WELCOME!

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society (CNMAS) meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M., St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper and Jefferson, N.E. Nonmembers are welcome at all meetings, field trips and special events.

PRESIDENTS' GOALS

David and Donna Broudy would like to develop a focus for CNMAS this year and have suggested that our goal be **Increasing membership participation**. To accomplish this goal, they feel we should try to target various groups of members we haven't addressed specifically and work on programs and activities to which these members could relate. For example, we might have meetings or activities during the day (always keeping our regular evening meetings, however). Other ideas include a workshop for Science Fair participants; Saturday activities for kids and young families; programs for college students that focus on environmental concerns; a nature photography contest, etc.

The Broudys have asked that all members give these ideas some thought and add some new ones. Suggestions may be shared with the Broudys or any Board Member. Remember, two (or many) heads are always better than one! We can have a chapter that offers fun and worth-while activities for all members.

Audubon Television Specials

Tune in to Channel 5 for the following Audubon Specials in August:
August 8th— "Ducks Under Siege," narrated by John Heard
August 22nd— "On the Edge of Extinction: Panthers and Cheetahs," narrated by Loretta Swit

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

by Dr. Celestyn Brozek

NEPAL—THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

—Thursday, August 20th

Cathy and Lance Chilton will talk about their experiences with the land and the people of Nepal, a small country of remarkable diversity on the Indian Subcontinent. The beauty of Nepal's natural setting and the worries about ecological disaster, occasioned by a burgeoning and very poor population, will be discussed as we see Cathy Chilton's excellent slides.

Dr. Lance Chilton is a pediatrician with Lovelace Medical Center and his wife, Cathy, is an artist. They recently co-authored *New Mexico—A New Guide to the Colorful State.*

ECOLOGY OF DESERT PLANTS

—Thursday, September 17th

Dr. Paul Kemp will discuss the ecology of desert plants in the Southwestern United States. His talk will be illustrated with slides showing a variety of desert plants and their strategies for survival on all four North American Deserts--the Sonoran, Chihuahuan, Mohave and Great Basin.

Dr. Kemp is a Curator of Botany at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History in Albuquerque. He earned a PhD degree at Washington State University and was on the staff at New Mexico State University for six years.
FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

SHADY LAKES
—Saturday, August 15th

If you haven’t visited Shady Lakes, located just north of Albuquerque, now is the time! On the other hand, if you’ve been there before, you know that the birding is excellent and the walking is easy. Among the many birds you can expect to see are Black Phoebes, Olive-sided Flycatchers, Lewis Woodpeckers, nuthatches, the Great Blue Heron and the Black-Crowned Night Heron and, if you’re lucky, the Eastern Kingbird.

We’ll meet at 7:00 a.m. so we can get a head start on the fishermen who try their luck for trout and other fish at Shady Lakes. (You may also want to bring your fishing pole!) To get to Shady Lakes, take I25 north to the Tramway Exit (Exit #234), then turn left under I25 and follow the road west to the “Y” then take HWY85 north (right) approximately 1/2 mile. Look for the Shady Lakes sign on the left side of the road. Our trip leader, Joanne Phillips, asks that we park alongside the road, near the gate. (If she opens the gate, we will be joined by fishermen!). For more details, call Joanne at 898-2568 or 898-8531.

LAS HUERTAS CANYON
—Tuesday, August 25th

Join this joint field trip with the American Association of University Women’s Outdoor Group. The pace will be easy and relaxed. Las Huertas Canyon is an environmentally sensitive area at the north end of the Sandia Mountains that is currently being studied by the U. S. Forest Service. The Forest Service is trying to balance use of the recreational, environmental, and water resources in the canyon. In addition to helping you form an opinion as to how the area should be managed, this trip offers you an opportunity to see a variety of mountain birds.

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the west end of the Goodwill/Green Acres parking lot on the east side of San Mateo, north of Montgomery. Bring your lunch and water. For more information, call trip leader, Evelyn Price, at 266-4028.

