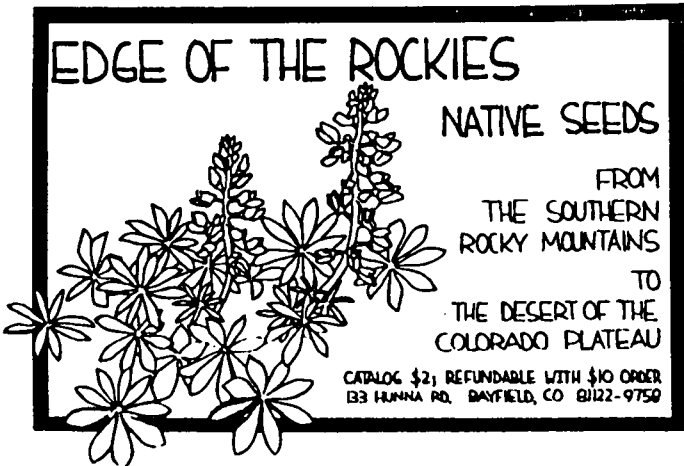
In the Mimbres Resource Area, BLM is in the process of eliminating some proposed ACECs; offering to change the

designation of others to "Research Natural Area" or perhaps some other name; and reducing boundaries of proposed ACECs; as a concession to the complainants above.

Some members of the environmental community are very skeptical of ACEC designation fearing that this is just another paper tiger for BLM to create and ignore.

This member believes both groups should reexamine their feelings. First, I do not believe anyone has special "rights" to public lands. We do have privileges, with attendant responsibilities. Secondly, each proposed management designation should be looked at individually with its specific management prescription. Seems to me livestock operators and environmentalists both should approve attempts to control ORV use and surface disturbance in the way of mineral or mining activities, plant collection and so forth. Seems to me BLM should be encouraged to designate ACEC's where appropriate and that the public has a responsibility to observe restrictions put in place. If there is a problem with a particular prescription, then we work to modify this prescription. To say "no way" to any proposed change as People for the West and others are doing is counter to the own best interests. Recent activities on their part are further polarizing the public.

Tom Wooten



The Native Plant Society of New Mexico
P.O. Box 5917
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

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