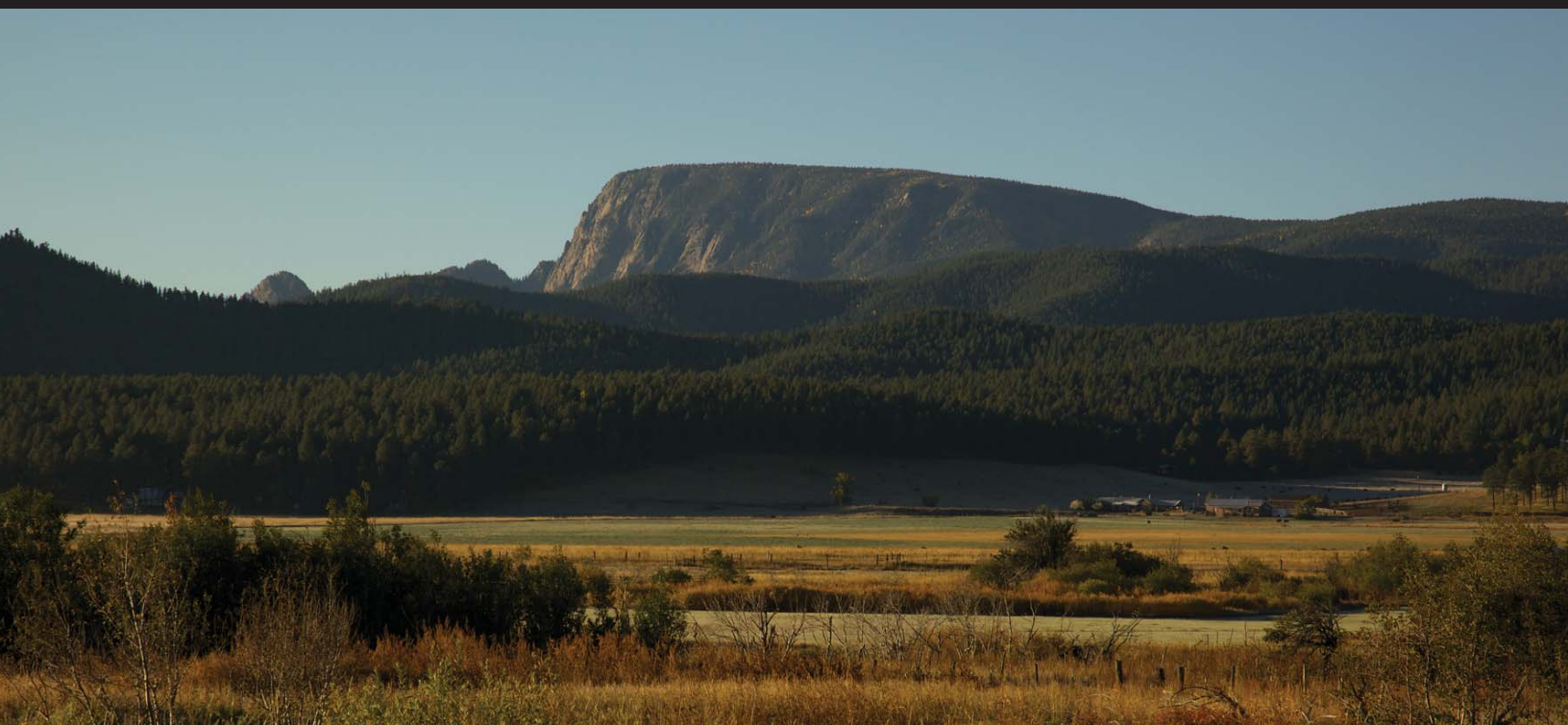


New Mexico Land Conservancy



Honoring New Mexico's Land Heritage

10th Anniversary Report • 2012

www.nmlandconservancy.org





Photo by Michael Mudd

Ten Years and 100,000 Acres:

Honoring New Mexico's land heritage by helping people conserve the places they love.

Whether you are a New Mexico native, a transplant or a frequent visitor, one of the things you love most about this state is the beauty and character of its land. It nurtures an amazing variety of species, and its unique scenic beauty captivates residents and draws tourists from all over the world. The land is the foundation of the New Mexico experience.

This year, as we celebrate our tenth anniversary, the New Mexico Land Conservancy (NMLC) has reached a major milestone — we have conserved over 100,000 acres of land throughout the state at community, watershed and landscape scales in partnership with private landowners, public agencies, and conservation and community-based organizations. We call that a good start, but our plans for the future are even bigger. We've set an ambitious 25-year goal of expanding that total to one million acres by 2037.

How will we meet our goal? By continuing to protect high-conservation value lands and resources for the benefit and enjoyment of local communities, the public and future generations of New Mexicans. The following pages highlight some of the work we have done so far. Our track record shows that New Mexicans trust us to conserve the land they love.

We invite you to join us in working to ensure that the heritage we have received is the legacy we leave.



Conserving New Mexico's Epic Landscapes

Dear Friends,

I have had the very good fortune to grow up in the West and, like many Westerners, I grew up hunting, fishing, backpacking, river running and skiing. There were no Playstations, iPods or Facebook in my childhood — I spent a lot of time outdoors and, although I didn't always appreciate it in my youth, it stuck with me. As a result of my father's career with the Bureau of Land Management and my own adult pursuits, I moved around the West and became intimately familiar with it. Windows opened up for me on the natural world as well as on the worlds of the people who make a living off the West's abundant resources — the ranchers, the loggers, the miners, the oil and gas workers, and the recreational outfitters. I came to appreciate that each of these groups play a part in the culture of the West.

The frontier West, from about 1820 forward, was shaped by a development pattern based on natural resource extraction, some of it boom and bust, and some of it more lasting and sustainable. This development pattern has not only shaped the land into what it is today, but also created a diverse social fabric where transplanted newcomers — whether from the East, the West Coast or south of the border — are intermingled with people who have lived in the West for generations and the Native Americans who have been here the longest. This diversity has produced a wide range of thinking about what should become of the remaining open and wild places in the contemporary West we know today — ranging from the belief that they should be developed and used, to the belief that they should be preserved, to a blend that strikes a practical but sustainable balance between these two perspectives.