BOSQUE DEL APACHE WILDLIFE REFUGE
—Saturday, September 22nd

CNMAS has "adopted" the Bosque Del Apache Wildlife Refuge! If you are interested in what "adopting" a refuge entails or if you are just interested in seeing some of the wide variety of birdlife at the refuge in the "off" season, plan to participate in this orientation and tour. (One CNMAS member reports 100 species were tallied during a September trip to the Bosque!)

Refuge staff will begin the orientation with a slide presentation giving an overview of the Refuge objectives. Different types of volunteer work will be discussed such as leading tours, staffing the information desk, providing technical assistance in developing slide/video presentations which incorporate sound, conducting bird censuses, or just using your special "light maintenance" skills. The Refuge is completing a bunkhouse where volunteers can stay overnight (or several nights) and also has an area available for parking recreational vehicles. After lunch, we will tour the refuge, visiting areas where new projects are underway. Following the tour, we will visit other areas of the refuge to add to our species count and then finish the day with a green-chile cheeseburger at the Owl Bar and Cafe in San Antonio!

Pack your lunch and meet the "Bosque Volunteers" (or potential volunteers) at the UNM Parking Lot on the corner of Yale and Lomas, NE., at 8:00 A.M. For more information and/or to arrange for car-pooling, call trip leaders Sarah Sharpton (897-2883) or Celestyn Brozek (266-9225).

RAPTOR LOOKOUT, MANZANO MOUNTAINS
—Sunday, September 27th

The Raptor Lookout, located at 9,200 feet near Capilla Peak in the Manzano Mountains, provides an opportunity to observe accipiters, Red-tailed Hawks and Golden Eagles, as well as more uncommon species, such as Zone-tailed Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks and Ospreys as they glide by, often at eye-level. Other, non-raptor species are also commonly observed migrating past the lookout.

This year is the third time a count of the fall raptor migration through the Manzano Mountains will be conducted. Last fall, just over 4,000 raptors of 16 species were observed at the lookout. Daily observations will begin this year on August 22nd and continue through the first week in November.

The site is located about 65 miles south of Albuquerque, including 9 miles of dirt road which could be rough. There is a half-mile hike of medium difficulty from the parking area, traveling over some rocks and through areas of scrub oak, but with little gain in elevation. Wear/bring clothing appropriate for weather conditions which can range from calm, clear and hot to windy, rainy and cold in a single day. You will also need to bring food and water.

We will meet in front of Baskin Robbins in Four Hills Shopping Center, 2 blocks west of Tramway on Central, at 7:00 A.M. For more trip information, or if you are interested in volunteering to help with the 1987 observations, please contact Jim Daley (298-2748) or Steve Hoffman (291-9224).
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (AND ISSUES)

The recent survey conducted by Hal Hallet, President, New Mexico Audubon Council, revealed no end of issues which members of Audubon chapters across New Mexico think are important. Readily apparent is that most of these issues are broad and could apply state-wide and nationally. The top ten issues appear to be as follows:

1. Acid rain
2. Clean water
3. Clean air
4. Toxic substance control
5. Preservation of habitat
6. Endangered species preservation
7. Gila River preservation
8. Santa Fe National Forest planning
9. Beverage Container deposits
10. Highway billboards

For comparison, National Audubon Society leaders list the following four issues as national priority issues:

1. Platte River, Nebraska
2. Old growth Owl habitat
3. Acid rain
4. Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas

Closer to home, Dave Henderson, New Mexico State Audubon Coordinator, lists the following as state priority issues:

1. Bureau of Land Management Wilderness planning
2. Rio Chama Scenic River status
3. Mountain lion status
4. Gila River preservation
5. Wetlands preservation, including the Rio Grande bosque
6. Whooping crane management
7. Gray Ranch acquisition in SW New Mexico

These issues are certainly concerns that CNMAS members need to be aware of and active in to promote wise use of our land and water. Locally, what are some of the priority concerns which CNMAS should work on? A few come to mind readily:

1. Corrales Rio Grande bosque and Corps of Engineers plans for levee construction
2. Petroglyphs and western escarpment preservation
3. Open space acquisition and preservation
4. Forest Service planning in the Cibola National Forest, especially Las Huertas road closure and rerouting.

