

New Mexico Land Conservancy

FALL ISSUE 2005

CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROJECTS AROUND THE STATE

To date we have conserved approximately 48,000 acres of significant agricultural lands, critical wildlife habitat, scenic open space and recreational lands throughout New Mexico.

CORRALES FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Corrales Farmland Preservation Program is a community initiative of the Village of Corrales, located along the Rio Grande between Albuquerque and Rio Rancho, whose mission is to preserve the agricultural, scenic and open character of Corrales. NMLC was contracted by the Village early this year to help them acquire easements with funding from the USDA Farm and Ranchland Protection Program and a Village bond measure.



In September, NMLC completed four projects - the Corrales Gateway, Kendall, Minge, and Ventana Grande easements - totaling 28 acres in Sandoval County.



Landowners Jack & Shirley Kendall along with Scott Wilber at the Village of Corrales celebration on October 30th.

LAKE VALLEY RANCH

This 1,800-acre easement in Sierra County, located in the foothills of the Black Range southwest of Hillsboro, was recently transferred from the Southern Rockies Agricultural Land Trust. The property consists of Chihuahuan Desert grassland and scrub, with riparian areas along Berrenda and Jaralosa creeks. The easement permits uses of the ranch for cattle production, ecological research and passive recreational use.

COUGAR MOUNTAIN RANCH

The Cougar Mountain Ranch easement, comprising 6,160 acres of mixed pinyon-juniper woodland and grassland along the eastern flank of the Gallinas Mountains in central New Mexico, provides excellent habitat for a variety of wildlife species as well as scenic open space adjacent to the Cibola National Forest. The easement permits uses of the ranch for cattle production, ecological research and passive recreational use in Torrance and Lincoln Counties.

BERRENDA CREEK RANCH

This easement comprises 7,447 acres in the foothills of the Black Range southwest of Hillsboro in Sierra County. Berrenda Creek Ranch consists primarily of Chihuahuan Desert grassland and scrub, with pinyon-juniper woodlands at higher elevations and riparian areas along Berrenda and Jaralosa creeks and some of their associated tributaries. While providing excellent habitat for wildlife it also contains numerous cultural sites including pueblo house block ruins and petroglyphs. The easement permits uses of the ranch for cattle production, ecological research and passive recreational use.

MELTON RANCH

In San Miguel County this easement located east of Las Vegas comprises is approximately 1,105 acres of Southern shortgrass prairie. The property is located approximately two and a half miles north of the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge and provides tremendous views of Las Vegas and the Sangre de Cristo Range, which forms the city's spectacular mountain backdrop.

DETHLEFSEN PROPERTY

An additional easement property in Sierra County is located ten miles southwest of Winston consisting of 380 acres of pinyon-juniper woodland, montane grassland and a small riparian area along Monument Creek. The property is adjacent to the Gila National Forest and approximately three miles from the Aldo Leopold Wilderness boundary ensuring permanent protection of its wildlife habitat and scenic values.



NEW MEXICO LAND CONSERVANCY DONORS

Thank you for your support!

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Drs. Philip & Karen Milstein	

MONTOSA RANCH

This easement, located west of Magdalena in Socorro County, comprises an area of over 30,000 acres of mixed pinyon-juniper woodland and grasslands between the Gallinas Mountains and the Plains of San Augustin. The property supports a variety of wildlife species and is noted for its prime elk habitat. This easement combines an innovative limited development with a working cattle ranch, and contributes to a much larger protected landscape that includes the adjacent 95,000-acre Double H Ranch owned by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to the north and approximately 300,000 acres of Cibola National Forest land to the east.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS A LAND TRUST?

A land trust is a private, non-profit organization that uses conservation easements and other voluntary land conservation techniques to protect and preserve land. In most cases, the members of the board of directors of a land trust are typically members of the community, region or state in which the land trust operates.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A LAND TRUST?

The terms of the conservation easement are negotiated between the land trust and the landowner. Once the conservation easement has been granted to the land trust, the land trust has the responsibility for periodically inspecting the property to verify that it is in compliance with the terms of the conservation easement. The land trust is responsible for enforcing the development restrictions and other restrictions defined in the conservation easement.

WHAT IS A CONSERVATION EASEMENT?

A conservation easement is a legal agreement that contains permanent restrictions on the development or use of a piece of land for the purpose of protecting the agricultural, scenic, open space, wildlife habitat, recreational or historic values on that land.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John B. Wright, PhD, Mesilla, NM – Chairman of the Board

Joseph Montoya, Albuquerque, NM – Vice Chair

David Johnson, Farmington, NM – Treasurer/Secretary

Anthony Anella, Albuquerque, NM – Member

Anthony Benson, Taos, NM – Founding Director

Elizabeth H. Richardson, Denver, CO – Founding Director

HOW YOU CAN HELP?

As a non-profit organization we rely on private sources for financial support to continue our work with ongoing land conservation projects and organizational development to preserve and protect agricultural lands, wildlife habitat and scenic open space. Your donation is appreciated. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding contribution.

For more information on land preservation and conservation easements, contact Scott Wilber.

PUBLICATIONS

Saving the Ranch

By Anthony Anella and John B. Wright (2004) Island Press

This concise and readable guide to conservation easements for ranchers, conservationists, and developers concerned with protecting the natural and scenic values of ranch lands in the western United States, was modeled after the Montosa Ranch conservation easement project.

The book shows how ranchers can reduce estate taxes, generate and shelter income, and combine land conservation with estate planning. Case studies explore how easements can be effective.

Saving the Ranch is available through Amazon.com and the New Mexico Land Conservancy office. List Price \$30.00

OUR STAFF

Scott Wilber, Director of Conservation, has accepted an interim position as Acting Director, but will continue to maintain his current land conservation and stewardship responsibilities, working closely with landowners and public and private partners.

Email - scottwilber@nmlandconservancy.org

Debbie DeMarais, joined the staff in October, as the Director of Development, she will provide leadership in fundraising, outreach, and organizational development of NMLC.

Email - debbiedemarais@nmlandconservancy.org

Laura Gaetjens, provides administrative support to the organization. Email - admin@nmlandconservancy.org



NEW MEXICO LAND CONSERVANCY

PO Box 6759 Santa Fe, NM 87502-6759

460 St. Michael's Drive, Ste. 903

Phone 505.986.3801 / Fax 505.986.3806

www.nmlandconservancy.org