For six of the past eight years I have been at NMLC, I have had the pleasure of serving as the Executive Director of this wonderful organization. Like all young non-profits, we have had to overcome our fair share of challenges, but sometimes a little struggle can lead to positive changes. I have been blessed with an outstanding and dedicated Board and staff. Thanks to the

support of our landowners, donors and partners, together we have made significant headway toward advancing our mission and goals, by protecting high-conservation land around the state, strengthening our organization and helping build the collective capacity for land conservation in New Mexico.

In reaching the 100,000 acre mark at the end of last year, we have achieved an important milestone. We have contributed to the permanent protection of some truly wonderful places that represent the incredible range of landscape diversity in New Mexico. These are significant lands that should, and now will, forever remain exactly as they are: important elements of this state's remarkable natural, agricultural, cultural and historic heritage. And, thanks to Jane Petchesky's generous gift of her beloved ranch in Santa Fe to our organization in 2009, NMLC now has a permanent home.

This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of our organization. We are proud of our accomplishments, but they are only the beginning of what we hope will be even greater things to come. As part of our recent strategic planning, we have set forth the ambitious goal of protecting one million acres of high-conservation land over the next 25 years. We also aspire to transform the Petchesky Conservation Center and surrounding land into more than just a nice office complex on a beautiful piece of land. We envision it as a real community resource for conservation education, demonstration and learning combined with some compatible public use. We recognize that this will only be possible if we continue to work effectively and creatively with others, widening our networks and circles of influence to include traditional as well as new partners.

This report presents an opportunity to reflect on the past, share our accomplishments and recognize those who have helped us along the way, but the real challenges and opportunities still lie ahead. We invite you to join us on this exciting journey.

Adelante,

Scott Wilber

Scott Wilber
Executive Director





"The sun is setting, crickets are awake.
Wind is up. The hawk flies beautifully on silent wings.
Blanca lies on the lawn.
It is cool now in my garden."

- Jane Petchesky



Photo by Teri Thomson Randall

The Petchesky Conservation Center: A Generous Gift from a Gracious Lady

In 2009, Jane Petchesky, a long-time Santa Fe resident and conservation advocate, literally put NMLC on the map in Santa Fe through the generous gift of her 280-acre ranch along Richards Avenue. Renamed the Petchesky Conservation Center in honor of Jane and her late husband, Gene, "the Ranch" now serves as the headquarters for NMLC's statewide operations and is being developed as a community resource center for sustainable land use and conservation.

Jane believed that humans need open space and interaction with nature as part of the balance of life. Prior to her donation, she had already taken steps to permanently protect the ranch from development by placing most of it under a conservation easement. She included recreational trail easements to Santa Fe County to enable the expansion of a proposed network of interconnected trails within the county's Community College District. As part of its long-range planning, NMLC is now considering appropriate recreational, educational and other public uses that would be compatible with the purpose of the easement and consistent with our land conservation mission.

Jane passed away in 2011, but, through our ongoing efforts, NMLC intends to carry on her conservation vision. We are extremely gratified that Jane entrusted us with her land and her legacy.



Photo by Jonathan Tercero

Thinking Big from the Beginning: Montosa Ranch

For many, the American West conjures up images of wide open spaces, including vast unbroken expanses of rangeland where cattle and horses graze alongside wild deer, antelope and elk. The Montosa Ranch, located along U.S. Highway 60 between Magdalena and Datil, represents one of these places, comprising over 32,000 acres of grassland and pinon-juniper savanna between the Gallinas Mountains to the north and the Plains of San Augustin to the south. Adjacent to the Cibola National Forest, the ranch is known for its prime elk habitat, but it also supports a variety of other important wildlife species, including mountain lion, black bear, coyote, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, wild turkey, quail, and mourning dove.

In 2004, NMLC completed its first — and still largest — conservation easement over 30,000 acres of the ranch, which, when combined with the Double H Ranch conservation easement to the northwest, protects over 120,000 acres of contiguous, prime ranchland and wildlife habitat in this still wide open part of western New Mexico.



Photo by Clay Ellis



Photo by Clay Ellis

Biodiversity and Habitat Connectivity: Bioresearch Ranch

Located in the “Boot Heel” of New Mexico approximately fifty miles southwest of Lordsburg, the Bioresearch Ranch lies in the heart of the rugged Peloncillo Mountains, which have some of the highest biodiversity values in the nation. The property also represents a critical link in an important north-south wildlife corridor between the Gila Range to the north and the Sierra Madre Mountains to the south in Mexico.

The Bioresearch Ranch is intermingled with State Trust and U.S. Bureau of Land Management lands, and is located between the BLM’s Central Peloncillos Wilderness Study Area and the Coronado National Forest. Given its close proximity to the 300,000 acre conservation easement held by The Nature Conservancy on the Diamond A Ranch (formerly the Gray Ranch) and approximately 80,000 of additional conservation easements on nearby ranches protected by the Malpai Borderlands Group, the Bioresearch Ranch contributes to the protection of a much larger landscape locally known as the Malpai Borderlands.

Robert and Kathryn Scholes acquired the property in 1972 after his retirement from the Public Health Service and have been operating the “ranch” as an ecological research site and facility ever since. Over the years, the Scholes have shared biological data with numerous academic institutions, conservation organizations and public agencies. The Bioresearch Ranch provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species — including desert bighorn sheep, mountain lion, Coue’s whitetail deer and javelina — and is particularly noted for its avian fauna. The property contains a wide variety of unique vegetative communities that include several federal and state threatened and endangered species.

In 2006, NMLC worked with funding from the National Wildlife Foundation and the New Mexico Forestry Division to place the entire 1,760-acre property under a conservation easement that is co-held by NMLC and the New Mexico Forestry Division’s Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department.

Sometimes It Takes a Village: Corrales Farmland Preservation

Since 2005, NMLC has completed five conservation projects with the Village of Corrales, located between the cities of Albuquerque and Rio Rancho along the Rio Grande. The projects total 33 acres, preserving a significant portion of the remaining irrigated, agricultural land within the Village limits. Funding for the acquisition of the land was provided through a local voter approved general obligation bond passed in 2003 in support of farmland and open space preservation. Funds provided through a Village bond measure and the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service's Farm and Ranchland Protection Program were used to purchase the conservation easements.