There must be many more local concerns which warrant attention. Please let me, or any member of the CNMAS Board of Directors, know about your interests.

PETROGLYPHS AND THE WESTERN ESKARPMENT

The City of Albuquerque's action plan calls for much to be accomplished during the next two years. It will take a lot of work to make sure that funds are available to acquire key tracts of private land to be dedicated to open space. Of immediate interest are two alternative measures being considered by the City Council to raise the necessary funding. Councilman Baca's bill, which seems to be the best, would raise the sales tax by 1/4 of 1%. The proceeds would allow acquisition of open space lands, not only on the western escarpment, but also in other parts of the city. Petitions are being circulated to support this effort.

RIO CHAMA WILD AND SCENIC BILL

Senator Bingaman, prime sponsor of the Senate bill on the Rio Chama, conducted a field hearing of a subcommittee of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in Santa Fe on July 27th. Opinions on the Rio Chama may still be expressed by writing Senators Bingaman and Domenici. Members of The Rio Chama Preservation Trust recommend thanking the Senators for their support of the bill and strongly opposing the Dominici amendment. If you have questions on the cormorants' nesting habitat inundation or other Rio Chama issues, contact Susan Tixier of the Rio Chama Preservation Trust, 611 Jiron, Santa Fe, NM 87501 (telephone 982-0393).
HAWK WATCH
By Steve Hoffman

For the third year, a count of migrating raptors continued at lookout stations in the Sandia and Manzano Mountains. The purpose of the count is to learn more about trends in western raptor populations and to understand raptor movement patterns through central New Mexico. The count is funded by CNMAS, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish's "Share with Wildlife" Program, and contributions from local businesses and private individuals.

Similar counts at Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania revealed drastic declines of several raptor species in the 1950s and 1960s. This information helped convince the President of the U.S. to issue an Executive Order in 1972 banning DDT use. Although raptor information is available for eastern North America, we know little about the health of the raptor population in the West. Because raptors feed at the top of the food pyramid, they are excellent indicators of the overall quality of our environment.

In 1987, observations in the Sandias began on February 15th and ended on May 10th—a total of 69 days (502.7 hours). Heavy snow cover throughout February, March and early April and an unusual frequency of easterly winds in early and late April resulted in a lower count than previous years. Observers documented 2415 raptor migrants of 17 species, including two new species—a Black-shouldered and a Mississippi Kite. Three species that had been observed in prior years were not detected—the Broad-winged, Zone-Tailed and Rough-legged Hawks. Overall numbers were down 23% from 1986.

Because east winds appear to cause a very dispersed flight, the only valid comparison between prior years and 1987 should be done by omitting all east wind days, especially in April, when 70% of the spring flight normally occurs. If this comparison is made, a different trend is revealed. The average raptor passage rate in April then becomes:


This comparison illustrates the importance of wind direction in funneling the migrants to the Sandia lookout. It also suggests year-to-year comparisons of the Sandia data are not easily accomplished when weather patterns are atypical.

The most pronounced change in the Sandia counts in 1987 and prior years was in the number of Golden Eagles—443 in 1985; 435 in 1986; and 214 in 1987. This change is attributed to prolonged, stormy weather and heavy snowcover in late February and unusually calm winds and snow during the first half of March, when the majority of Golden Eagles probably pass through. Snowcover limits thermal updrafts, and since winds were not strong enough to produce good ridge updrafts, the eagles probably migrated through lowland areas east of the Sandias where snowcover did not persist and thermal updrafts were available. The Bald Eagle count was also very poor, with just 5 detected compared to 38 in 1985. Almost all other species declined as well. Curiously, the totals for 4 species—Ospreys, Swainson's Hawks, Ferruginous Hawks and Merlins—increased.

