

# New Mexico Land Conservancy

Preserving New Mexico's Land Heritage

2010  
Annual  
Report

*[www.nmlandconservancy.org](http://www.nmlandconservancy.org)*





*Florida Mountains near Deming (Photo by Michael Mudd)*

## Who We Are

The New Mexico Land Conservancy (NMLC) is a non-profit land trust founded in 2002 in recognition of important land conservation needs throughout the state. NMLC is dedicated to ensuring that New Mexico remains the 'Land of Enchantment' for the benefit of local communities, the public, and future generations. We are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors whose primary role is policy-making, governance, and strategic planning for the organization.

## Our Mission

We work to preserve New Mexico's land heritage by protecting significant wildlife habitat, productive agricultural lands, natural and cultural areas, scenic open space, and recreational lands throughout the state for conservation purposes and human benefit.

## Our Conservation Goals and Accomplishments

The New Mexico Land Conservancy's ten-year goal is to conserve, directly or in partnership with others, 250,000 acres of New Mexico's highest conservation-value lands by 2016. We work in collaboration with private landowners, community groups, other conservation organizations, and public agencies to pursue and achieve this goal.

NMLC has now protected a total of over 80,000 acres around the state – and even completed our first easement in Arizona. With the projects we have cued up for next year, we will be closing in on the 100,000 acre mark by the end of 2011.

## Our Role as a Statewide Land Trust

New Mexico has a diverse and vibrant land trust community, made up of organizations of various sizes and areas of focus. NMLC is proud to be part of this community. Because we are a state-wide organization, at times our areas of interest overlap with other land trusts but, by and large, we do most of our work in the areas around the state that do not have a local trust to turn to.

Our projects range from protecting and conserving small, urban open space and farm parcels to large working ranches, wildlife habitat, and natural areas at watershed and landscape scales. With each organization in the state playing a specific and important role, New Mexico is well-served by the land trust community.



## Letter from our Executive Director

### PRESERVING THE GEOGRAPHY OF HOPE

Dear Friends,

The late writer Wallace Stegner once wrote that “deeply lived in places are exceptions rather than the rule in the West.” New Mexico would certainly qualify as one of those exceptions in that it is one of the few western states that have a long tradition of land-based human settlement. Dating from the time of the ancient Anasazi, this tradition is manifested today through their ancestors and other Native American people, traditional Hispano communities, and the many farmers and ranchers who continue to live on and work lands that have been in their families for generations.

Like most other western states, New Mexico has experienced its boom and bust cycles and the related migrations that come and go with them. However, in recent years, much of the in-migration to New Mexico has not been driven so much by jobs and economic opportunities, but by the place itself – the draw and appeal of the state’s incredible natural and

cultural heritage. And many of these newcomers, perhaps because of what they’ve seen and experienced elsewhere, readily embrace their new lands and surroundings, and want to protect and preserve what is unique and beautiful about them.

One of the fringe benefits in my position at the New Mexico Land Conservancy is that I get to travel around New Mexico, see the diverse landscape that the state has to offer, and meet some of the most interesting and remarkable people. While the people are all different, most of the landowners we work with live on their land and share



*XSX Ranch (Photo by Clay Ellis)*



*Scott with NMLC supporter Jane Petchesky (Photo by Teri Thomson Randall)*

ranchers to sportsmen, outdoors and wildlife enthusiasts to urban and rural ranchette homeowners, developers and energy producers – all of whom have different objectives and motivations when approached to conserve land. It also requires the innovation to come up with tax, financial, estate planning and market-based solutions for those landowners who are unable or unwilling to protect their land out of pure conservation motivations alone. And finally, it requires a vision backed up with a lot of hard work, perseverance and hope.

Stegner once characterized the West as “the geography of hope.” “The West at large,” he wrote, “is hope’s native home, being the youngest and freshest of America’s regions, magnificently endowed and with the chance to become something unmatched and unprecedented.” Stegner’s words provide a durable and still relevant vision for how we can view and approach our conservation efforts in New Mexico.