Small agricultural projects such as these provide multiple benefits to local communities, including preserving traditional agrarian settings and other scenic open space, and supporting local farmers' markets that can help ensure local food production and security.



Photo by Sally Thomson



Photo by Adam Schallau

Keeping it Local: Ancones Ranch

The Chama River Valley in Rio Arriba County represents one of the oldest traditional agricultural areas in northern New Mexico. Because of the area's scenic beauty and the proximity to public lands, private agricultural lands are under increasing threat of rural ranchette development.

Vernon Casados, a native New Mexican, worked for many years as a hand on the 220-acre Ancones Ranch until he was given the opportunity to purchase the property in the 1990s. He grew alfalfa for almost a decade before deciding to retire and move to a warmer climate in the southern part of the state. Needing to sell, but not wanting the ranch to be developed, he opted to work with NMLC to complete an easement over it in 2009 that involved a partial payment from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish combined with a state tax credit for the uncompensated portion of the easement value.

Due to the reduction in the fair market value of the land from the easement, the property then became accessible to Ganados de Valle, a local area agricultural cooperative, which bought it the following year to grow hay and raise sheep. This was exactly the type of outcome Mr. Casados had hoped for from the sale of the ranch, and he retired with the peace of mind that not only would his beloved ranch never be developed, but it would continue to be used for agriculture by a local organization.



Ranching for Generations: Ancho Cattle Company

Like many of their peers in the ranching community, Gary and Beth Hightower of the Ancho Cattle Company knew they had to make some tough choices if the 19,000-acre ranch handed down to them through the two preceding generations was to continue providing for generations to follow. In 2008, after much deliberation and discussion with their family, the Hightowers decided to work with NMLC and the New Mexico State Forestry Division to protect 9,800 acres of the ranch with a conservation easement, thereby keeping a good portion of the ranch intact and undeveloped in perpetuity.

Located between Corona and Carrizozo, where the short grass prairie meets the mountains in east-central New Mexico, the Hightower family's land is one of the largest privately-owned working ranches in Lincoln County. Due in no small part to excellent land stewardship involving the application of a variety of sustainable ranching management practices, the property is a noteworthy example of successful, large-scale ranching in an economy that has not always been kind to the agricultural community.

With the easement in place, the Hightowers retain ownership of the ranch, while the land remains on the county tax rolls and can continue to be used by the Hightowers and their successors for ongoing agricultural production.



Jewel of the Pecos: Forked Lightning Ranch

The Forked Lightning Ranch, located along the Pecos River 30 miles east of Santa Fe, is both a beautiful piece of land and a historically important ranch in northern New Mexico. The actress Greer Garson and her husband Buddy Fogelson purchased the ranch in 1967 when it consisted of approximately 8,000 acres, and gradually built it up to over 100,000 acres through subsequent acquisitions. Upon Garson's death, the ranch was split up. Some of it became part of the Pecos National Historic Park and other portions of the original ranch were sold off to private buyers.

In 2000, actress Jane Fonda purchased the 2,400 acres that remained of the original ranch and, in 2010, she decided to work with NMLC to protect most of the ranch with conservation easements. These easements not only conserve the prime riparian habitat along three miles of the upper Pecos River and surrounding watershed, but they help buffer the adjacent Pecos National Historic Park and the Santa Fe National Forest. The ranch also contains several old homesteads, including ruins of a church and cemetery — remnants of a time when the Pecos River was a sustaining force for families that settled in the area.





Catron Country Conservation: Alegres Mountain

NMLC is always interested in the potential of working at the larger watershed and landscape scales. Over the past several years, the Alegres Mountain area, straddling the Continental Divide just south of Pie Town in northern Catron County, has presented one such opportunity. What started as one easement has grown into a larger conservation effort resulting in NMLC conserving over 8,000 acres of land around the southern and eastern flanks of Alegres Mountain, in partnership with the New Mexico Forestry Division and the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Working with landowners such as Blake Tollett and the Shortes family, NMLC has begun to conserve key pieces of private grassland, piñon-juniper woodland and upper elevation forest lands with Ponderosa pine and douglas fir, forming part of a checkerboard pattern of public and private land ownership characteristic of much of this part of New Mexico.

"The area has suffered from the influx of subdivisions, and (this) has threatened the sacredness of the land that first entranced my grandfather," says Zeke Shortes, grandson of V.M. Shortes who founded the Pie Town Ranch in the 1970s. A conservation easement will make it possible for the family to "respect my grandfather's wishes and allow us to provide an unspoiled landscape for generations to come."



Photos by Clay Ellis



*From left: Dara Parker of Sen. Jeff Binagaman's office, Cabinet Secretary John Bemis of the NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Dept., Elisabeth Simon, NMLC's Executive Director Scott Wilber, and Gene Simon.
Photo by Kenneth Adkins*

Because a River Runs Through It: River Ranch

Gene and Elisabeth Simon first approached NMLC to discuss conservation options for their property in late 2009 following a referral from another area rancher who was in the process of conserving his own ranch. When NMLC identified an opportunity to work with New Mexico State Forestry, the Simons liked the idea of the public-private partnership, so they decided to proceed with an easement over their 1,000 acre ranch along the Mimbres River, located near the City of Rocks State Park southeast of Silver City in southwestern New Mexico. The conservation easement permanently protects a three-mile stretch of the Mimbres River that supports a mature cottonwood-ash gallery forest (including the state champion velvet ash tree), and a large area of native sacaton grassland.

It took a little over a year to complete the easement process, but Gene Simon is pleased with the results. "When you get to be this old, it's kind of like looking down the barrel of a gun," quipped Simon, who had just celebrated his 95th birthday when the easement was completed in the spring of 2011. "You don't have a lot of time to spare, but when you are talking about doing something that's going to last forever, you need to make sure to do it right."



Photo by Kenneth Adkins



Photo by Kenneth Adkins

Paving the Way for Ranchland Conservation in New Mexico: The Southern Rockies Agricultural Land Trust

In the mid-1990s, as part of an estate-planning process, lifelong ranchers Sid and Cheryl Goodloe realized that their children would have to sell all or part of the ranch to pay estate taxes after they passed away. Sid began to investigate alternatives, ultimately deciding to place their ranch under a permanent conservation easement which would reduce the estate tax consequences.