Snow cover, which remained in the Manzano Hills south of the Sandia lookout until April 9th, undoubtedly influenced the belated passage of most migrants. This spring, the migration peak did not occur until April 11th and 14-18th. These six days yielded over 1250 migrants, more than half the season total! Strong east winds and stormy weather during the first week of April may have allowed large numbers of Turkey Vultures to pass undetected. In addition, six consecutive days of east winds in late April prevented observers from accurately documenting the magnitude of the flight during that period. Counts in May were likewise plagued by bad weather. It was an interesting spring and a great deal was learned!

CNMAS' and members' support of this valuable research is very much appreciated—it could not have been done without you! Contributions for the Sandia and Manzano Raptor Watch Projects are still needed. Please support this most important and unique study being conducted in your own backyard! A nonprofit organization, Raptor Conservation, Inc., has been set up to support this and similar raptor conservation projects throughout the West. Tax-deductible contributions and requests for additional information can be sent to: WFRC, Inc., 8903 Menaul Blvd, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112.

**SANDIA RAPTOR WATCH PROJECT**

**1985—1987 TOTALS**

<table>
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<th>SPECIES</th>
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<td>Cooper's Hawk</td>
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<td>Ferruginous Hawk</td>
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<td>Swainson's Hawk</td>
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*Includes 1 Mississippi and 1 Black-shouldered Kite.
FIELD SIGHTINGS
by Mary Lou Arthur and Bruce Halstead

If you have interesting and/or rare field sightings to share with the rest of us, please call Mary Lou Arthur at 256-7359. Bruce Halstead will coordinate with Mary Lou to report your sightings in this column. Following are sightings reported:

- A pair of Greater Roadrunners is reported to have established a nest on the enclosed patio of a private residence in Sandia Heights. The nest is in a pine tree and the pair has been successful in rearing one brood of two and is working on a second clutch.
- The first Rufous Hummingbird of the fall migration was reported at an Albuquerque feeder in the NE Heights on July 12th. Bryan Pridgeon, Bureau of Reclamation, would appreciate any information regarding a heron rookery on the west side of the Rio Grande, about one mile north of the Belen Bridge. He can be reached at (505) 776-1759.

FIELD SIGHTINGS
256-7359
Mary Lou Arthur

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

Have you perused CNMAS’ book collection lately? Many excellent books on a variety of nature topics are available for checkout. Our librarian, Carol Davis, would also appreciate your checking your bookshelf at home to see if you have any of the overdue books listed below. If so, please bring them to St. Timothy’s on the evening of the general meeting only, or call Carol (243-4877) or any Board Member to arrange for a pick up. Thanks!

Andrews, Birds and Their World
Bennett, Wild Birdwatchers I Have Known
Bent, Jays, Crows, and Titmice (2 vols)
Bent, Birds of Prey (2 vols)
Carrighar, Wild Heritage
Chapman, Handbook of Birds of Eastern NA
Crukshank, 1001 Questions Answered About Birds
Maye, Fieldbook of Nature Photography
McElroy, A Habitat Guide to Birding
Peterson, Field Guide to Western Birds
Peterson, Wild America
Scofield, Complete Outfitting & Source Book for Birdwatching
Smith, Birds of the Southwest Desert
Teal, Life & Death of the Salt Marshes
Tinbergen, Curious Naturalists

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

WATER CANYON, MAGDALENA MOUNTAINS
by Bruce G. Halstead

About a dozen dedicated diehards departed for Water Canyon in the Magdalena Mountains, on Saturday, April 25th. Water Canyon is reached by taking I-25 south to Socorro, going west on US 80 for 10-15 miles, then left on a Forest Service Road. The paved road ends at the Water Canyon Campground, an area with a permanent stream, large cottonwoods, willows, junipers and pinons and usually excellent birding. A dirt road continues to South Baldy Peak, where NM Tech maintains a thunderstorm research lab during the summer months.

Birding along the road leading into Water Canyon, which is also usually good, resulted in about a dozen species, although no unexpected species. We arrived at the campground around 9:30 am, and found the area to be unusually quiet. Two of the "hoped for" birds are the Acorn Woodpecker and the Red-Faced Warbler, which supposedly nests every year in the area. There were several Acorn Woodpeckers, but "nary" a Red-Faced Warbler. We then set off upstream to search for the Red-Faced Warblers but had no luck. However, we did find two Black-and-White Warblers, the surprise birds of the trip. As we entered the Ponderosa Pine zone and were trying to listen intently for the Red-Faced Warblers' song, the only sounds to be heard were the Grace's Warblers'. It seemed as if there was at least one in every Ponderosa!