But the ever-pragmatic Stegner reminds us that “conservation is not a fact, it never has been...it is a job.” So as we wrap up another successful year and look forward to the next, we invite you to join and support us as we continue to protect and conserve the lands you love around New Mexico – doing our part to help preserve the geography of hope – because the job is far from done.

*Adelante,*

***Scott Wilber***

Executive Director

a common bond that comes from doing so – an intense love of and for their land – whether they are making a living off of it or simply living on it.

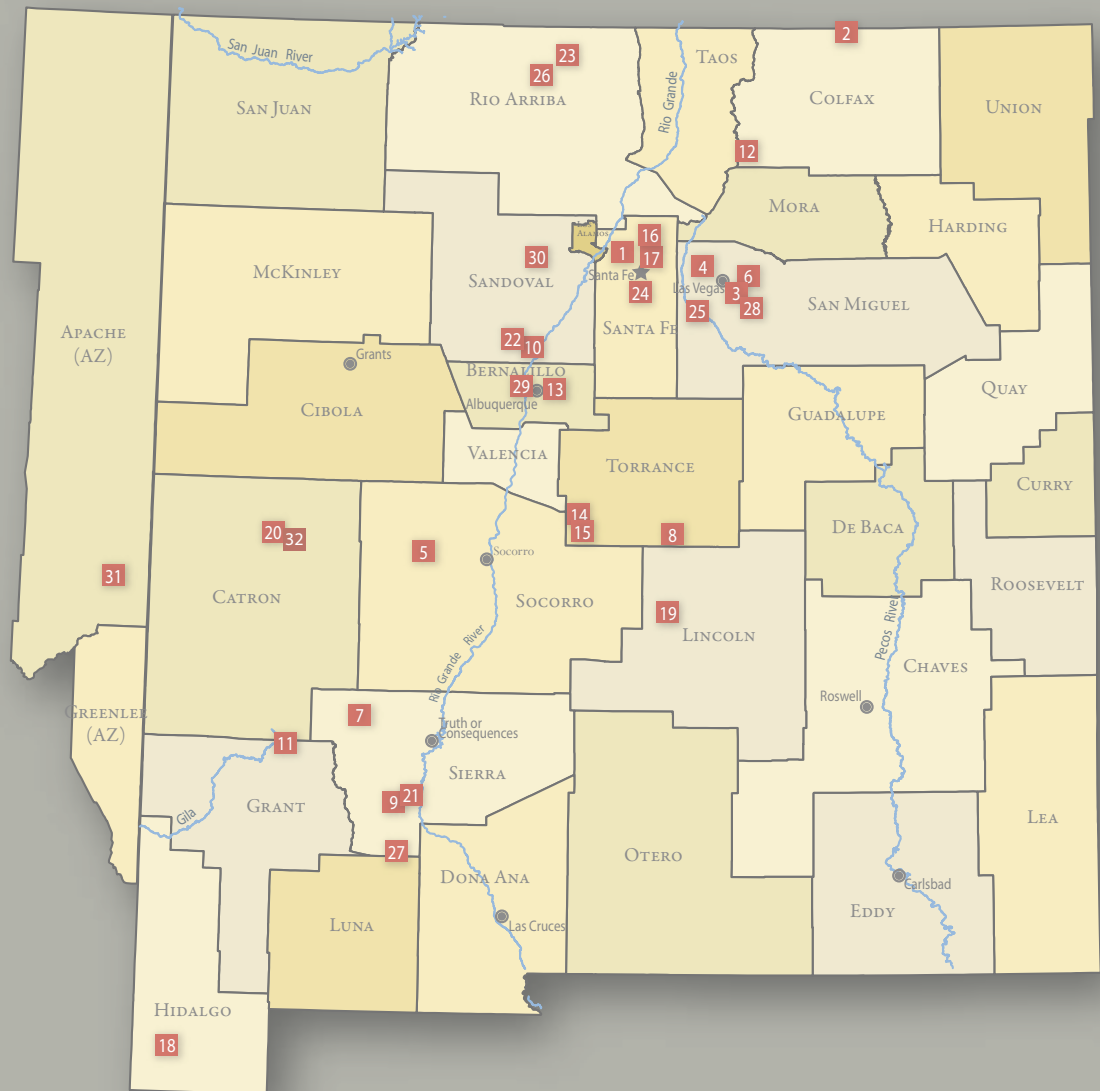
We work with private landowners to protect their land and conserve the associated natural, cultural, scenic, recreational and agricultural values. It is a privilege to be able to do this kind of work and to get paid for it, but it also certainly comes with its challenges.