As part of this process, they became aware that there was no land trust in New Mexico exclusively dedicated to ranchland conservation. So, in 1998, they established the Southern Rockies Agricultural Land Trust (SRALT) to facilitate the process of completing their easement and to help other interested agricultural landowners do the same.

Over the years, the Goodloes have been devoted to the conservation of working lands in New Mexico, helping private landowners place over 13,000 acres under conservation easements. However, after 12 years of running a ranch and a land trust, as they contemplated retirement from the latter, they had to consider the future of the easements they were holding. In 2010, they approached NMLC about transferring all of SRALT's easements to NMLC as part of the process of dissolving their organization. An agreement was reached and the easement transfers were successfully completed at the end of 2011.

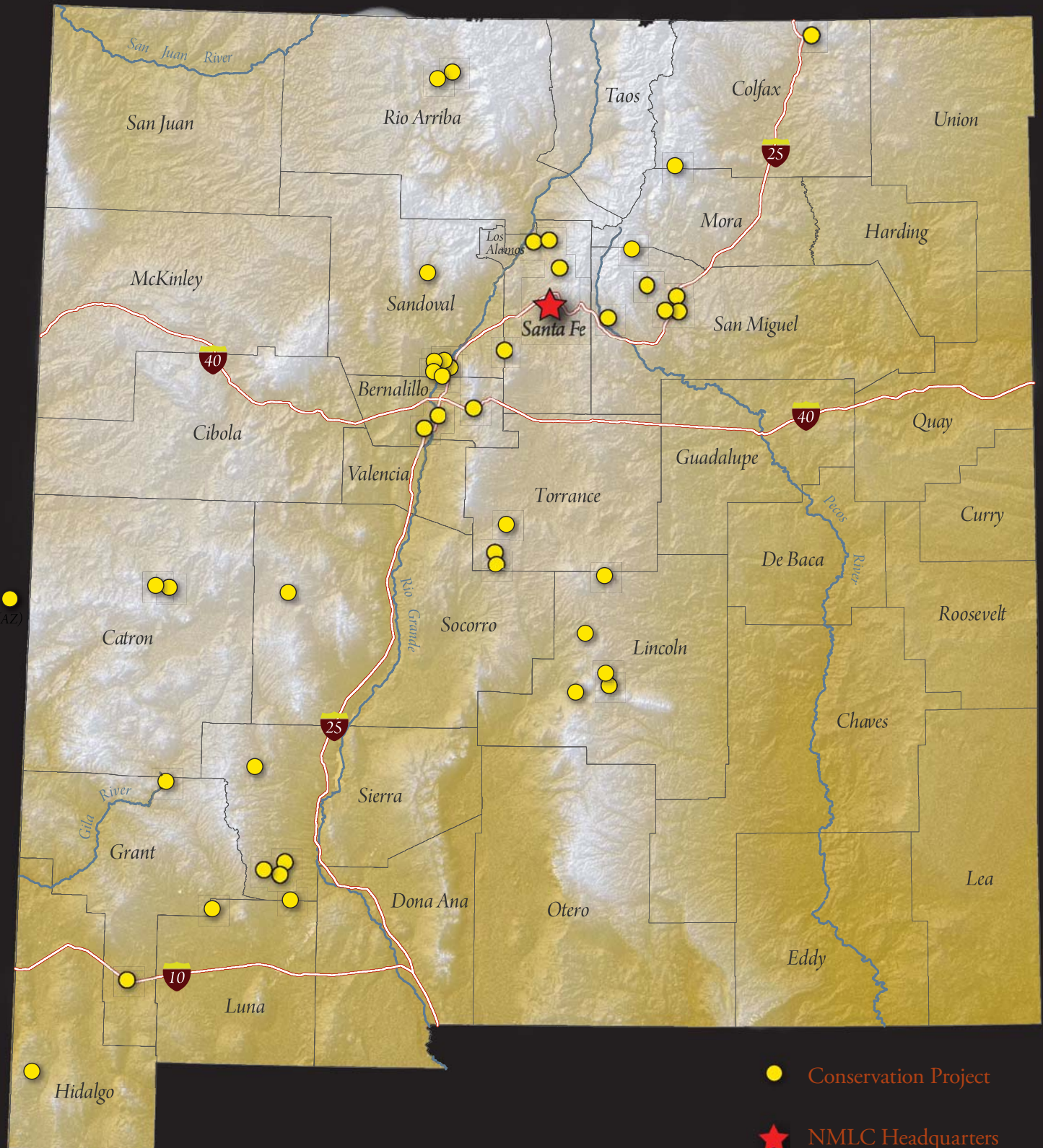
We are honored that the Goodloes and SRALT have entrusted us with their easements and we will strive to carry their legacy forward. We are also pleased that, as part of process, we have gained Cullen Hallmark as a new Board member and Sid Goodloe as a Working Lands Advisor. And, of course, Sid doesn't go anywhere without his sidekick, Cheryl, so NMLC will benefit from the collective wisdom and enthusiasm of both members of the Goodloe team.



Photo courtesy Sid Goodloe

Completed Conservation Projects 2002-2011

Over 100,000 acres of significant wildlife habitat,
productive agricultural land and
scenic open space conserved





Legislative Accomplishments

Tax and financial incentives for land conservation can be extremely important in helping landowners commit to conserving their land into perpetuity, especially when landowners are land rich and cash poor. Incentives give landowners the opportunity to realize some financial gain from conservation without selling off the land which they and their families have often worked very hard to keep.

In 2004, the State Legislature enacted the first tax credit for conservation easement donations in New Mexico through the Land Conservation Incentives Act. The initial credit was limited to \$100,000 per donation and was not transferable. In 2007, The Nature Conservancy, NMLC and other conservation advocates worked with then-State-Representative Peter Wirth to expand the state tax credit to \$250,000 per donation and — more importantly — make the tax credit transferable.

In 2010, NMLC worked with multiple conservation partners, the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department and the Governor's Office to pass the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, which created a dedicated state funding mechanism for land conservation and restoration. Thanks to the efforts of former Gov. Bill Richardson, \$5 million in seed funding helped land trusts and conservation organizations complete a number of easements and restoration projects around the state over the next two years. As the economy continues to recover, NMLC and the larger conservation community look to the future for opportunities to expand state funding for land conservation and restoration, which will also enable the state to access and leverage greater public and private funding for these important purposes in New Mexico.