We returned to the campground for lunch and were visited by White-Breasted Nuthatches, Acorn Woodpeckers and House Wrens as we ate. After lunch, part of the group departed for Bosque del Apache while the rest of us drove a few miles upstream to continue the search for the Red-Faced Warblers. This was the third try at locating these Warblers in Water Canyon and again, no luck. The weather was mild in the canyon, but there appeared to be quite a bit of snow higher, so we did not attempt the trip to South Baldy. About 3:00 pm we headed back to Socorro and were treated to a good look at a Prairie Falcon, giving us a grand total of 42 species for the day.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

1987 New Mexico Audubon Conference
—October 17 & 18th, Sat-Sun

Registrations are needed for the conference to be held at the Sheraton Santa Fe Inn! The agenda is detailed below and if you would like more information on registration or lodging call Lillian Tenopyr at 892-4879.

Saturday
9:30 a.m. Conference Check-in
10:00 a.m. Plenary Session
11:00 a.m. Discussion of Chapters’ Concerns
12:00 noon Luncheon
Speaker: Carl Courret, U. S. Fish & Wildlife, "The Gila & The Bosques"
2:00 p.m. Plenary Session
3:00 p.m. Adjournment
6:00 p.m. Conference Dinner
Installation of Officers
Program: Larry Brock, wildlife photographer

Sunday
8:00 a.m. Field Trip and Birding
Leader: Dave Henderson
10:30 a.m. Guided Tour, Davey Center
11:45 a.m. Conference Adjournment

New Zealand Natural History Tour
—Nov 7-24, 1987

There is still room for you on this 18-day natural history and birding trip to New Zealand. Highlights of the trip will include: New Zealand’s spring bird migration, visits to three different breeding colonies of Penguins, participation in a Maori Marea and Hangi, exploration of the southern hemisphere’s largest glacier, opportunities to see and listen to many New Zealand birds—Keas, Kakas, Tuis, Fantails, Riflemen, Kiwis, bellbirds, etc.; a visit to remote Steward Island and much more.

Tour group size will be kept small to provide a personalized experience. Local New Zealand guides will join us at times to give us an inside view. This is an officially sponsored trip by the National Audubon Society with leader/guide Janie Cox. Janie is the program coordinator at the Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe. She worked in New Zealand from 1982-83 with the New Zealand National Parks. The cost is $3,298, which includes airfare from Los Angeles.

For more information, call Janie at (505) 983-4609, or write to:
National Audubon Travel Programs
c/o International Expeditions
1776 Independence Court, Suite 104
Birmingham, Al 35216
1-800-633-4750

National Convention in Bellingham, WA
—Aug 24-29, Mon-Sat

Washington Chapters will host the National Convention this year. They have assembled an outstanding array of one-half to seven day field trips before, during and after the convention: pelagic trips for seabirds; birding and wildflower outings to Mt. Rainer, Mt. Baker and Mt. St. Helens; an all-day adventure to the exciting city of Vancouver and its parks and showplaces; Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon (led by Portland Audubon Society), and a tour of the Olympic Peninsula.

Science programs, sanctuary updates, the latest developments in education, Washington D.C. political insights, regional concerns, chapter activities and many more interesting topics will be part of the agenda. Enjoy the special Salmon barbeque, renew friendships, make contacts.

Write your regional office at 4150 Darley, Suite 5, Boulder, CO 80303 for the registration forms (both field trip and lodging).

Gardening Without Work—Wild Gardens

This eight-week course, offered through the UNM Community College and taught by our own Jim Lewis, will begin on Wednesday, August 26th at the East Central Multi-Service Center, 7525 Zuni SE. and continue through October 14th. In addition to a Ph.D degree, Jim has a M.C.R.P. Degree (Master of Community and Regional Planning).

