

Canyon Echo

www.arizona.sierraclub.org

Grand Canyon Chapter

May/June 2005

Protecting Arizona's Forests with the Truth

By Roxane George & Brian Nowicki

The Bush administration has paved the way for the continued logging of the Southwest's rare remaining old growth and large trees under the guise of "fuels reduction" and "forest health restoration." A 2004 Southwest Forest Alliance paper, entitled *A Scientific Critique of the Myths and Misconceptions of Logging Old Growth and Large Diameter Ponderosa in the Southwest* counters the misleading arguments of large tree logging proponents. A condensed sampling is included here. The entire paper is available at www.arizona.sierraclub.org.

Myth: Large trees must be logged to increase the health of remaining trees, create structural diversity, and enhance the growth of ground vegetation.

A high number of trees per acre can create competition for sunlight and water, causing trees to be stressed and slow-growing and ground vegetation to be sparse. However, in the Southwest, approximately 87% of the trees are 12 inches in diameter and smaller, making it possible to reduce the number of ponderosas by as much as 87% without cutting a single tree larger than 12 inches in diameter. Likewise, a diversity of tree densities and canopy cover can be created over a wide range without removing the largest trees.

Myth: Large trees must be logged in order to reduce fire risk.

Historically, the majority of fires in the ponderosa pine forest were cool burning surface fires that favored old growth trees and native grasses. The largest and oldest trees tend to be fire resistant and most likely to survive a forest fire. Today's forests have a high density of small trees which contribute to surface fuel loads and act as fire ladders, allowing surface fires to become crown fires. We should not attempt to eliminate fire as a natural process. Instead, prescribed fires and small tree thinning can reduce the understory fuels and fire ladders that create stand-replacing crown fires.

Myth: Large trees must be logged in order to control bark beetle infestations.

The species of beetles that infest ponderosa pines in the Southwest are natives that have acted throughout time as natural agents of thinning and mortality. Bark beetles tend to infest healthy trees that are stressed, so the current drought has created peak conditions for beetles to thrive.

While forest thinning prior to an outbreak can increase resistance to bark beetles by reducing competition for water, this can easily be accomplished without cutting large trees. However, even the most extreme thinning will not work in a severe drought. Logging trees that are already killed by beetles results in ecological damage similar to salvage logging fire killed trees, and can increase fire risk as well as worsen outbreaks and encourage additional infestations.

Myth: Large trees must be logged to control mistletoe infestations.

Dwarf mistletoe is a natural parasite that helps increase habitat diversity by providing food and habitat for numerous species. Large trees can live with mistletoe for several decades and eventually become large snags that are extremely important for wildlife.

There is little advantage to logging large trees with advanced infections, because the majority of surrounding adult trees will already be infected. Instead, the infestation can be isolated by thinning heavily at the edge of the infested area. This can often be accomplished by focusing thinning on smaller, younger trees.

Myth: Large dead trees only have economic value.

Large dead trees, or snags, provide critical habitat for many wildlife species. There is a severe deficit of large snags in many forests, due largely to a century of logging. Because of this, large dead and



Twilight on Ponderosa Pines at Fire Point on North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park, photograph by Tom Bean.

Any fool can destroy trees. They cannot run away; and if they could, they would still be destroyed, —chased and hunted down as long as fun or a dollar could be got out of their bark hides, branching horns, or magnificent bole backbones. Few that fell trees plant them; nor would planting avail much towards getting back anything like the noble primeval forests. During a man's life only saplings can be grown, in the place of the old trees — tens of centuries old—that have been destroyed. It took more than three thousand years to make some of the trees in these Western woods, —trees that are still standing in perfect strength and beauty, waving and singing in the mighty forests of the Sierra. Through all the wonderful, eventful centuries since Christ's time—and long before that—God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand straining, leveling tempests and floods; but he cannot save them from fools, —only Uncle Sam can do that.

Excerpted from John Muir's *American Forests*, published in *Atlantic Monthly* no. 80, Boston, August 1897.

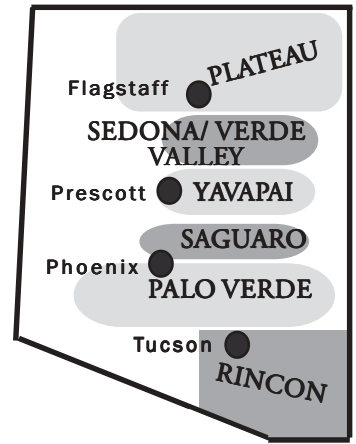
dying trees can be crucial to wildlife, and critical to the recovery of a forest after forest fires and bark beetle outbreaks. Salvage logging damages soils, worsens erosion and can actually increase fire risk and bark beetle outbreaks.

For decades we have witnessed the incremental destruction of a rare ecosystem a few thousand trees at a time. No amount of creative rationalization can change the sad reality of what is happening on the ground.

To become involved with our work to save Arizona's forests, contact Forest Chair Sharon Galbreath at (928) 774-6514 or email roxane.george@sierraclub.org.



Arizona Chapter Action Directory



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Contact a representative in your area to voice your concerns and to participate in local activities.

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Grand Canyon Chapter What's Going On

We're All in this Together

Help Sierra Club Choose and Support Political Candidates

By Stormy Rose

The Palo Verde Group (Phoenix and suburbs) is renewing and strengthening its political committee.

The political committee helps research, question and interview political candidates to find the ones worthy of Sierra Club endorsement. After choosing candidates, the political committee can even help with mailings, phoning, fundraisers and neighborhood walks to help get these worthy candidates elected.

If you are interested in making your time really make a difference as part of the Palo Verde Political Committee, please contact Stormy Rose at rosestormy@aol.com or at (480) 821-0657.

Stormy is the Palo Verde Group's Political Committee Chair.



Stand Up For Clean Water

By Elna Otter

In 1972, during the Nixon administration, Congress passed the Clean Water Act (CWA) to make the nation's waters safe for fishing and swimming, to eliminate harmful discharges of pollution, and to protect the nation's wetlands. Recent administrative actions by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have effectively eliminated Arizona from the Clean Water Act's protections.

A 2001 Supreme Court decision proclaimed itself to be of a very specific and limited nature. Nonetheless the decision said that isolated bodies of water whose only merit was to provide habitat for migrating birds were not protected by the CWA. Despite the disclaimer, in 2003 the EPA substantially extended that ruling. The EPA now has a policy that says that isolated bodies of water, along with intermittent or ephemeral bodies of water are not under its jurisdiction. Arizona leads the nation in bodies of water that aren't under the jurisdiction of the CWA — 96%. Arizona's total 280 miles of "navigable rivers" are all on the Colorado.

The other states with particularly high percentages of waters not covered

by the bill are North Dakota and New Mexico, both at 90%. Nationwide, 57% of waters previously believed to have been under the protection of the Act find that they are jurisdictionally abandoned.

The defenders of this policy, including the office of Senator Kyl, say that the intent of the original Clean Water Act was just to protect navigable waters. However, Rep. John Dingell (D-MI), who is leading the effort to keep the full protections of the Clean Water Act, shows us the fallacy of that argument. Dingell said, "The legislative history of the Clean Water Act clearly and unambiguously states that the statute applies to all waters of the U.S. I know this because I personally included it in the Congressional Record in 1972."

What does it mean when a water is no longer protected? Effluent from



Photo by Jon Sullivan courtesy of geekphilosopher.com

wastewater treatment plants may be discharged there. In Appalachia, a mining company was given permission to "permanently impact" (i.e. bury) creeks with the "waste" generated from mountaintop-removal mining operations.

The Arizona Dept. of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) says that its regulations cannot substitute for the Act. Even so, ADEQ is looking at increased costs because of the absence of federal support.

There is a bill before Congress, the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act, "to reaffirm the original intent of Congress in enacting the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the United States." We greatly appreciate that Congressman Grijalva has signed on as a co-sponsor of the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act and we urge the rest of our representatives and senators to add their support.

Elna chairs the Chapter's Water Committee.

What You Can Do

Join the Water Committee of the Sierra Club here in Arizona. We are putting together a volunteer monitoring group to help protect Arizona's streams and we do other work to stay on top of the water issues in the state. Contact Elna at otter@theriver.com

On the web, check out www.savethecleanwateract.org/ At this site you can send a letter to the Editor and sign petitions to Congress.

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Cast of Characters

Sharon Galbreath has been a Sierra Club volunteer since 1980. She has worked on the full spectrum of important Chapter issues, including wilderness preservation, overflights at Grand Canyon, Canyon Forest Village, the White Vulcan mine, the San Francisco Peaks, Glen Canyon dam, and forests. Sharon is one of the region's most knowledgeable and experienced forest activists, and has worked for decades to put an end to old growth logging in the Southwest, particularly on the North Kaibab National Forest near Grand Canyon National Park.



Sharon Galbreath
 Forest Conservation Chair

Sharon is the Chapter's Forest Conservation Chair and also serves on the Chapter Executive Committee and the Grand Canyon Campaign Committee. Her long-term commitment to the Sierra Club stems from a deep belief in the power of grassroots activism. She is also famous for her mouth-watering Timp Point Tiramisu and Fire Point Flambé. Recipes for these delicacies can be found in the Grand Canyon Chapter's cookbook, *Wild at Hearth*.