It requires the flexibility of being able to work with all kinds of landowners from different backgrounds – from farmers and

# Completed Conservation Projects

Total Land Conserved  
as of December 2010

80,269 acres



- |                                       |                                |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 Jacona Farm Trust - 2 acres         | 10 Corrales Gateway - 18 acres | 16 Anonymous - 65 acres                            | 25 Forked Lightning Ranch - 1,826 acres      |
| 2 La Tier - 20 acres                  | 10 Kendall - 2 acres           | 17 Las Acequias Farm - 96 acres                    | 26 Rutheron Land & Cattle - 53 acres         |
| 3 Tyson - 58 acres                    | 10 Minge - 2 acres             | 18 Bioresearch Ranch - 1,760 acres                 | 27 Diamond Cross Ranch - 3,220 acres         |
| 4 Zaplin - 103 acres                  | 10 Ventana Grande - 6 acres    | 19 Ancho Cattle Company - 9,871 acres              | 28 Sierra y Llanos Land & Cattle - 225 acres |
| 5 Montosa Ranch - 30,828 acres        | 11 XSX Ranch - 160 acres       | 20 Alegres Mountain Ranch - 3,240 acres            | 29 Sparks - West - 5 acres                   |
| 6 Melton - 1,105 acres                | 12 Agnew - 110 acres           | 21 North and South Lake Valley Ranch - 1,845 acres | 30 Eagle Heights - 63 acres                  |
| 7 Dethlefsen - 380 acres              | 13 Hawkwatch - 63 acres        | 22 Gonzales Farmland - 5 acres                     | 31 EC Bar Ranch (AZ) - 94 acres              |
| 8 Cougar Mountain Ranch - 6,160 acres | 14 Goat Canyon - 1,786 acres   | 23 Ancones Ranch - 197 acres                       | 32 Shortes XX Ranch - 2,880 acres            |
| 9 Berrenda Creek Ranch - 7,447 acres  | 15 Cain Ranch - 6,400 acres    | 24 Petchesky Ranch - 262 acres                     |  |

## Forked Lightning Ranch – A Conservation Legacy

In the summer of 2010, NMLC completed the second of two conservation easements over the famous Forked Lightning Ranch. The permanent protection of this historic ranch, formerly owned by the actress Greer Garson, is a testament to the conservation ethic of its current owner, Jane Fonda, and her family.

Nestled in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains east of Santa Fe, the 2,400 acre ranch is not only beautiful but ecologically important, and includes nearly three miles of the upper Pecos River. It contains several old homestead areas, including church and cemetery ruins which are remnants of a time when the Pecos River was a sustaining force for families that settled in the area.



*Forked Lightning Ranch (Photo by Michael Scisco)*

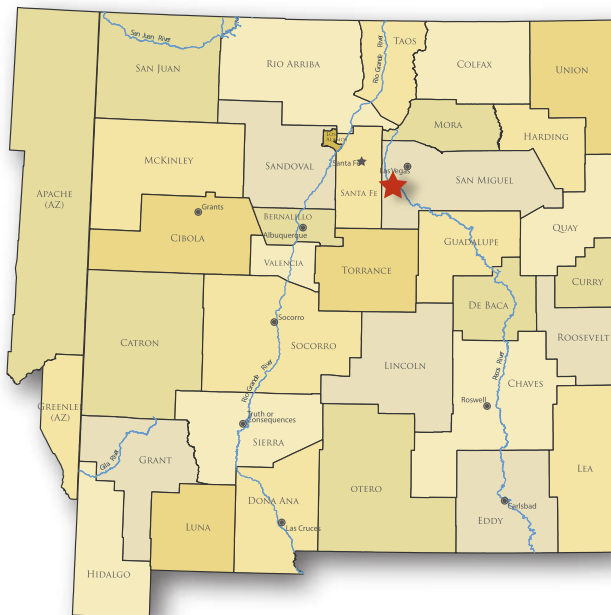
At one time, the Forked Lightning Ranch encompassed over 100,000 acres. Over the years, portions of the ranch were subdivided and sold off, following the unfortunate pattern of many large ranches across New Mexico. While the ranch is now just a fraction of its former size, it is located in an area increasingly desirable for development, so protecting as much of what remains of the ranch was of paramount importance for Ms. Fonda.