Summary of Results for New Mexico Land Conservation Incentives Tax Credit Program (2004 – 2011)

Year	Number of Land and Easement Donations	Acres Conserved	Appraised Value of Land and Easement Donations	Amount of Tax Credit Issued
<u>Non-transferable Credit</u>				
2004	6	5,801	\$4,083,100	\$501,050
2005	14	8,179	\$5,077,480	\$1,005,040
2006	11	1,312	\$3,337,600	\$798,424
2007	7	4,846	\$4,472,377	\$498,217
<u>Transferable Credit</u>				
2008	13	12,397	\$6,870,761	\$2,176,052
2009	5	5,567	\$4,182,905	\$1,273,813
2010	17	9,952	\$11,248,000	\$3,888,100
2011	11	6,314	\$5,370,500	\$2,654,250
Totals	84	54,368	\$44,642,723.00	\$12,794,946.00

Source of Data: New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Dept., Forestry Division



Governor Richardson signs the Natural Heritage Conservation Act at the Petchesky Conservation Center

Recognizing Those Who Helped Us Get Where We Are

While acknowledging everyone who has contributed to the success of NMLC over the past ten years would be impractical in a publication of this size, we would like to recognize a few of the key individuals and organizations who have helped get us where we are today.



Photo by Michael Mudd

NMLC was originally founded as the New Mexico Land Conservation Collaborative (the “Collaborative”) in October 2002, following a series of meetings between the New Mexico land trusts sponsored by the Land Trust Alliance, McCune Foundation and Thaw Charitable Trust. These meetings sought to promote greater capacity building for and collaboration among the New Mexico land trust community through the creation of a statewide land trust service center. Most of the actual impetus behind taking the Collaborative from a concept to a reality came from Claire Swanger, who had been serving as the Executive Director of the Taos Land Trust for over ten years and saw the opportunity that a statewide organization presented for New Mexico.

Initial seed funding for the Collaborative was provided by the Taos Land Trust, the Trust for Public Land and the McCune Foundation. With her founding board — consisting of Chair Tony Benson (a retired Amoco oil executive and Taos rancher), Elizabeth Richardson (retired from Colorado Open Lands), and Eric Love (Trust for Public Land) — Claire and staff attorney Matthew McQueen set up the organizational framework. Claire then lined up several capacity building and conservation projects that helped get the Collaborative off the ground.

In 2003, Joseph Montoya (then with the Albuquerque Civic Trust), Jack Wright (New Mexico State University), and Bill Cowles and Barbara Johnson (both conservationists and private philanthropists) came on as board members. Due to both internal changes and external opportunities, the function of the Collaborative began to evolve from that of a service center into the statewide land trust that it is today. By early 2004, the Collaborative received its first conservation easements — the transfer of four easements from the Taos Land Trust. It also completed, on its own, its first and still largest conservation easement over 30,000 acres of the Montosa Ranch in Socorro County.

In June 2004, the transition to a statewide land trust was complete, following an organizational assessment and strategic planning retreat at Tony Benson’s ranch. The Collaborative officially changed its name to the New Mexico Land Conservancy to reflect its revised land conservation mission. In late 2004, Jack Wright assumed leadership of the Board. By the end of that year, NMLC had successfully completed over 46,000 acres of conservation easements around the state. We owe a great deal of gratitude to B.W. and Billie Cox of the Montosa Ranch, Jim Winder and Verde Heritage Ranches, and Lyle and Vera Dethlefsen for placing tremendous confidence in our fledgling organization by stepping up and donating these early easements to NMLC.

Between 2005 and 2007, we added several more important projects to our portfolio of conserved land. Mark Watson of the New Mexico Game & Fish Department, Kurt Menke of the Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition, then-Mayor Marty Chavez and then-City Councilor Martin Heinrich were all instrumental in helping us complete the Hawkwatch open space acquisition in Tijeras Canyon with the City of Albuquerque. Sayre Gerhart, Taudy Smith, Wayne Kirkby and the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service helped us advance farmland conservation in the Village of Corrales. Bob and Katie Scholes, Bill McDonald of the Malpai Borderlands Group and the New Mexico Forestry Division helped us conserve the Bioresearch Ranch in southwestern New Mexico with funding from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD).

Continued next page



NMLC's 2011 intern, Joseph Gendron (seated, in red plaid shirt), at NMLC's River Ranch celebration. Photo by Kenneth Adkins

In 2008, as a result of an expansion of the Land Conservation Incentives Act during the 2007 legislative session, New Mexico became the fourth state in the country with a transferable state tax credit for land conservation. This important incentive has enabled more private land conservation in New Mexico than any other legislative or policy initiative in recent years. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Bob Findling at the Nature Conservancy of New Mexico, then-Rep. Peter Wirth of Santa Fe, and Ethan Epstein, who was then employed with the Modrall-Sperling law firm in Albuquerque, for their vision and leadership, and for showing us the ropes in the New Mexico state legislature.

Two years later, this legislative success was followed by the passage of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act which created a dedicated state funding mechanism for land conservation and restoration. With a combination of state tax credits and state funding through EMNRD, we were able to complete several important projects around the state. Again, dedicated landowners such as Gary and Beth Hightower, Blake Tollett, the Shortes family, Vernon Casados, and Gene and Elisabeth Simon helped us conserve important agricultural lands and wildlife habitat in new areas around the state, including Lincoln, Catron, Rio Arriba, Grant and Luna counties. We wish to recognize Joanna Prukop and Reese Fullerton for their leadership, and Bob Sivinski and Rhonda Fitzgerald for their dedicated public service, in

what has become an incredibly important public-private partnership with EMNRD and the New Mexico State Forestry Division.