Use this Clip & Send form to order a Chapter Cookbook

You can still purchase your copy of *Wild at Hearth* by sending a check made out to the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter today with the form at the right, or pick up your book at the Chapter office. Call us at (602) 253-9140 to schedule your drop-in by the Phoenix office. For folks living in Flagstaff, Tucson, Prescott, etc., call your Group Chair (see page 2 of this issue for numbers). Thanks!

Many, many thanks

to everyone who worked on and contributed to this issue!

Echo News

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Captivating Kestrels' Yard Yarn

By Fritz Merkle

A March or April foray into my backyard can be rife with excitement! Generally not, but on occasion, a member of a potential nesting pair of American kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) is in the vicinity for a naturalist's indulgence. Traditionally known as sparrow hawks, I prefer to call them sparrow falcons, just to be ornery. They are a common, small bird of prey found ubiquitously in North and South America.

On this morning, I am fortunate to focus my eyes through the lines of my solar clothes dryer, and spy a male headed straight at me. With wings folded and enough altitude to gain considerable speed, he appears to be diving at me in warning that this is his territory. It happens so fast, and my being there in the yard is of such short duration, that to relate the maneuver to my presence is most probably false conjecture. It was exhilarating, though, to be the perceived object of repression.

About twenty feet above my head, in an Arizona ash, there is a wooden box designed to attract a nesting pair. This is the sixth year that I have had the nest box positioned on the north side of a nearly vertical branch of this forty-year old tree. It is shaded by some of the still living branches, and has an inexpensive surveillance camera mounted in the cover of the box. Dave Price (www.kestrelbox.org) envisioned this simple setup to observe the behavior of these fascinating birds.

The first year that I had the nest box, I was quite late in locating it in the tree. In addition, I had not purchased or installed the camera, and I have regretted it ever since. A pair of Gila woodpeckers nested, and raised at least a pair of chicks. They fledged hastily, so I was never sure of the number of young. When cleaning the box for the next year, I noticed there were deep scratches in its front panel. I had frequently observed that the parents did not actually enter the box, when feeding their little ones. I guess they were quite adept at scratching and clawing for their supper.

By the second year, I had installed the camera, and the box was up in late February. A pair of kestrels began to look as if they were residents. I was excited at the prospect, and on a Saturday came a truly remarkable event. A hostile pair of falcons arrived to attempt to oust this relatively established pair.

For nearly three hours, there were confrontations between the corresponding sexes. The males pursued each other in the neighborhood, attempting at high velocity, to drive their adversary into the ground or into an unyielding stationary object. Meanwhile, the invading female relentlessly dive bombed the established female, who had positioned herself in a topmost branch of a silk oak. Protesting with a shrill call, the resident female would flatten herself on the lofty perch, causing the attacker to 'miss' on each dive. I was sure the hostile pair left fatigued, and I am convinced the resident pair held ground.

The Green Kingfisher

By David Chorlton



The way to the kingfisher
is a serpentine line
beneath multiple skies

beginning in a canyon
dark with the scent of winter apples
where all night the wind
sweeps between
the orchard's thin white trees
speaking a language
stripped to vowels

then descending
through rain-black clouds
to look back at the blue
that slides between them
when they part. It leads

through the sacaton grass
with sparrows in a flock,
cleaves to the river,
withdraws into December
cottonwoods half concealing
red-tailed hawks,

twists to open space
and meadowlarks then ties
a final knot around the pond
where the journey ends,
grey ripples gnaw the banks

and a small green bird
snaps into focus
perched on silence.

They nested and raised three healthy chicks, which fledged quickly, and for all I know, survived. I have a video record of the female feeding the youngsters lizards and small birds from the neighborhood, I presume, although I never witnessed a capture of prey. The chicks grew in size extremely fast, and the parent pair must have become extremely exhausted before the nestlings fledged.

Fritz is a writer and activist in the Palo Verde Group.

Stay tuned for Part 2 of Captivating Kestrels, which will appear in the next Canyon Echo.



Call & Echo

Do you ever want some answers to your environmental questions? Ever have conservation questions that you'd like for an expert to answer? In each *Canyon Echo*, we feature a question from our members focusing on environmental concerns. One of our activists who focuses on that particular issue, researches and answers the question. When we don't know the answer, we find someone who does. You do not need to include your name. If you have a question, please send it to:

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Editor, *Canyon Echo*
202 E. McDowell Dr. Ste. 277
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Call to the Canyon

What's the scoop on doggy poop? In the city, when dog-owners conscientiously pick up their dogs' poop with plastic bag and throw it into the trash, it goes to the landfill. Is it creating a hazard of any kind due to not being processed through the sewage treatment system?

In the wilderness, we clean up poop off the trail and camping areas to be considerate to other people. But why would dog poop left away from these areas be worse for the environment than coyote, wolf or other omnivore poop?

Halina, Phoenix

Echo Response

I wish more people had dog poop on the brain! There's a greener solution to landfilling dog waste, though it comes with a teeny ick-factor: use biodegradable bags, drop the poop into the nearest toilet, then trash only the soiled bag. (Dissolving, flushable bags are available but pricey.)

Whether in the Southwest's urban or wild locales, it's never appropriate to just leave dog waste and rarely okay to bury it — our soil lacks composting muscle. The issue is one of scale: if you and Fido are there, someone else likely uses that place, too. Yes, wildlife and livestock poop with abandon, but why add more waste to the landscape?

Dogs are slowly losing access to the outdoors. Packing out waste is an important part of canine good citizenship that will keep dogs welcome on our favorite trails, and might help to reverse that trend.

Renée Guillory is a Sierra Club volunteer & author of the recently published book, *Best Hikes with Dogs: Arizona*, published by The Mountaineers Books, 2005.

Beyond the Slab



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The Grand Canyon Chapter wishes to express its appreciation to all who have helped for their generous support of our Restore Grand Canyon Campaign.

Memorial Gifts

The Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter is grateful and honored to be the recipient of memorial gifts. The following gift has been made in memory of:

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Many thanks to Earth Friends for their continued support of our conservation work to protect Arizona's wildlife for future generations.

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The Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club also wishes to thank all of the other generous and kind support received from those who chose to remain anonymous.

Envisioning Truly Healthy Forests

By Roxane George

Although both members of the same party, in terms of the environment, Theodore Roosevelt and George W. Bush could scarcely be more different from each other. While Roosevelt is famous for his dedication to conservation, Bush's record has consisted of rollbacks of environmental laws, limited public involvement, and sweetheart out-of-court settlements for friends in industry.

Ironically, the Bush administration's forest policies are aiding the destruction of Arizona's forests, including those that Roosevelt worked to preserve. A short list of these policies includes gutting the roadless rule, rolling back National Forest Management Act and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) protections, and enacting the misnamed "Healthy Forests Restoration Act."

Roadless Areas No Longer

Arizona has 1,174,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas. According to a July 2004 poll, 67% of Americans oppose more logging and roadbuilding on the 58.5 million acres of national forest land that are currently closed to new development. Nonetheless, the Bush administration not only delayed implementation of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, but also replaced it in 2004. Under the Bush plan, governors will be forced to petition the federal

government if they want to protect each of the last remaining roadless areas in their states.

Forest Service Mis-Management Regulations

Forest plans are the long-term "blue prints" that govern how public lands are managed. These plans identify how much logging, oil and gas drilling, mining, road building, grazing, and motorized recreation will take place and where. The Bush administration's new rules for forest planning eliminate the most fundamental wildlife protections, disregard science, prevent the public from having meaningful input, and open up millions of acres, including old growth, roadless areas, and sensitive wildlife habitat, to harmful activities.

All of Arizona's National Forests have forest plan revisions coming up soon. The new regulations will severely restrict our ability to make sure the forest plans reflect the ecologically sustainable management and protections for wildlife and old growth that are supported by most Arizona residents.

Un-Healthy Forests

In 2003, President Bush signed the "Healthy Forests Restoration Act" (HFRA) into law, allowing more logging farther from communities, reduced environmental analysis, and limited opportunities for public participation.



Old growth is home for the imperiled Northern goshawk and many other species. photograph by Robin Silver.

Although the HFRA was sold as a tool to protect communities and increase forest health through small tree thinning, the language of the bill is crafted to accommodate Forest Service justifications for old growth and large tree logging.

As seen in the East Rim and Jacob Ryan Timber Sales, two North Kaibab old growth logging projects being challenged by the Sierra Club, the Forest Service uses the language of HFRA to carry out the same old logging practices. Nothing in HFRA prohibits the proposed old growth and large tree logging in these two projects from taking place. And, while both of these projects are subject to the NEPA process, as they were initiated before HFRA was passed, in the future, old growth logging

projects like these can be carried out under "expedited" procedures, with very little public input and no opportunities to appeal.

The Bush administration's attempts to weaken the laws written to protect forest ecosystems show how far this Republican President has strayed from his predecessor, who said in 1916:

"It is entirely in our power as a nation to preserve large tracts of wilderness ... but this end can only be achieved by wise laws and by a resolute enforcement of the laws. Lack of such legislation and administration will result in harm to all of us, but most of all harm to the nature lover who does not possess vast wealth."

Roxane is Grand Canyon Conservation Program Coordinator.



Up Above, A Circle of Trees, pen & ink drawing by Allison Alexandra.

Report from Forest Health Summit

3rd Annual Conference to Restore fire and protect wildlife habitat in Arizona Forests

By Sandy Bahr

More than 100 people gathered on March 22 at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott to discuss forest health, the role of fire in healthy forests, and the implications for wildlife.