One classroom session and seven fieldtrips are scheduled so students can see natural landscaping in action. Methods demonstrated will include: how to avoid spading, cultivating, weeding, spraying, fertilizing and lawn mowing; automatic creation of top soil; availability of free mulch and ground cover materials; and the use of predators to control pests. The design of natural gardens and the use of native edible plants will be emphasized.

Registration is $40.00. For more information, call or stop by the Community College at 1634 University Blvd., NE, phone 277-2931.
Refuge Entrance Fees

Beginning October 1, 1987, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will charge a nominal entrance fee at 20 National Wildlife Refuges throughout the United States, including the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Authorization for the fee charge was granted by Congress under the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986. Fees will be as follows:

- Under 16—no charge
- Daily Pass/Individual—$1.00
- Daily Pass/Vehicle (3 or more)—$3.00

In lieu of paying an entry fee, a current Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp), which costs $10.00, may be used as an annual pass by the purchaser and those accompanying the individual in a private vehicle. The Golden Eagle, Golden Access, and Golden Age passports will also be valid for entrance. Proceeds from the fees will fund refuge operations and acquisition of wetlands for addition to the Refuge System.

Upcoming CNMAS Board Meetings

- August 17th, Monday, 7:30 p.m.
  Dilley, 13 Mill Road, NW
- September 21st, Monday, 7:30 p.m.
  Phillips, 11033 US Hwy 85, NW

EDITOR’S COMMENTS

—Sarah Sharpton

This issue of the Burrowing Owl, which has a "new" look, is the result of your new editor trying some different techniques. After participating in the annual CNMAS Budget Meeting, I discovered that printing and mailing costs for the Burrowing Owl consume almost half of the annual CNMAS budget and could consume more if all contributions were published as they are received. To try to incorporate all of the most-appreciated contributions in a timely manner, and keep costs within budget, the type-style and format for the Burrowing Owl have been changed. (Of course, all editors like to add their "touch" to a publication!)

Let me know how you feel about these changes. If you have suggestions for ways to enhance the appearance and/or readability of the Burrowing Owl, please call me at 897-2883. Thanks!
August-September 1987

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Membership Application
☐ Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter, Central New Mexico Audubon Society. Please send Audubon magazine, Burrowing Owl newsletter, and my membership card to the address below.

NAME ________________________
ADDRESS ______________________
CITY __________ STATE ______ ZIP __________

Gift Membership
☐ Please enter a one-year gift membership in the National Audubon Society and send a gift announcement card.

To:
NAME ________________________
ADDRESS ______________________
CITY __________ STATE ______ ZIP __________

From:
NAME ________________________
ADDRESS ______________________
CITY __________ STATE ______ ZIP __________

Gift Card to read "from ________________________" (Use extra sheet for additional gifts)

Membership category preferred:
☐ Introductory Membership (first year only)/$20
☐ Individual/$30
☐ Family/$38
☐ Student/$18
☐ Sr. Citizen-Individual/$21
☐ Sr. Citizen-Family/$23

☐ My check for $_ ______ is enclosed.
☐ Bill me, please.

7XCH8

Local Chapter
Central New Mexico Audubon Society
Q51

7XCH8

Please make checks payable to National Audubon Society, but send your check with the application form to:

Central New Mexico Audubon Society
Claudia Gayheart, Membership Chair
510 Camino De La Sierra
Albuquerque, NM 87123

Send renewals directly to National Audubon Society. All dues and contributions are tax deductible. Send all changes in name, address, or telephone number to Claudia Gayheart.

New Mexico Audubon Council Directory

President
Harold W. Hallett, P.O. Box 396, Roswell, 88201; 622-4865

Vice President
Lew Helm, 8213 Cherry Hills, NE, Albuquerque, 87111; 821-8566

Treasurer
Jim Karo, 1621 Cedar Ridge Dr., NE, Albuquerque, 87112; 294-2777

Secretary
Lillian Tenopyr, 727 Stallion, SE, Rio Rancho, 87124; 892-4979

Addresses

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr.
The Honorable Joe Skeen
The Honorable Bill Richardson
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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