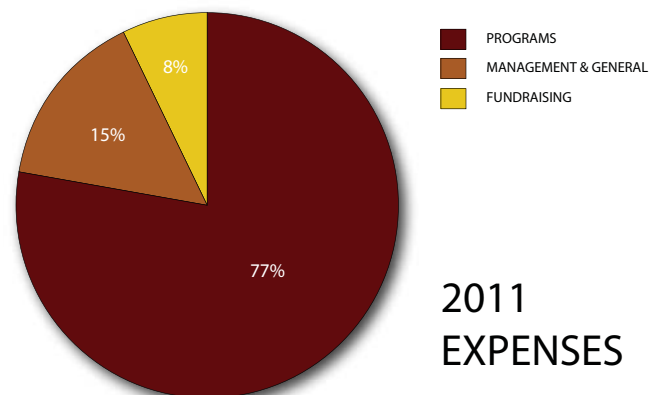
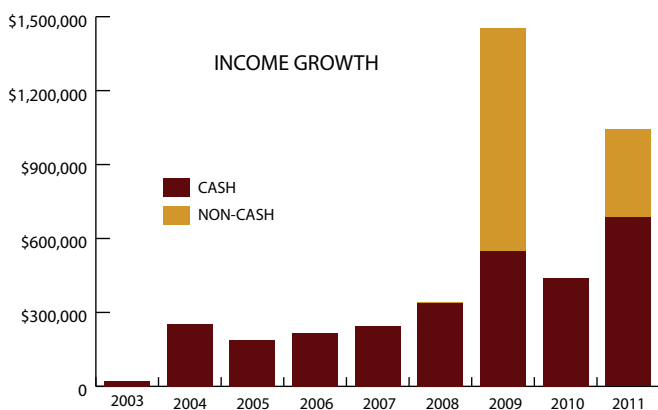
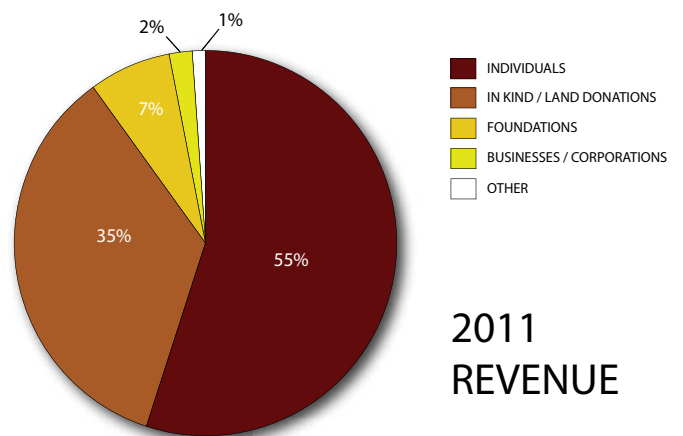
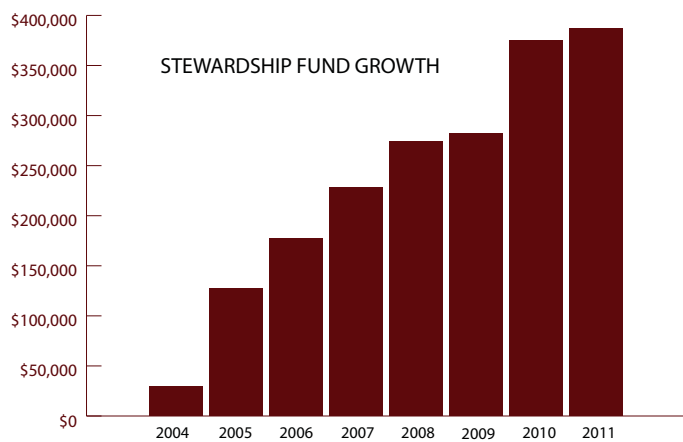
Finally, we will be forever grateful to Jane Petchesky for the tremendous gift of her beloved ranch in Santa Fe to our organization, which now serves as our home base. Although Jane is no longer with us, she will always be an inspiration for our staff and board, and it is in her ever-optimistic and upbeat spirit that we intend to carry on her legacy.

As we celebrate our first ten years, we are encouraged by how many people have stuck with us. We have gradually added new board, staff, landowners, partners and supporters into our fold over the last few years, and built what we believe is a solid base long-term success — a well grounded, stable organization made up of good people dedicated to the cause of land conservation.

We appreciate each and every one of you who has worked with us on projects, supported us financially, discussed the nuances of land conservation, participated in a workshop, been available on the other end of the phone when we needed advice, or walked with us on a piece of land that has been permanently conserved. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that New Mexico remains the Land of Enchantment.



Photo by Adam Schallau



In Gratitude to our Supporters

The following is a list of donors to NMLC since its inception. If your name has been misspelled or omitted, please accept our apologies and let us know.

Individuals & Trusts

Paul Abrams & Abigail Adler
Marsha Ahrenkiel
Anthony Allen
Catherine Allen
Charmay Allred
Chilton & Judith Anderson
Keith Anderson &

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Wayne Kirkby



Donor Story: Lisa Burns

Lisa Burns grew up on her family's ranch 30 miles east of El Paso, right on the Rio Grande. The 3,000-acre ranch was established by her grandfather, Riley Allison, who also started Sunland Park Race Track. He started planting pecan trees in the 1950's. Today, Lisa and her eldest brother own the ranch, which includes the largest continuous pecan orchard in Texas.

Lisa currently resides in Santa Fe and struck up a friendship with her neighbor Jane Petchesky in 1993 when Jane came to Lisa's house in Santa Fe to inquire about some horses that were running loose on the Petchesky ranch. They became friends over the years; Lisa admired Jane's conservation convictions. "I cherish Jane so much for what she's done. Thank God someone realized the importance of leaving something in a natural state — there were so many things she could have done with her land, and she did this."

Once an avid endurance mule racer, Lisa now enjoys trail riding her quarter horse gelding, Carl, on the Petchesky Ranch, now protected by a conservation easement and owned by NMLC. "In the midst of all of the recent developments and concrete jungles, we have an oasis, thanks to Jane," she says. "I will continue to donate to NMLC for as long as I breathe. It's crucial for our children and grandchildren."