Tom Sisk with Northern Arizona University and Tom Zimmerman from the U.S. Forest Service discussed *Planning for Fire on the Landscape*. The focus was on how planning for fire can help with forest restoration – fire plays a key role in healthy forests – and also minimize the costs relative to restoration efforts. In many ways it comes down to a basic question: Do we want hyper-managed forests like they have in many European countries or do we want restored self-regulating ecosystems?

The discussions included much focus on growth and how the ongoing development deeper into the forests represents a challenge to forest health and restoration and also makes it difficult for firefighters to protect communities and individual homes. The Wildlife and Forest Health breakout group recommended that we better manage growth and try to avoid intrusion into wildlife habitat, plus seek to restore natural processes.

While a couple of people threw out the idea that we should look at promoting

large-scale, large-tree logging as a means of paying for restoration, most recognized the folly of this proposal and the likelihood that it would result in more of the same conditions we see today. Many of those who utilize small diameter trees to produce products were in attendance. They had displays demonstrating everything from wood pellets to building materials.

Collaboration was the buzzword for the day and those in attendance were committed to the idea of finding common ground and proceeding with focusing on community protection, thinning of small diameter trees, and restoring fire to its natural role in our forests. Governor Napolitano spoke to participants and thanked them for their efforts to promote healthy forests. She also recognized some communities for their efforts to become "Firewise." Unfortunately, legislators were noticeably absent – and it shows. (See the article on the next page.)

Sandy is the Chapter's Conservation Director.

SPOTLIGHT ON SOLUTIONS Fast-Growing Kenaf Could Replace Everyday Wood Products

Kenaf is considered to be the best alternative to tree-based fibers. Native to Africa and Asia, kenaf is among the most productive nonwood papermaking fibers to hit the continent of North America. Closely related to the hibiscus, kenaf is a rapidly growing plant, reaching 12-18 feet in five months. It can then be compressed and stored for up to four years.

Kenaf grows in the southern U.S., and when processed whole, kenaf stalks make excellent newsprint. Kenaf also has long and short fibers that can be comparable to the hard and soft woods used for paper printing. Pulping kenaf requires less energy than pulping wood, and it can be bleached without using the harmful chemicals that are traditionally used to bleach wood fibers. Kenaf also has the possibility of becoming an important new crop in areas that once relied heavily on tobacco production. While kenaf is still a relatively expensive alternative, increased demand could quickly lower the price.

Dueling Forest Bills Legislature Ignores Science and Community Protection

By Sandy Bahr

If you think that Republicans hate forests and Democrats are tree-huggers, the Arizona Legislature will dissuade you of that rather quickly. Representative Tom O'Halleran (R-Dist 1) has worked hard to bring interests together, and to work with the governor's office, scientists, and others to try to move a bill that will actually help better protect Arizona communities, while Representative Cheryl Chase (D-Dist 23) has been nothing more than a lackey for Salt River Project and those who would clear cut the forests tomorrow if they could.

HB2613 forest health amendments sponsored by Representative Cheryl Chase, Jack Brown, Chuck Gray and others promotes various kinds of tax subsidies including transaction privilege tax (sales tax), income tax, and property tax for the forest products industries. It also cuts the use tax in half for vehicles that are transporting forest products. The key problem with the bill is it fails to focus the tax subsidies on the product for which there is no market—small diameter trees—and instead allows subsidies for logging old growth and larger diameter trees.

HB2276 healthy forest amendment sponsored by Representatives O'Halleran, Hershberger, Huffman, and others includes many of the same tax subsidies, but instead focuses them on trees 12 inches in diameter or smaller. This bill died in the legislature, however, when Senator Jake Flake refused to hear it. Meanwhile, HB2613 looks like it is moving.

While the small diameter trees represent the greatest fire risk to our forest communities, the Arizona Legislature continues to try to bring back large scale large tree and old growth logging. We know that thinning small trees and reintroducing fire to the ponderosa pine system is the best way to better protect our communities from

fire yet legislators propose subsidizing activities deep in the forest and far from communities at risk.

According to Forest Service data, approximately 95% of our old growth forests in the Southwest has been logged and more than 90% of the trees in our ponderosa pine forests are 12 inches in diameter at breast height or smaller. It makes no sense to subsidize the destruction of what little old growth remains or to subsidize logging of large trees (the next generation of old growth) when there is already a market for those. The thickets of smaller trees also pose the greatest fire risk for our communities. Efforts should be concentrated on thinning those trees near communities and restoring the role of fire in the ecosystem, not on logging the large trees and what remains of our old growth.

There was no attempt by the proponents of HB2613 to include conservation interests in any discussions they had on the bill. The proponents have not participated in the Governor's Forest Health Councils or other venues where there is much consensus among conservation interests, the small-diameter forest products industry, and some of the counties. Instead, they continue to push policies of the last century that helped give us the unhealthy forest conditions we see today.

While the Governor vetoed HB2613 and we appreciate that, at deadline this forest bill was being revived in the legislature via a strike everything amendment. SB1283 has the same problems as HB2613; it provides subsidies for logging old growth and large trees. That is the last thing Arizona's forests need.

Take Action!

To find out how you can help with forest legislation and other legislative matters, please contact Sandy Bahr at (602)253-8633.



Historical photo courtesy of Southwest Forest Alliance.

Old Growth Logging on Kaibab Plateau Near North Rim of Grand Canyon Proposed While Community Protection Projects Go Unfunded

East Rim

The Grand Canyon Chapter continues to challenge the proposed East Rim timber sale on the Kaibab National Forest, less than three miles from the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. The East Rim timber sale's entire eastern boundary lies on a steep canyon side contiguous with the Saddle Mountain Wilderness area, includes extensive logging within rare spruce-fir habitat, and contains popular camping and recreation sites overlooking Grand Canyon National Park.

The Sierra Club will go to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn a ruling made by an Arizona Federal District Court Judge which would allow the logging of old growth trees in the East Rim project area. "The Forest Service claims that the East Rim timber sale is necessary to promote forest health and reduce fire risk," said Sharon Galbreath, Forest Issues Chair for the Grand Canyon Chapter. "Yet they are logging the fire resistant old growth trees that are essential to a healthy forest ecosystem. President Bush's so-called Healthy Forests Initiative will promote more of this kind of destructive logging, while failing to help communities at risk."

The East Rim timber sale, located 48 miles from the nearest community of Fredonia, is being funded while legitimate forest thinning projects and other fire prevention measures go unfunded by the Bush Administration. Arizona alone is facing a \$2.5 million shortfall in funding for hazardous fuels reduction projects.

Jacob Ryan

In early March the Forest Service issued a decision for an old growth logging project on the Kaibab National Forest, to the north of Grand Canyon National Park. The Jacob-Ryan Vegetation Management Project, like the Bush "Healthy Forests Initiative," claims that the logging of rare old growth and large diameter trees across 30,000 acres is necessary to increase forest health, reduce the threat of fire and "enhance" wildlife habitat.

At the Forest Service's request, conservation groups invested much time and effort surveying the Jacob-Ryan Planning Area and developing an alternative to increase forest health through thinning small trees and prescribed burns while protecting old growth and promoting its future development. The Forest Service's own analysis showed that the old growth preservation alternative was economically viable and met forest plan objectives for wildlife and other resources.

Forest Service estimates show that 89% of the trees in the project area are smaller than 5" d.b.h. (diameter at breast height). Only 3.6% are 12" d.b.h. and larger and only .59% are 24" d.b.h. or larger. Although the Forest Service acknowledges that the greatest fire and forest health risks in the planning area are due to small diameter trees, the agency is still cutting large and old trees. Clearly, this is a project that should focus on thinning out the small trees that dominate the forest and that should retain the large trees that currently exist in such small numbers.

-Sharon Galbreath

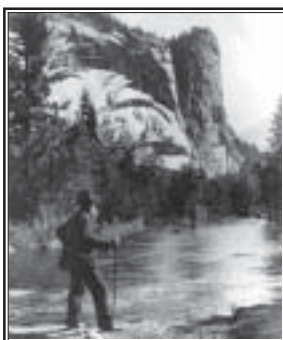


Photo: Sierra Club archives

Even in Congress, a sizable chunk of gold, carefully concealed, will outtalk and outfight all the nation on a subject like forestry, well smothered in ignorance, and in which the money interests of only a few are conspicuously involved. Under these circumstances, the bawling, blethering oratorical stuff drowns the voice of God

himself. Yet the dawn of a new day in forestry is breaking. Honest citizens see that only the rights of the government are being trampled, not those of the settlers. Merely what belongs to all alike is reserved, and every acre that is left should be held together under the federal government as a basis for a general policy of administration for the public good. The people will not always be deceived by selfish opposition, whether from lumber and mining corporations or from sheepmen and prospectors, however cunningly brought forward underneath fables and gold.

Excerpt from **American Forests** by John Muir, published in *Atlantic Monthly* no. 80, Boston, August 1897.

Conservation or Corporate Land Grab?

By Connie & Ted Gartner

Arizona citizens must rally against the so-called "Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2005," the latest controversial legislated land exchange bill working its way to Congress. A more honest title for this piece of legislation would be "Resolution Copper Company Land Grab Bill of 2005" as the real intended beneficiary of this bill is a multinational mining corporation intent on exploiting Arizona's natural resources for profit. At the center of this controversy is Oak Flat campground, in the Tonto National Forest near the Town of Superior.

