

APPEAL TAKES AZ GAME AND FISH COMMISSIONER TO TASK FOR GRAZING ABUSES

The Center for Biological Diversity recently appealed the decision of the Colorado National Forest to reauthorize cattle grazing on the Montana allotment south of Arivaca Lake in southern Arizona. The permit holders are California banker James Chilton and Arizona Game and Fish Commissioner Susan Chilton.

Sue Chilton's appointment to the commission in 2001 drew fire from many conservation groups after the Chiltons' attempt to suppress Arizona Dept. of Game and Fish criticisms of the condition of the Montana allotment, and their openly expressed hostility to endangered species.

The "new" grazing plan by the U.S. Forest Service is little different from the old plan and would still allow grazing in a newly fenced-off section of California Gulch, home to the endangered Sonora chub. The plan will also convert a spring into a cattle trough, despite a high chance that the spring is habitat for the threatened Chiricahua leopard frog. Recently, the frog was found in other springs on the allotment. The cost of these "improvements" will exceed 10 years of grazing fee receipts.

The Center asked for a meeting onsite to discuss how our concerns could be resolved but the Forest Service refused to answer to anything short of a withdrawal of the appeal. On Aug 1, the regional office turned down our appeal, a copy of which can be found online at: <http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/swcbd/press/montana7-2-02.html> along with photographs of the devastation caused by cows on the allotment.



Tubac Center of the Arts opens its 2002-2003 season with the members' all media exhibition *The Light's the Thing*. The public is invited to a reception and awards brunch Tuesday, September 3 from 10-11:30 a.m.

The opening exhibition has attracted 106 member artists creating in oil, acrylic, watercolor, computer-enhanced photography, collage, stone, bronze and fabric among many other media.

The exhibit runs from September 3 through October 6 and is free and open to the public. TCA is a non-profit, member-driven organization devoted exclusively to providing comprehensive arts programming to the Santa Cruz Valley. It is located at 9 Plaza Road in Tubac.

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