

# New Mexico Geological Society

## 1996 Fall Field Conference—The Jemez Mountains Region

The 1996 NMGS Fall Field Conference will examine the geology of the Los Alamos/Jemez Mountains and Nacimiento Mountains area on September 25–28. This scenic and geologically diverse region includes spectacular Tertiary–Quaternary volcanism, including the 14-mi-wide Valles

caldera, an excellent record of Rio Grande rift faulting and sedimentation, a complex Tertiary–Quaternary record of deposition and erosion by the Rio Grande, a thick and richly fossiliferous late Paleozoic section, and much more.

Co-chairmen are Margaret Anne Rogers

and Barry S. Kues. For more information on the field conference, refer to the WWW: <http://XRFMAC.lanl.gov/nmgs1996>, or *New Mexico Geology*, v. 18, no. 1, p. 13.

Also of interest in this area is Bulletin 134, *Field excursions to the Jemez Mountains, New Mexico*, referenced in *Service/News*, this issue.

## 1997 Fall Field Conference—Geology of the Four-corners Region

### Announcement and call for papers

The NMGS Fall Field Conference will explore the diverse geology and landscape of the Four-corners Region—Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico (Arizona gets short-shrift). It will all take place October 1–4. Our route is through the heart of the Colorado Plateau where much of its characteristic structure, stratigraphy, and landscape features are well displayed. These include Sleeping Ute Mountain; the excellent exposures of Jurassic rocks at Bluff, Utah; Mesaverde National Park; Mancos, Colorado; southern La Plata Mountains and Hesperus; Animas River valley and Durango; and the San Juan River valley including Upper Cretaceous coal-bearing strata and the Hogback monocline. We anticipate a 300–350-page guidebook containing 25–30 contributed papers and detailed road logs for the three-day conference October 2–4, 1997. Transportation will be provided in the form of maxivans, each with 10–12 passengers.

Although the conference will officially convene in Cortez, Colorado, the NMGS will offer van transportation from Albuquerque to Cortez on the afternoon of October 1. The purpose of this is three-fold: (1) it is efficient, (2) it makes it as convenient as possible for most conferees to get to Cortez, and (3) it gives the field-trip leaders an opportunity to point out the contrasts and similarities in Mesozoic strata between the southern San Juan Basin and southeastern Utah and Colorado. Everyone will be encouraged to take advantage of the complimentary van transportation (with refreshments) from Albuquerque to Cortez and return. There will even be arrangements to be picked up en route in Gallup or Shiprock.

Day 1 will originate in Cortez, Colorado and proceed westward through McElmo Canyon with several stops offering excellent outcrops of Jurassic and Cretaceous strata. The route continues westward across the Utah State Line, through the Aneth oil field to the San Juan River. The ultimate destination is downstream a short distance to Bluff and surrounding area, with particular atten-

tion (and a stop) being devoted to the type locality of Gregory's (1938) "Recapture Member" of the Morrison Formation and a de facto reference section of the "Westwater Canyon Member." The return route takes us through the Four Corners National Monument for a stop and our only "brush" with Arizona and, at the close of day, back to Cortez.

Day 2 will find us traveling eastward from Cortez on US-160 to Mesaverde National Park with its unparalleled outcrops of Upper Cretaceous sedimentary rocks and world-famous cliff dwellings. From the park entrance the route will again lead eastward through historic Mancos and the type area of the Mancos Shale, along the southern edge of the La Plata Mountains (a laccolithic intrusive mass), and into the Animas River valley at Durango. A stop along the river valley north of Durango will permit hands-on examination of Triassic and Jurassic rocks and a good view of Pennsylvanian through Cretaceous strata. The Pony Express Beds, the "Wanakah Formation," and the Junction Creek Sandstone will be described and related to outcrops of similar strata in New Mexico and Utah. Proceeding northward on US-550 to our overnight accommodations at the Tamarron Lodge, a final stop of the day will feature the Hermosa Group (Pennsylvanian) and a short discussion of the Upper Paleozoic of southwestern Colorado.

Day 3 will begin with a stop on the south side of Durango that allows an examination of the Cretaceous-Tertiary system contact in the Animas Formation. The route then proceeds south on US-550 (for the most part); we journey toward the confluence of the Animas and San Juan Rivers at Farmington, and as time permits, we will visit a mine-mouth coal-fired generating station (San Juan Generating Plant), the Hogback monocline, and recent remediation work and ground-water-quality monitoring stations at the site of a former uranium mill in Shiprock.

The New Mexico Geological Society cordially invites you to attend the 1997 Fall Field Conference and solicits papers relating

or pertaining to the geology, mineralogy, paleontology, hydrology, mineral resources, geochemistry, geomorphology, etc. of the area described above. In addition, the Society encourages the participation by interested parties in the remaining road logging (to be completed by September 15, 1996) and the submission of appropriate photographs and mini-papers for the road logs.

If you have an interest in assisting with any aspect of the field conference, and particularly if you plan to contribute a paper or mini-paper, please contact one of the editors listed below by **October 1, 1996** and provide a tentative title and estimated length of your paper. Manuscripts, which should be reviewed by two knowledgeable readers prior to submission, must be received by the editors no later than **February 25, 1997**. Every potential author will receive the NMGS *Instructions to Authors*, which should answer all questions regarding style, format, and length of papers.

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