Oak Flat campground, on the road from Phoenix to Globe, is home to some of Arizona's most spectacular and diverse recreation: hiking, birding, camping, rock climbing, picnicking, and other outdoor activities. Oak Flat boasts Arizona's largest collection of rock climbing routes, and is on Maricopa Audubon Society's list of key birding hotspots in Central Arizona. Five of the bird species on the National Audubon Society's watchlist of declining species have been sighted at Oak Flat. On its western side are two signature landmarks of Central Arizona: Queen Creek Canyon and the Apache Leap, with breathtaking cliffs soaring above Highway 60 and the Town of Superior. On the eastern side of Oak Flat is Devils Canyon, with its incredible Five Pools and some of the finest remaining riparian habitat in all of Arizona.

In recognition of Oak Flat's unique recreational value, in 1955 President Eisenhower's administration issued Public Land Order 1229 which set aside Oak Flat as a campground and specifically withdrew the area from mining. Although the mining industry has made many attempts to take Oak Flat away from the public, the U.S.

Forest Service has always rejected these attempts.

Now the foreign-owned Resolution Copper Company (RCC) has bought out the old Magma Mine next to Oak Flat and is trying to take Oak Flat via an end run around the Forest Service by seeking a congressionally legislated land exchange. Their land exchange bill proposes to do exactly what Public Land Order 1229 sought to prevent – the destruction of Oak Flat from mining. Records clearly show that the federal government specifically withdrew Oak Flat from mining knowing that this specific conflict may occur. If financial motive can revoke the protective order at Oak Flat then no recreation area, wildlife refuge, or national park is safe from a similar action. A land swap should include full recognition of an area's special status and the appraisal should reflect this.

Resolution Copper is offering to trade a few parcels of land valued in millions of dollars, and in return would receive Oak Flat with its recreational treasures and copper reserves worth BILLIONS of dollars. Copper ore has been mined from these federal lands since 1910 but the lands have never been given away. Why must RCC be given full ownership of these national forest lands now?

Resolution Copper is trying to hustle this land swap through Congress without answering any of the most basic questions about its mining plan of operations. Where is RCC going to get the necessary 20,000 acre feet of water per year for its mining operation? Where is all that wastewater going to go after RCC uses it in their mining process? Where are the mountains of waste rock going to go that will result from this mine? What will the result of surface

subsidence be from RCC's preferred block caving mining method (an "upside-down open pit mine," according to RCC General Manager Bruno Hegner)? Why does RCC get to hire the land surveyors and appraisers who will determine the value of the lands to be exchanged? Doesn't this guarantee that the results of the land exchange will be more satisfactory to RCC than to the American public? Isn't this like the fox guarding the henhouse?

Trading away public lands should be a process in which the public gets to participate. Resolution Copper Company should give fair value for the largest copper ore body in North America. The public should also be thoroughly informed about the mining plan and its probable impacts on our water resources and state landmarks.

Resolution Copper states it may not be ready to mine for 10 to 15 years. There is time for the decision to trade away lands protected for public use to a corporation for its profits to be made in a careful, deliberate way through the administrative process of the National Forest Service allowing for public oversight and input.

Ted & Connie are active Palo Verde Group members.

TAKE ACTION! We urge all Arizonans to contact their U.S. Senators and Representatives and ask them to reject this one-sided land exchange. For more information you can visit the Friends of Queen Creek website at www.friendsofqueencreek.com, or send email to: info@friendsofqueencreek.com

==Classified Ads==

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Arizona petroglyph detail.

Photo: National Sierra Club.

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Arizona Wildlife Federation 82nd Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 4, 2005

Special Presentation: Prairie Dog Linguistics
"Did You Know They Talk - And They Are Talking About Us?"
Presented by **Dr. Con Slobodchikoff** of Northern Arizona University

FIESTA INN 2100 S. PRIEST DRIVE, TEMPE, ARIZONA
11:30 am - Galleria C
Luncheon Buffet and Awards Presentation

Gunnison's prairie dogs are social and colonial animals with a surprising repertoire of sounds. Could they know more about us than we suspect? If so, what insights do they have? Learn more at this special presentation, and help AWF honor the 2005 recipients of its McCullough, Lifetime Achievement, and Conservation Organization of the Year Awards.

The cost for the event is \$25 per person. To register for the luncheon, contact AWF at 480-644-0077, or complete a registration form for the AWF Annual Meeting luncheon, which can be downloaded at www.azwildlife.org (see the "Calendar" and Annual Meeting" pull-down menus). Please indicate on the registration form if you also plan to attend the business meeting as well as the luncheon.

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Excellent Opportunities

Attention Energetic People Who Want to Make a Difference!

Wondering what role you could play in improving Arizona? Ever thought about being a leader in the Sierra Club? Conservation issue committees are responsible for directing the Chapter's policies and campaigns on the specific issues for which they exist. The Grand Canyon Chapter has volunteer opportunities for qualified people to chair the following conservation committees:

- Recreation
- Toxics
- Grazing
- Urbanism & Urban Sprawl
- Wilderness

This is a great way to put your leadership skills to use to help Arizona's home, the environment. Your ideas and caring really do make a difference.

If you are interested or just have a question about the above volunteer opportunities, contact Don Steuter, Chapter Conservation Chair at (602) 956-5057 or call the Chapter office at (602) 253-8633.

Time to Hit the Trail? Check out the First Aid Class May 7

The Sierra Club requires that all Sierra Club hike leaders have first aid certification prior to leading any Sierra Club hikes, camping trips, service projects, or other outings. If you are interested in becoming a hike leader or assistant hike leader, a good first step is to attend this first aid class on Saturday, May 7 from 9AM to noon at the Sierra Club in the second floor conference room located at 202 E. McDowell Rd in Phoenix. The cost is \$15 per person. We will provide snacks and drinks. Scholarships are also available. To sign up or to ask questions, please contact Sandy Bahr at (602) 253-8633 or grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org. **The deadline to r.s.v.p. is May 2!**

ATTENTION STUDENTS!

Students from across Arizona are coming together to form a statewide environmental student activist network. The goal of the coalition is to become an influential part of the Arizona environmental community and to work together on issues that are important on the state level. The group will meet periodically for events during the school year but will be organized primarily online. Interested high school and college student activists are encouraged to contact Scott Jones (scott.jones@ssc.org; 602-570-0658) or Arianne Peterson (arianne@asugreens.org; 480-747-0356) for more information.

ATTENTION WRITERS!

Are you interested in writing about the environment? Be a part of greenarizona.org, a new multi-author blog focusing on Arizona environmental issues. For more information, please contact Scott Jones at scott@rscottjones.com or 602-570-0658.

Chapter Outings/Wilderness Committee meeting May 24th (Tuesday) 7:00PM This is for continuing and new Wilderness and outings people who would like to get involved in the Club's ongoing work on our public lands. New and old outings leaders are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will meet at the home of Jim Vaaler, located at 4038 E. Turney in Phoenix (north of 40th St. and Indian School Rd.). We will have a slide presentation on the Lime Creek roadless area and discuss how the outings program can be a part of the Club's ongoing Wilderness effort. For further information, call Jim Vaaler at (602) 553-8208 or email Jim at jimvaaler@msn.com

Saving San Pedro

By Elna Otter

The San Pedro River is one of the last free flowing rivers in the Southwest and provides key habitat for many species. The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area supports 450 species of birds, has the second highest diversity of mammals in the world (82 species) and is home to 43 species of reptiles. However, excessive pumping of ground water threatens the very flow of the river.

In the absence of any change, continued growth in Sierra Vista and the resultant groundwater pumping could mean that the San Pedro will suffer the same fate as the Santa Cruz. The effect on wildlife would be severe. There will be a brief video presentation about the river, followed by a presentation by Robin Silver of the Center for Biological Diversity, explaining efforts to protect the river.

Please join the Rincon Group Thursday, May 12 at 7pm at the Tucson Botanical Gardens at 2150 N. Alvernon Way in Tucson. Learn about the ongoing threats to the San Pedro River and decide what you might do to help protect this essential river.

For more information, please call (520) 747-5078.

To read the entire statement and related documents visit www.nccusa.org/news/14.02.05theologicalstatement.html

For links to eco-justice websites of faith-based organizations, visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~caringforcreation>, and select **Related Links**.

UPCOMING WILDLIFE MEETINGS

Mexican Wolf Adaptive Management Work Group

June 17, 2005 in Reserve, NM

Arizona Game and Fish Commission Meetings

May 20 & 21, 2005 in Prescott, AZ
June 24 & 25, 2005 in Payson, AZ

Arizona Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

May 22, 2005 - deadline for public comments to AZ G&F Department
Details available at http://ww.azgfd.gov/w_c/cwcs_process.html

For more information, contact:

Halina at hkubus@yahoo.com and (602) 749-2063
Sandy Bahr at grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org or (602) 253-8633.

Religion and Environmentalism

By Dale Volz

My friends in both the environmental and church communities often ask, "Why do you care so much about the environment and conservation?" To both I reply with the same confident answer, "Because my Christian faith commands that I be a good steward of creation, and God has called me to a mission of environmental service and activism." Both usually respond with the same stunned expression of disbelief or incomprehension. The more curious, or those wanting to debate my reply, will continue with, "I didn't know that Christians cared about the environment," or the more probing, "What does Christianity have to do with environmentalism?"