Photo courtesy Lisa Burns

Daniel Klein &
 Robynne Jones
 Kathleen Koehler
 Leon Kolankiewicz
 Jennifer Kruger
 Frank "Woody" Kuehn
 Lawrence & Nancy Kueter
 Frederick Lamont
 Richard Lang
 Jane Larson
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Photo by Michael Mudd

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 Eric Love
 Norman & Susan MacLeod
 Deborah Madison
 Jane Mahon
 Patrick Malone
 Tyler Mason
 Norma McCallan
 John McCarthy
 Cara McCulloch
 Patricia McCulloch
 Stephen & Nena McDonald
 Thomas & Diane McEvoy
 Margaret McKinley
 Matthew McQueen
 Dave Mehlman
 Mary Ann Menetrety
 Martha Metzdorf
 Jeanne Milholland & Craig Pfeiffer
 Carrie & Stephen Miller
 Mark Milliorn

Karen & Philip Milstein
 A. Paul Mitchell
 Betsy Model
 Will Moir
 Elizabeth Monagle
 Joseph Montoya
 Jonathan & Diane Moore
 Moorhead Family Trust
 Evelyn Moran
 Michael Mudd
 Virginia Mudd &
 Clifford Burke
 Jill Mulder & Paula Wells
 Werner & Helen Muller
 Ann Mumford
 Maureen Murphy
 Judith Naumburg
 Doug Nelson
 John Nelson
 Steve Northrup
 Terry Odendahl
 Melinne Owen & Paul Giguere
 Dianne Parker
 Stu Patterson & Ellie Schrader
 Jane Petchesky
 Phil Philappou
 Christy Pino
 Mandy Pino
 David Policansky & Sheila David
 Beth Pollack
 Janet Pozel
 Vera Pratt
 V.B. Price
 Quivira/New Ranch Network
 Teri Thomson Randall
 Carter Randolph
 Edward & Melanie Ranney
 Nancy Ranney & David Levi
 Rudolph Rasin
 Wolfgang Rempen
 Anna Maria Richards
 Cecilia Richardson
 Elizabeth Richardson
 David Rigsby
 Ronald Rinker
 Margaret & Harry Ritchie
 Beecham & Renate Robinson
 Pamela Roy
 Frank C. Sabatini Trust
 Louis & Betty Sadler
 Allen & Mary Anne Sanborn
 Louisa Sarofim
 Frances Sayre
 Adam Schallau
 E.W. Schisler
 Bruce & Leslie Schmick
 Mark & Barbara Schmidt
 Paul & Karyn Schmitt

Delia Scholes
 Robert & Kathryn Scholes
 Margaret Sears
 Gene & Elisabeth Simon
 George & Patricia Simon
 David & Gale Simonson
 Virginia Smith
 Linda Spackman
 John & Cynthia Sparks
 Randall & MaryAnn Stenson
 Rachel Stevens
 Jordan Stone
 Gail Stotz
 Ann & A.C. Taylor
 Helene Taylor
 J. Paul Taylor
 Lois Taylor
 Pat Taylor
 Sally Thomson
 Warren & Mickey Thompson
 Clovis Thorn
 Moo Thorpe
 Blake Tollett
 David & Sarah Treeson
 Wenda Trevathan & Gregg Henry
 Andy & Kathy Underwood
 Donald Van Soelen
 Kenneth & Eunice Vellon
 Robert & Michal Von Buelow
 Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Waldman
 Carol Walters
 Alan Webber & Frances Diemoz
 Virginia Wedgwood
 Dory Wegrzyn
 Phyllis & Barry Weiner
 Steven & Susan Weiss
 Donna Wells & David Kitts
 Mark Weston
 Joseph Wexler
 Walt & Linda Whitford
 John Whitney
 Robert Wilber & Linda Whittenberg
 Scott Wilber
 Tom Wilber
 Nancy Wing
 Mark Winne
 Patricia Witcher
 Francis Wood
 Janie Wood
 Tom & Ann Wood
 David Woodard
 Karen Wootton
 Cathy Wright
 Elizabeth Wright
 Jack Wright
 Richard Wright
 Naida Zucker & Richard Spellenberg



Photo by Clay Ellis

Businesses & Corporations

Alphagraphics
 American Public Land Exchange Co., Inc.
 Atrisco Cafe
 Beck Land & Cattle Co.
 Cave Creek Ranch
 Century Bank
 Community Bank
 Lisa M. Dietlin & Associates
 Element Power
 Epstein & Company
 Gardner Associates/La Pradera
 Global Ecotechnics Corp
 Heritage Trust Co. of New Mexico
 Integrated Control Systems Inc
 Isaacson Rosenbaum PC
 Joe's Diner
 LandAmerica New Mexico Title Company
 Linson's Fabrics
 Moore Land & Cattle Co.
 NCA Architects
 New Mexico Tax Credit Alliance
 Permaculture Credit Union
 Plants of the Southwest
 Rancho Viejo Limited Partnership
 REI
 Santa Fe Planning Group
 Santa Fe Rafting Co.
 Social Enterprise Associates
 Sotheby's International Realty
 Spears Architects
 Strugar Conservation Services
 Synergia Ranch
 Tax Credit Connection
 Verde Heritage LLC
 Whole Foods Market
 Wolf Corporation

Foundations

Albert I. Pierce Foundation
 Frost Foundation
 Knobloch Family Foundation
 LEF Foundation
 Los Nativos Non-Permanent Fund,
 New Mexico Community Foundation
 Max & Anna Levinson Foundation
 McCune Charitable Foundation
 Messengers of Healing Winds
 New Cycle Foundation
 New Cycle Foundation Fund,
 Santa Fe Community Foundation
 New Mexico Community Foundation
 Norcross Wildlife Foundation
 Sabatini Family Foundation
 Santa Fe Community Foundation
 Thaw Charitable Trust
 Turner Foundation
 Wilburforce Foundation

Partners

Deer Canyon Homeowners
 Defenders of Wildlife
 Forest Trust
 Hawkwatch
 Heritage Trust Co. of New Mexico
 Land Trust Alliance
 National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
 The Nature Conservancy
 New Mexico Department of
 Finance & Administration
 New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
 New Mexico Energy, Minerals & Natural
 Resources Department - Forestry Division
 Quivira Coalition
 Santa Fe Conservation Trust
 Santa Fe Semi-Arid Guild
 Southern Rockies Agricultural Land Trust
 Taos Land Trust
 Trust for Public Land
 U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service -
 Farm and Ranchland Protection Program
 Village of Corrales
 World Wildlife Fund - Chihuahuan Desert Program



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Stewarding the Land

The conservation easement deed is an important first step in conserving land. But behind the paperwork is the promise that NMLC will enforce the terms of every easement in perpetuity.