I used to consider both comments to be dumb and degrading, but I have come to understand that they are neither. Rather, they are symptomatic of two troubling conditions in our society: 1) a misunderstanding, or perhaps misrepresentation, by many of Judeo-Christian based theology; and 2) a willingness by many people of faith to deny their associations and beliefs, much like the cowardice demonstrated by the Apostle Peter in his denials of association with Jesus. Environmental organizations have countless members and supporters of faith who, perhaps out of fear of offending others or embarrassing self, never discuss issues in faith-based terms. Meanwhile, our churches and synagogues are filled with environmentalists who cower in the shadows, afraid to assert the scriptural foundation that God has commanded us to care for all of creation.

The good news in these troubling times is that people of faith are coming out from the shadows, lifting their voices in unison and proclaiming God's mandate to protect our precious environment. If John Muir, the founder of our Sierra Club and himself a deeply spiritual person, were with us today, he would likely be a leader in the faith-based eco-justice movement. As an example of the depth and intensity of this movement, following is an excerpt from a letter recently released by the National Council of Churches as an introduction to a much larger document and national call to action. We Sierrans have reason to celebrate this emerging voice and the potential it presents for partnership and support.

"GOD'S EARTH IS SACRED":

A Letter from the National Council of Churches

The National Council of Churches, a coalition of 36 faith groups representing 100,000 congregations and 45 million American Christians, published "God's Earth is Sacred: An Open Letter to Church and Society in the United States." Warning that humanity has become the uncreator, the letter calls on Christians to repent "social and ecological sins" and work for a cleaner, healthier environment for all the earth's species. It states in part:

"God's creation delivers unsettling news. . . In recent years, the profound danger has grown, requiring us as theologians, pastors, and religious leaders to speak out and act with new urgency.

"We are obliged to relate to Earth as God's creation 'in ways that sustain life on the planet, provide for the [basic] needs of all humankind, and increase justice.' . . . Our faith groups have offered rich theological perspectives, considered moral issues through the lens of long-standing social teaching, and passed numerous policies within our own church bodies. While we honor the efforts in our churches, we have clearly failed to communicate the full measure and magnitude of Earth's environmental crisis — religiously, morally, or politically. It is painfully clear . . . that our response has been inadequate to the scale and pace of Earth's degradation.

"To continue to walk the current path of ecological destruction is not only folly; it is sin. As voiced by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew: 'To commit a crime against the natural world is a sin. For humans to cause species to become extinct and to destroy the biological diversity of God's creation . . . for humans to degrade the integrity of Earth by causing changes in its climate, by stripping the Earth of its natural forests. . . these are sins.' We have become un-Creators. Earth is in jeopardy at our hands.

"This means that ours is a theological crisis as well. We have listened to a false gospel . . . that proclaims that God cares for the salvation of humans only and that our human calling is to exploit Earth for our own ends alone."

Dale is active on the Chapter Executive Committee.

Happenings Around the State

Welcome! Six Groups make up the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter (see pg.2 for listings). Conservation, political and legislative activism, administrative work, and outings are a few ways we work to protect this amazing state. And there are many more! **All the events and meetings listed below are open to members interested in learning more about the Sierra Club.** We aim to make this world a better, more livable place. **We need your help!** You can find out more at our website: www.arizona.sierraclub.org - click on meetings.

Keeping Groups in the Loop

Meetings are open to the public. For directions, please call or email the contact person listed.

Palo Verde Group (Phoenix and suburbs)

May 10 & June 14 (Tue) Palo Verde Group Conservation & Executive Committee meetings, Conservation Committee meets at 7PM to discuss issues related to desert preservation, forest protection, wildlife, energy conservation, growth management, etc. For details call Don Steuter (602) 956-5057 (donsteuter@aol.com). The Group Ex-Comm meets at 8:30PM to review matters related to group policies, outdoor activities, finances, and other business. At the Sierra Club conference room, 202 E. McDowell Road in Phoenix (2nd floor conference room in the southeast corner of the Los Olivos - Econolodge suites). For information contact Paul Zemboy (pzemboy@hotmail.com) (602) 989-1977.

Phoenix Inner City Outings—An outreach program of the club providing wilderness opportunities to Inner City Youth. New volunteers & interested parties welcome! **2nd Friday of every month, 7PM, at the Willow House,** 3rd Ave. & McDowell. Please contact us at phoenix.ico@grandcanyon.sierraclub.org or (602) 867-3017 to confirm meeting time & date.

May 12 (Thu) Outings Leader Planning Meeting Time for our bi-monthly pilgrimage to Dan Cline's house to talk about all the super outdoor activities we'll be leading in July, August, as well as happy hours, dinner nights, and other socially responsible activities. Meeting starts at 7PM. Feel free to attend if you would like to plan an event, offer suggestions, or just see what the heck we're up to. If you can't attend, but have an event that you're planning to put on the calendar, then it would be great if you send your idea in advance to Ted Gartner <gartneraz@cox.net> so that the rest of us can be aware of it. For directions please contact Dan Cline at danpsu@hotmail.com or Ted Gartner (gartneraz@cox.net or 480-961-0370). Remember . . . if you lead it . . . they will come!

May 17 (Tue) Palo Verde General Meeting: The Do's and Don'ts of Backpacking Longtime Sierra Club outing leaders, Don Cline and Tom Cadden, will draw on actual experiences, to educate you on how to keep your trip from imploding - including proper planning, gear and wilderness ethics. Also on the program: great places to go for backpackers of all levels. The program starts at 7pm at the Phoenix Zoo auditorium (signs will direct you). Admission is free and refreshments will be served. Questions? Contact Connie Gartner (connieg2@cox.net or 480-961-0370)

June 21 (Tue) Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness Bob Brister of Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance will take you into Utah's magnificent and wild public lands with a multi-media presentation detailing threats to these lands. The presentation documents citizen efforts to designate public lands in Utah's spectacular canyon country as Wilderness under the 1964 Wilderness Act. Maybe you will be inspired to help. The program starts at 7pm at the Phoenix Zoo auditorium (signs will direct you). Admission is free and refreshments will be served. Questions? Contact Connie (connieg2@cox.net or 480-961-0370)

Plateau Group (Flagstaff and surrounding area)

March 3 (Thursday) 7:00PM ExCom Meeting Please come to the ExCom business and conservation meeting. The meeting will be held at the Sierra Club Flagstaff office, at 408 E. Route 66, just behind Babbitt's used cars. Call Jim McCarthy at 928-779-3748 for further information.

Apr 21 (Thu) 7:00PM General Meeting Roxane George will discuss the chapter's Grand Canyon Protection Campaign. Her presentation will include color slides and interesting discussion regarding the park's river and backcountry management plans, as well as other timely issues. Roxane is the Conservation Program Coordinator for the campaign. The meeting will be held at the Federated Church in Flagstaff, 400 W. Aspen, just west of the Flagstaff Library. Call Jim McCarthy at 928-779-3748 or Roxane George at 928-774-6514 for further information.

Sedona/Verde Valley Group

May 10 (Tue) Sedona/ Verde Valley Group Membership Meeting 7-9PM at the Adult Community Center, 2615 Melody Lane in West Sedona. Participants in a panel discussion will be Representative Tom O'Halleran, Yavapai County District Supervisor Chip Davis, and Anita Rochelle of the Northern Arizona Water Consortium. Topics of discussion will be regional aquifer and surface water sustainability, and an update on renewed plans to build a bridge at Red Rock Crossing. An open question and answer period will follow. Call Carole Piszczek-Sheffield at (928)204-1269 or email at carolepiszczek@yahoo.com for details.

Yavapai Group (Prescott and surrounding area)

The Reasonable Growth Initiative On April 4 the Citizens For Reasonable Growth (Tom Slaback, Chair) submitted to the Prescott City Clerk their application for initiative. We are seeking help from local residents in circulating petitions to get the initiative on the ballot. The initiative is for a City Charter change that will require a 3/4 City Council vote to approve annexations greater than 250 acres, a 60 day public comment and review period, and that all effluent generated in passed annexations go to permanent recharge. For more information please check out the website: www.reasonablegrowth.com

May 4 (Wed 6PM), Jun 1 (Wed 7PM), & July 6 (Wed 7PM) Yavapai Group Executive Committee Meetings For info. & directions phone Tom (928) 778-4233.

Chapter Announcements

May 24 & June 28 (Tue) Chapter Energy Committee Meetings

The revitalized Energy Committee meets to discuss the current state of energy production and use in Arizona. We will also talk about the national scene and local energy issues. Everyone is invited to come and participate no matter how much or how little you know about energy issues. Time and place to be decided. Please contact Jon Findley at (480) 756-2916 or email jonaz@learnweb.com.

The Chapter Political Committee meets the first Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Sierra Club office. All members are welcome to discuss legislative and federal issues, and act as advocates for conservation by taking political action. Contact Lynn DeMuth at lmdemuth@cox.net for details.

May 19 (Thu) 6:30PM Wildlife Committee Meeting

Interested in protecting Arizona's amazing wildlife? The Chapter wildlife committee meets the third Thursday of every other month to discuss ongoing work on behalf of wildlife protection. Location: Sierra Club Office (2nd Floor, 202 E. McDowell Rd) in Phoenix. Please contact: Halina at hkubus@yahoo.com or Sandy Bahr (602) 253-8633.



June 1 (Wed) Copy Deadline for July/ Aug 2005 Canyon Echo, Theme: State of the Environment/Report Card + State Trust Lands. Submissions of articles, drawings, photographs, poetry, essays, calls to action, and brief epiphanies are welcome. See writer guidelines on pg. 2. We recommend contacting the editor before writing (602) 253-9140 or (michelle.pulich@sierraclub.org) to discuss word count, issue topics and other writerly details.

June 29 (Weds) Canyon Echo Mailing Party, 2:00-8:00 PM (stop by anytime). Club volunteers save the chapter thousands of dollars every year by preparing the Canyon Echo for mailing. Thank you! The job is easy to learn and takes only a few hours once every two months. We all have a **good time**. Work begins at 2:00PM and continues until all copies are addressed, bundled and sacked, usually around 7:00PM or earlier. You're free to arrive as your schedule allows and any amount of time is appreciated. Contact Jerry Nelson at (602) 279-4668 (peakbagger2@cox.net) or Bill Gill at (gill512@cox.net) for location and other details.

Saguaro Group (North Maricopa County)

May 18 (Wed) General Meeting at 7 PM. At the Harris Bank at the Pedregal, corner of Scottsdale Rd. and Carefree Highway. Our guests will be Ian Cordwell, Director of Planning for the Town of Cave Creek and Sandy Bahr, Conservation Director for the Grand Canyon Chapter. Ian will speak about the Cave Creek General Plan and issues involving future development of the area. Sandy will speak about environmental issues in this legislative session. Come for information, refreshments and conversation with our members. Call (480) 488-4581 for more information.

Jun 15 (Wed) Saguaro Excom meeting at 7 PM at the Harris Bank Meeting Room, corner of Scottsdale Rd. and Carefree Hwy. The Committee will formulate plans for events throughout 2005 including special events, fund raising, outing and meeting programs. All interested members are invited to attend. Call (480) 488-4581 for more information.

Rincon Group (Tucson and surrounding area)

May 12 (Thu) San Pedro Program 7 PM In light of the current interest in and activity concerning the San Pedro (see article pg. 9), we will show a short video about the San Pedro, and follow it with a presentation by Dr. Robin Silver of the Center for Biological Diversity and an open discussion. Please join us at the Tucson Botanical Gardens located at 2150 N. Alvernon Way. Learn about the ongoing threats to the San Pedro River and decide what you might do to help protect this essential river. For more information, please call (520) 747-5078.

May 26 (Thu) & Jun 30 (Thu) Rincon Group Executive Committee meets at 7PM the last Thursday of the month (with the exception of some holidays) to discuss policy, budgetary, and business matters. The executive committee meetings are open to Sierra Club members only. Location: main floor conference room of the Historic YWCA, 738 N. 5th Ave. at University Blvd. (520) 623-0269.

Jun 9 (Thu) 7PM Evening Program: Controversial Carnivores Conservation Progress and a Greater Recovery Vision In the Southwest, gray wolves and jaguars, have been nearly completely eradicated during the past 100 years, and the Mexican grizzly is gone forever - primarily because of conflicts with livestock and hunters. In the next 25 years it is likely that the only large mammals remaining on earth will be those which humans have made the conscious decision to conserve. Fortunately, society's view of the importance of wildlife, including carnivores, is changing. **Craig Miller**, of Defenders of Wildlife, will present a slide-show and host a discussion on the recovery of jaguars and wolves to the American Southwest. Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N. Alvernon. For more info, call (520) 747-5078.

Rincon Group is developing a long-term campaign strategy to push for a new U.S. policy for this country's border with Mexico that recognizes and protects the fragile Sonoran Desert lands it impacts, and that prevents the abuse and loss of life of migrants. For information on meeting times and places contact Keith Bagwell at akbagwell@hotmail.com or at (520) 623-0269.

Enjoy and Explore Arizona

MAY 7 (SAT) "B" San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (4-6 hours, leisurely pace). The San Pedro River is a critical habitat and migratory route for several species of birds and is sometimes called "The Hummingbird Highway." We will plan on a car drop at Charleston at the south end and walk north the approximate 8 miles to Fairbank. Expect to walk in ankle-deep water much of the time. Call Stu Williams at (520) 465-0322 or e-mail him at az_kuaaina@yahoo.com. A minimum of five persons and maximum of 12 persons applies. **Tucson**

MAY 7 (SAT) "C" Wishbone Junction Loop Day Hike (7 miles, +/-600' elevation change) Walk a pleasant loop through the range land of the southern Goldfields and return by Willow Springs Canyon. After crossing Prevention Gap we'll follow a streamside route to Wishbone Junction and slightly beyond, then head east over beautiful golden slickrock with inspiring views of the high country. Call Ted Tenny, (480) 396-3389. **Phoenix**

MAY 10 (TUES) "D" Spur Cross Conservation Area Hike Approximately five miles roundtrip following Cave Creek to the Tonto National Forest trailhead. Optional coffee afterwards at Cave Creek Coffee Co. Call Bev (480) 595-2306 for reservations and directions. **Phoenix**

MAY 13-15 (SAT-SUN) "C" Weekend Camp/Hike Outing in Sierra Ancha Wilderness Camp at group campsite Friday and Saturday nights. Day hike on trails in the wilderness. Group dinners and breakfasts are provided. No backpacking is involved. Call Louis (480) 488-4581 for information and directions. **Phoenix**

MAY 14 (SAT) "B" Vultee Arch Trail Day Hike (4.0 miles RT, 1000 feet EC) This hike takes you to a natural arch and to a beautiful box canyon where there is a bronze plaque commemorating the airplane crash that killed aviation pioneer Gerald Vultee and his wife in 1938. It's a steep hike in upper Oak Creek Canyon, climbing through a heavy forest to a mountain pass with scenic views along the way. The first 1.65 miles is the Sterling Pass Trail. At the crest you come onto a saddle where there is a gap in the cliffs. The trail continues down the other side to intersect the Vultee Arch Trail. Located 6.2 miles north of the Sedona Y. Trip Leader: Nancy Sutherland, (928) 774-9309, for meeting time and location. **Flagstaff**

MAY 14 (SAT) "C+" Squaw Creek Roadless Area Wilderness Study Dayhike (less than 8 miles, 1000 feet EC) This area located approximately northwest of Seven Springs and southeast of the Agua Fria National Monument is the last of the Tonto National Forest roadless areas we need to look it. On this trip we will check out the North terminus of trail #8 and see if this trail has a properly gated entrance. Nearby locations will also be inspected. Folks will see how we determine a valid and defensible boundary for a de facto Wilderness area. Plan on an early meeting time. Four wheel drive vehicles and drivers are welcome and needed. For reservations, meeting time and place, call your leader Jim Vaaler at (602) 553-8208. **Phoenix**

MAY 20-22 (FRI-SUN) "A" Irish Canyons Rendezvous Rappel Hikes Located near Hanksville, Utah. On this trip we'll learn more about drought conditions on the Colorado River plateau. Canyon explorations may include Leprechaun, Blarney, Shillelagh, Arsenic, etc to be determined. All of these are very physical canyoneering adventures which require upclimbing, downclimbing, stemming,

chimneying, and the possibility of wading or swimming, with possible rappels up to 100-feet. Sponsored by the Palo Verde Mountaineering activity section. You must be a Sierra Club member and bring the following equipment: climbing harness with personal anchor sling girth-hitched thru top and bottom, rappel device, helmet, 3 locking carabiners, and prusik cords or other ascending device. Limit 12. For more information contact Connie or Ted Gartner <gartneraz@cox.net> 480-961-0370. **Phoenix**

MAY 20-24 (FRI-TUES) Green River Labyrinth Canyon Canoe/Kayak Float Trip. Float 65 miles on the Green River. Enjoy spectacular scenery. Check with Bev (480) 595-2306 for information. **Phoenix**

MAY 21 (SAT) "A" Rincon Peak, Rincon Mountains (8-10 hours, strenuous pace). We should be at the trailhead at 8:30 and back to the car at 6:30 p.m. Hike is approximately 16 miles and climbs steeply in wooded pine to Rincon Peak. Walking stick or poles highly recommended. Call Stu Williams at (520) 465-0322 or e-mail him at az_kuaaina@yahoo.com. A minimum of five persons and maximum of 12 persons applies. **Tucson**

MAY 21 (SAT) "A" Bradshaw Mountains "Wet-N-Wild" Hike. (5 mi., 1000 EC) Water-hike season is here! Join us for a nontechnical canyoneering adventure to a rarely visited creek near Crown King in the Bradshaw Mountains. From the trailhead (5,400') we will scramble down (1,000') the steep hillside trail to the cool refreshing creek below. Once at the creek we will wade, swim, rock-hop and brush-bust our way downstream. We will visit several pools where we will swim, enjoy cascades, bask on boulders, or relax in the creek-side shade of large cottonwoods. The big ticket is a pool that is 60' to 70' across and 10' deep with a 35' waterfall at its head! While this hike is only 5 miles RT and 1,000' EC, it is very strenuous. There will be lots of scrambling and possibly some fourth class moves. You must be a strong, agile hiker who can swim. Afterwards we will gather in Crown King for dinner and conversation. Limit 15. Contact Darrell Foster at AZ-Outdoorsman@cox.net (preferred) or (602) 569-5549. **Phoenix**