In order to fulfill that promise, and to maintain good communication with the current landowners of the properties over which we hold easements, NMLC monitors each of its easements on an annual basis, visiting the properties and discussing any potential changes with the landowners. We also link landowners with resources that might be useful to them in their ongoing efforts to manage their lands.

Our promise also includes fiscal and legal responsibility. NMLC retains a board-dedicated stewardship fund to ensure that we have adequate resources to monitor, steward and legally defend all of our easements over the long term. This money is kept separate from our operating budget and may only be used for conservation easement stewardship and legal defense purposes.



Photo by Marcia Straub - istockphoto

NMLC Facts

Total number of conservation easements (CEs) held by NMLC	47
Total acres conserved by NMLC and partners	100,710
Total square miles conserved by NMLC and partners	157
Total value of CEs donated by landowners	\$41,049,694
Total public funding used for CE and fee acquisition	\$5,992,935
Acres conserved by NMLC in 2011	7,046
CEs transferred to NMLC in 2011	13,304
Value of CEs donated to NMLC in 2011	\$2,843,500
Public funding used for CE acquisition in 2011	\$1,250,000

Managing Your Contributions Wisely

We deeply appreciate the financial support given by people who love New Mexico and want to preserve its heritage for generations to come. We accept donations in any form including cash, Certificates of Deposit, other investment instruments, and in-kind donations. We do our best to manage your contributions efficiently and responsibly. Please contact us any time for more information. The following information is derived from the financial audit prepared by Mackie, Reid & Company, PA.

New Mexico Land Conservancy Statement of Activities 2011

Revenue and Other Support	Unrestricted	Temp Restricted	2011 Total	2010
Revenue				
Individual Contributions	\$532,623	\$ 64,485	\$597,108	\$280,986
Business Donations	25,140		25,140	18,559
Foundation Grants	71,212	32,000	103,212	44,500
<i>Total Revenue</i>	628,975	96,485	725,460	344,045
Other Support				
Interest Income	2,316		2,316	4,928
Land and In-kind Contributions	360,000		360,000	3,160
Other	143		143	1,334
<i>Total Other Support</i>	362,459		362,459	9,422
Assets Released from Restriction	50,000		50,000	101,500
Total Revenue and Support	1,041,434	96,485	1,137,919	454,967
Expenses				
Program Services	440,406		440,406	441,520
Management and General	83,938		83,938	72,910
Fundraising	47,959		47,959	32,806
Total Expenses	572,303		572,303	547,236
Net Assets, Beginning of year			1,408,045	1,500,314
Net Assets, End of year			1,973,661	1,408,045
Change in Net Assets			\$565,616	\$ (92,269)



Photo by Clay Ellis



New Mexico Land Conservancy Statements of Financial Position June 30, 2011 and 2010

	2011	2010
Current Assets		
Cash, partially pledged	222,069	\$142,317
Promises to give	196,250	95,000
Prepaid expenses	3,497	10,118
Total Current Assets	421,816	247,435
Land, building & equipment	1,390,744	1,022,130
Promises to give	4,850	9,615
Designated for stewardship		
Cash	386,803	288,704
Certificates of Deposit		86,338
Other Assets	16,473	7,108
Total Assets	\$2,220,686	\$1,661,330
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 3,243	\$ 5,129
Accrued Expenses	13,152	12,711
Current Maturities of Mortgage Payable	5,057	4,819
Total Current Liabilities	21,452	22,659
Mortgage Payable, Less Curr Maturities	225,573	230,626
Total Liabilities	247,025	253,285
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	1,772,561	1,303,430
Temporarily Restricted	201,100	104,615
Permanently Restricted	0	0
Total Net Assets	1,973,661	1,408,045
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,220,686	\$1,661,330

Planning for a Sustainable Future

NMLC is committed to operating effectively and to a process of continual improvement. We take our strategic planning and organizational development very seriously. It is our responsibility to maintain a viable organization to ensure that we can uphold our conservation easements and continue our conservation efforts well into the future. As part of our recent strategic planning efforts, we have identified four primary goals:

- Increase the quantity and quality of land conservation in New Mexico, and ensure that conserved lands are adequately stewarded over the long-term
- Increase understanding of land conservation methods and benefits, and raise general public awareness of, and appreciation for, land conservation in New Mexico
- Strengthen NMLC's capacity and ensure that it can continue to meet the land conservation needs of New Mexico
- Increase support for land conservation, and contribute to a collaborative and sustainable land conservation community for New Mexico.

We are a member of the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), an organization of over 1,700 land trusts across the country. As part of our organizational development, we are embarking upon the process of accreditation process through LTA over the next two years. The accreditation process presents an opportunity to fine-tune our policies and streamline our operations, and ensure that our land trust is in compliance with the best standards and practices of the industry.





Gene Simon of River Ranch talks with Jack Wright and Rachel Stevens. Photo by Kenneth Adkins

Standing From the Ground

A rancher I know describes people who conserve land this way — “they stand from the ground.” He means they are stewards of God’s good earth.

For the past 10 years, the New Mexico Land Conservancy has helped landowners conserve the places they call home. It has been my honor to serve as Chair of the Board for a good part of that decade, as we grew from a bold idea to a durable success. But the permanent protection of over 100,000 acres in New Mexico didn’t happen by accident. It took good values and good people.

I’m proud that the core values of NMLC come from the founding principles of our country. We believe in agriculture as a way of life. We believe in voluntary, financially compensating ways of keeping good ground in good shape.

That’s why more and more landowners are choosing to work with NMLC and place conservation easements on their property. Eternal thanks to all the landowners for stepping up and getting it done.

Given the competent and fun leadership of our new Board Chair, Joseph Montoya, I’m sure NMLC will continue to thrive. *Muchisimas gracias* for taking over. Thanks to all the Board members for the immense contributions you make. And thanks also to the professional and dedicated staff who get the work done on the ground — you guys are the best.

It’s time for me to devote more time to Rachel and the rest of my family, and to my job as a geography teacher. It has been a complete privilege to be part of NMLC, an organization that stands from the ground.

Onward,

Jack Wright

Chair
New Mexico Land Conservancy Board of Directors
2003-2011



Photo by Michael Mudd

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NEW MEXICO
LAND CONSERVANCY

Honoring New Mexico's Land Heritage