MAY 21 (SUN) "C" Mint Creek area of Granite Basin Lake 4-5 mile RT. 9AM. Observe difference of grazed and ungrazed landscape. Creek, ponds, huge boulders to enjoy. Bring water and snack. Optional lunch in town, by courthouse square, at local establishment. First two persons to call and attend receive attractive, informative poster of Granite Creek watershed, suitable for framing. Call Carolyn York, (928) 541-1952 (evenings) to confirm meeting place. **Prescott**

MAY 27-30 (FRI, SAT, SUN, MON) "B" Grand Canyon Hiking/Highway Cleanup Weekend Hikes Fri. is a social - going out for pizza. (Optional hike on Fri. if anyone wants to; contact the Leader.) Sat. is a "B" hike on the Grandview Trail to Horseshoe Mesa & return (6 mi. RT, 2,600' elev. gain). Sun. is a strenuous "B" hike on the Bright Angel Trail to Plateau Point and back (12 mi. RT, 3,200' elev. gain). Learn some basic geology, Grand Canyon wildflowers and environmental issues effecting Grand Canyon. On Mon. morning we clean the Sierra Club Adopt a Highway section on Rt. 64 east of Desert View. Bring gloves for the highway cleanup, daypack, sun screen, water bottles. Limited sleeping space at my house in Grand Canyon Village & a few camping spaces in my yard. Pot luck on Sat. night and out to eat on Sun. night. Do all or some of the hikes. For more info & registration contact the leader,

Bob Audretsch, 1-928-638-2077 (before 9 PM only) or e-mail (preferred): bob41@grandcanyon.az.us **Grand Canyon**

MAY 28 (SAT) "B" Secret Canyon Trail Day Hike (11 miles RT, 600 feet EC) This is a beautiful canyon with the trail following along a streambed through the red rocks. The trail winds back and forth across the creek several times. At the 2.1 miles, the trail meets the David Miller Trail and beyond this junction, it enters a pine forest. The hike can be ended here at 2.5 miles. The trail goes 3 miles farther, following the course of the canyon as it winds it's way to the base of the rim. Located 8.6 miles west and north of Sedona. Call Nancy Sutherland (928) 774-9309 for meeting time and location. **Flagstaff**

JUN 1 (WED) "C" Secret Mountain Trail Day Hike (3.0 miles RT, 200 feet EC) This trail takes you from a scenic lookout on the Mogollon Rim across a ridge to Secret Mountain where there is a historic cabin and another lookout. At 0.6 miles is an area where there is damage from an August 1994 forest fire. At 1.0 miles you enter a fold between these hills where there is an old log corral and a dam. Beyond this, the trail goes through a breathtaking forest, which has never been logged. At 1.8 miles, the hike enters an area with a pond and a cabin, which has an interesting history. From the cabin the trail crosses the ravine and comes to a viewpoint on the rim for sensational views. Located 28.9 miles south west of Flagstaff. Trip Leader: Nancy Sutherland, (928) 774-9309, for meeting time and location. **Flagstaff**

JUN 4 (SAT) "A" Miller Peak, Huachuca Mountains (6-8 hours, strenuous pace). We should be at the trailhead at 9 a.m. and back to the car at 5 p.m. Hike is approximately 12 miles and climbs to the highest point in the Huachuca Mountains adjacent to historic Fort Huachuca. Stellar views of San Jose Peak and the "altiplano" of northern Sonora. Walking stick or poles highly recommended. Call Stu Williams at (520) 465-0322 or e-mail him at az_kuaaina@yahoo.com. A minimum of five persons and maximum of 12 persons applies. **Tucson**

JUN 4 (SAT) "B" Browns Peak Dayhike Enjoy the climb to the highest point in the Four Peaks Wilderness Area. This will be a good opportunity to see and learn how an area can recover from a devastating wildfire. We will go up the standard route and down thru the Aspen grove. Participants may want to wear long pants and long sleeved shirts as the leader donated a large quantity of his blood on the last trip. Of course things could be better this time. For reservations, meeting time and place, call your leader, Jim Vaaler at (602) 553-8208 **Phoenix**

JUN 5 (SUN) "C" Butte Creek Trail Hike. (4 mi.) 9-11 AM. Meet at the trailhead in Stricklin Park for an easy 2-hour hike (4mi. RT). We will hike along Butte Creek trail through the Hassayampa Golf Club fairway and up into the Prescott National Forest. Butte Creek, a tributary to Granite Creek which runs through downtown Prescott, originated in the Sierra Prieta Mountains to the south of Thumb Butte. The first two people to sign up for this hike will receive large colorful posters depicting the Granite Creek Watershed. Directions to Strickland Park: From downtown Prescott follow Gurley Street west for about a mile. A small shopping area with a Shuttle-U will be on your left. Continue on for approximately 1/2 mile. Just past Hassayampa Lane, turn left on Sherwood Drive. Follow Sherwood as it bends to the right and look for the Stricklin Park sign on the left hand side. Street side parking is all that is available. Leader: Joe Wenzel, (928) 771-0838, or Doris (928) 778-6724. **Prescott**

JUN 11 (SAT) "B" Little Colorado Overlook & Dam Site Routes. (approx. 4 mi. RT, 1,200' EC). These two routes are located downstream of Cameron, AZ. Even though the distances are short they are strenuous & difficult. We descend the steep Overlook Route to the Little Colorado, walk upstream and ascend to the rim on the Dam Site Route. If the LC is running high we will have to substitute another hike for this one. Individual share in paying for the Navajo Nation permit required in advance (\$10 each). Substantial parts of each of these will be exploratory as the Leader has not hiked the full length of each yet. Bring day pack, gloves. These are all seldom hiked routes, all steep with loose rock and require basic rock climbing experience, some 3rd class climbing

See Outings continued on pg. 12

Hiking Guidelines

The Sierra Club is a nationwide organization with active local outings for members and non-members. Please join us as we make friends and explore life-enriching interests. Simply find an outing by date and phone the contact for directions, reservations, time and additional information.

RESTRICTIONS: NO FIREARMS, RADIOS OR PETS.

Outings are by reservation. Call early (group limit 20). Each hike is rated for degree of difficulty and risk by the leader.

"A" +16 miles or + 3,000 ft. elevation change (EC)

"B" 8-16 miles and 1,500-3,000 ft. EC

"C" 3-8 miles, 500-1,500 ft. EC

"D" - 3 miles and 500 ft. EC

RT Round Trip

OW One Way

Trip leader has absolute authority to question trip participants as to their equipment, conditioning and experience before and during the trip. All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you choose to participate in an outing, please go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> or contact the National Outings Dept. at (415)977-5528 for a printed version. Sierra Club liability covers leaders only. Each person is responsible for his or her own first aid equipment. If you are injured, notify the leader immediately. If you leave the trip, with or without the leader's permission, you are considered to be on your own until you rejoin the group. Hikers are encouraged to carpool and share the driver's fuel expense. Suggested compensation is 5 cents/mile. Donations accepted from all participants at \$1 (member) and \$3 (nonmember). Money is collected by the leader and deposited with the group treasurer. For more information, call Jim Vaaler, (602) 553-8208. Hikes and outings are also listed in the Rincon Group newsletter and in the Palo Verde Group Sierra Club Singles newsletter.

Enjoy and Explore Arizona

Sierra Service Outings



MAY 21 (SAT) "C" McDowell Mountain Road Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup Project

In the eastern foothills of the McDowell Mountains, our 5-mile stretch of blue highway meanders in and out of McDowell Mountain Regional Park. Situated between Four Peaks, the Superstitions, the McDowells, and the Mazatzal Mountains, this scenic road is a favorite for bicycle and motorcycle enthusiasts. We'll cleanup the road while enjoying the great Sonoran desert. We may visit "McGinty's Hidden Spring," a secret and seldom seen Shangri-La, known only to Adopt-a-Highway alumni, or "McGinty's Kitchen Sink," otherwise known as the "Grand Canyon" of McDowell Mountain Road. We'll finish before noon leaving the afternoon free. Each trip participant receives an official Adopt-a-Highway t-shirt and gloves courtesy of Maricopa County's Adopt-a-Highway program! 3 mi. RT, 300 ft. EC. Call Michael Brady (602) 534-1355. **Phoenix**

MAY 21 (SAT) "C" Protect Saguaro National Park from Invaders

Please join us on Saturday May 21 to assist with removing buffel grass from a portion of the Saguaro National Park near Tucson. Buffel grass (*Pennisetum ciliare*) is an invasive grass species native to Africa. It was first introduced to the area in the 1940's to help control soil erosion caused by overgrazing of cattle. Buffel grass out competes native vegetation, and it also poses a fire risk which can endanger desert species that are not fire adapted.

Because it will likely be pretty warm, we want to get started early and plan to meet at 7AM at the Tucson Mountain District (west side) Visitor Center of the Park and work for about four hours. Please bring water, a hat, sunscreen, some work gloves, and lots of energy. We will provide lunch and will have extra water and energy drinks. For more information on the project and for information on who might be carpooling, please contact Sandy Bahr at (602) 253-8633 or grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org

JUNE 11 (Sat) California Condors Learn More About These Endangered Birds

See why it is so critical to protect areas like Vermilion Cliffs National Monument and Grand Canyon National Park. We will join Chris Parrish from the Peregrine Fund for an educational and informative outing in the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument. Chris will take us to view the California condors and talk to us about the birds, why they are endangered, how they are doing, and ongoing threats. Julie Sherman will also be available to talk to us about what is happening with the northern Arizona national monuments—Grand Canyon-Parashant and Vermilion Cliffs and what we can do to better protect these areas. Roxane George from our Grand Canyon Protection Campaign will also be available to discuss efforts to better protect the entire region.

This is not a strenuous trip and will primarily involve short walks to view the condors. A few of us will be doing a hike afterwards, so let us know if that is of interest. We will make every effort to keep the hike to a "C" level. There is plenty of great hiking if you decide to hike on your own later or on Sunday however.

California condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*) are North America's largest birds with a wingspan of up to 9.5 feet and a body weight of 16 to 24 pounds. Their original range was for British Columbia down to Baja California. Because the animal has a naturally low reproductive rate, additional impacts from poisoning (especially lead), pesticides, collisions with power lines, shooting, etc. helped put the bird on the endangered species list. The population of condors is currently up to over 200 from a low of only 22 in 1982. Arizona has now had several California condor chicks hatch in the wild – this is a positive sign.

For more information or to RSVP contact Sandy Bahr at (602) 253-8633 or grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org

JUNE 18 (Sat) Weed Eradication Project at Badger Springs "C"

Come help us remove Tamarisk and other non-native annual plant species in the Agua Fria National Monument. We will be working in conjunction with the "Friends of Agua Fria." Bureau of Land Management will provide training on which species need to be removed. Bring gloves, lunch and a willingness to get rid of Tamarisk. We will be meeting at 6:00 AM at the BLM office located at 21605 N. 7th Avenue. This is north of the 101 Loop and just south of Deer Valley Road on the East side of 7th Avenue. For more information call your leader, Jim Vaaler, at (602) 553-8208 or email Jim at jimvaaler@msn.com

JUNE 25 (Sat) Sierra Anchas Wilderness - Bettering the Path

Please join us as we help make a trail in this wilderness area passable. We will be working at elevation 5000 feet in a forested area so it should be pretty pleasant. Please bring gloves, lunch and enthusiasm to defend wilderness. Camping for Saturday night is an excellent option but not required. Carpools will be arranged. This is a great trip to go on if you want to learn more about Sierra Club's adopt-a-wilderness work. For more information contact Michelle Stewart at (602) 253-9140 or michelle.pulich@sierraclub.org



Condor photo by US Fish and Wildlife Service, courtesy of geekphilosopher.com

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on each route. Limit 5 people. For more info and registration contact the Leader, Bob Audretsch, (928) 638-2077 before 9 PM or e-mail (preferred): bob41@grand-canyon.az.us **Grand Canyon**

JUN 11 (SAT) "C" Sandy Canyon Trail Day Hike

(7.2 miles RT, 200 feet EC) This trail features a connection to the Arizona Trail, a climb into Walnut Canyon, impressive cliffs and a cave which can be explored. The hike starts along the rim of the canyon, descends a pretty, side canyon to the floor of Walnut Creek. It then intersects the Arizona Trail for a short distance. At 1.65 miles is Fisher Point where there is a half cave under a big round cliff. The trail continues but changes from a jeep road to a foot trail. The canyon then becomes narrow and winds its way back and forth across the stream bed. It eventually goes past a large cave and a smaller one. Located 8.1 miles south of Flagstaff on the Lake Marry Road. Trip Leader: Nancy Sutherland, (928) 774-9309, for meeting time and location. **Flagstaff**

JUN 12 (SUN) "B" Madera Canyon Loop

(8 miles RT, 2000 feet EC). We will start by going up the Super Trail to Josephine saddle and we will then follow the Agua Caliente Trail west along the rim of Madera Canyon. During this relatively flat section we will have great views of the canyon below us and Mt. Wrightson above us. We will then descend via the Vault Mine trail which finishes along a sycamore filled streambed. Overall, this should be a very pleasant hike in the dense woodland typical of the Santa Rita mountains. Bring plenty of water and a lunch. Contact Drew Milsom at (520) 908-1087 (evenings) or (520) 621-2678 (daytime). **Tucson**

JUN 14 (TUES) "D" Cave Creek Recreation Area Hike

Follow the Slate Trail for a roundtrip hike of about 5 miles. Optional coffee after at Cave Creek Coffee Co. Call Bev (480) 595-2306 for reservations and directions. **Phoenix**

JUN 17-19 (FRI-SUN) "A" Zion Canyon Rendezvous Rappel Hikes

Located near Springdale, Utah. On this trip we'll learn more about the latest changes to the Zion National Park general management plan. Subject to permits, we may be doing Behunin, Echo, Keyhole, Pine Creek, Spry, etc. to be determined. All of these are very physical canyoneering adventures which require upclimbing, downclimbing, stemming, chimneying, and the possibility of wading or swimming, with possible rappels up to 200-feet. Jointly sponsored by the Palo Verde Mountaineering and Rincon Mountaineering activity sections. You must be a Sierra Club member and bring the following equipment: climbing harness with personal anchor sling, girth-hitched thru top and bottom, rappel device, helmet, 3 locking carabiners, and prusik cords or other ascending device. Limit 12. Contact Connie or Ted Gartner <gartneraz@cox.net> (480) 961-0370. **Phoenix**

JUN 18 (SAT) "C" Weed Eradication Project at Badger Springs

Come help us remove Tamarisk and other non-native annuals in the Agua Fria National Monument. We will be working in conjunction with the "Friends of Agua Fria". Bureau of Land Management will provide training on which species need to be removed. Bring gloves, lunch and a willingness to get rid of Tamarisk. We will be meeting at 6:00 AM at the BLM office located at 21605 N. 7th Avenue. This is north of the 101 loop and just south of Deer Valley Road on the East side of 7th Avenue. For more information call your leader, Jim Vaaler, at (602) 553-8208 or email Jim at jimvaaler@msn.com **Phoenix**

JUN 25 (SAT) "A" West Clear Creek (White Box / Hanging Garden) Hike

(8 mi, 1500 ft. EC) Join us for a nontechnical canyoneering adventure through a spectacular, remote riparian canyon with large "slotted" pools and lush vegetation (my favorite water-hike). Our destination is West Clear Creek Wilderness on the Mogollon Rim. After a 2-mile walk down a 4x4 road, we will scramble down the steep side of the canyon (no trail) until we hit the cool waters of the creek. Just around the corner is the largest pool in the wilderness, the illustrious "White Box." We will continue downstream through several more pools until reaching the verdant Hanging Gardens, our turnaround point, where we will enjoy our lunch in this watery paradise. This hike has no trails - scrambling, rock hopping and swimming are all included in this awesome adventure. You must be a strong, agile hiker and able to swim. High clearance vehicles are needed, please volunteer. The complete hike is approximately 8 miles RT, with a 1,500' EC (much, much harder than it sounds). The elevation at the trailhead is 6,300'. Afterwards we will gather at La Fonda just outside Camp Verde for dinner and conversation. Limit 15. Contact Darrell Foster at AZ-Outdoorsman@cox.net (preferred) or (602) 569-5549. **Phoenix**

JUL 2-3 (SAT-SUN) "A" Icecube Canyon Rappel Hikes

Located near Las Vegas, NV. On this trip we'll learn more about Bureau of Land Management's wild horse and burro management program, and may even get to see some bighorn sheep. On Saturday we'll do Upper Icecube, and on Sunday we'll do Lower Icecube. These are very physical canyoneering adventures which require upclimbing, downclimbing, stemming, chimneying, and a high probability of wading or swimming, with rappels up to 190 ft. Sponsored by Palo Verde Mountaineering. You must be a Sierra Club member and bring the following equipment: climbing harness with personal anchor sling girth-hitched thru top and bottom, rappel device, helmet, 3 locking carabiners, and prusik cords or other ascending device. Limit 12. Contact Connie or Ted Gartner <gartneraz@cox.net> (480) 961-0370. **Phoenix**

JUL 9 (SAT) "A" Monte Vista Peak, Chiricahua Mountains

(6-8 hours, strenuous pace). Peak-bagging season continues! We should be at the trailhead at 9 a.m. and back to the car at 5 p.m. Hike is approximately 10 miles and climbs steeply to the fire tower on Monte Vista Peak on the Chiricahua Crest Trail. We access at Turkey Creek. Views to the east take in the San Simon and Animas Valleys. Walking stick or poles highly recommended. Call Stu Williams at (520) 465-0322 or e-mail him at az_kuaaina@yahoo.com. A minimum of five persons and maximum of 12 persons applies. **Tucson**

JUL 30 (SAT) "A" Florida Canyon, Santa Rita Mountains

(6-8 hours, strenuous pace). Meet at the University Starbucks at University and Euclid at 7:30 a.m. We should be at the trailhead at 9 a.m. and back to the car at 5 p.m. Hike is approximately 10 miles and climbs steeply to Florida Saddle. Verdant blue spruce and views of the Canelo Hills and Patagonia Mountains as we work our way from the saddle over to Old Baldy Saddle. Time and circumstances permitting, we may summit Mt. Wrightson, the highest point in southern Arizona. Walking stick or poles highly recommended. Call Stu Williams at (520) 465-0322 or e-mail him at az_kuaaina@yahoo.com. A minimum of five persons and maximum of 12 persons applies. **Tucson**