In New Mexico and throughout the West, private lands next to public areas are being subdivided and sold at a premium. Ms. Fonda's decision to protect the ranch with conservation easements preserves not only the Pecos River corridor and the surrounding watershed, but also helps buffer the adjacent Pecos National Historic Park and the Santa Fe National Forest.

Ms. Fonda has said that Forked Lightning is where she most loves to spend time. We are grateful for her choice in partnering with NMLC to conserve and protect this lovely and historic ranch. Her actions today will benefit many New Mexicans for generations to come.

*"What is once well done is done forever."*

*– Henry David Thoreau*





## Shortes XX Ranch – Catron County Conservation Continues

Recognizing the potential for landscape-scale conservation in western New Mexico, NMLC has worked over the past three years to reach out to ranchers and other landowners in Catron County. As a result, working with state and federal agency partners, NMLC has now conserved over 6,000 acres of land in this area around Alegres Mountain just south of Pie Town along the Continental Divide.

Our success is primarily due to landowners proactively working to protect their family ranches from increasing development pressures. The Shortes family has owned its XX Ranch for four generations and, over the years, the family has actively ranched the property while spending significant resources managing it for agricultural and wildlife enhancement purposes. They have also worked with the New Mexico State Forestry Division (NMSFD) to develop a forest stewardship plan for the ranch and have implemented many of the NMSFD's cooperative management strategies, including juniper thinning and water infrastructure projects.

A forward-thinking group, the Shortes family understands the value of partnerships. They have agreed to participate in a project in which NMLC will partner with NMSFD and the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service to purchase a conservation easement over their ranch in two phases with a combination of funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP) and the State of New Mexico.

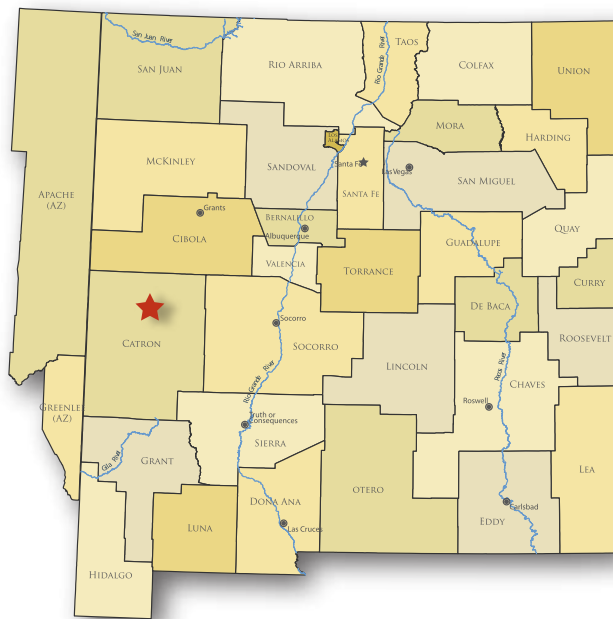
NMLC completed the first phase of the Shortes XX Ranch, over 2,880 acres, in March of 2010. With the second phase near completion, NMLC will increase the total area of conserved lands around Alegres Mountain by another 2,000 acres – to a total of over 8,000 acres.



*Pronghorn Antelope, Shortes XX Ranch (Photo by Clay Ellis)*

FRPP is a great resource for agricultural landowners who want to protect their ranches and farms from development while retaining the ability to use their properties for agricultural purposes. Through the program, landowners can be paid for their conservation easements. Over the past few years, NMLC has successfully secured over \$2,400,000 in funding from this program, all of which has been paid directly to landowners.

NMLC expects to complete the second phase of the Shortes XX Ranch conservation easement in early 2011.

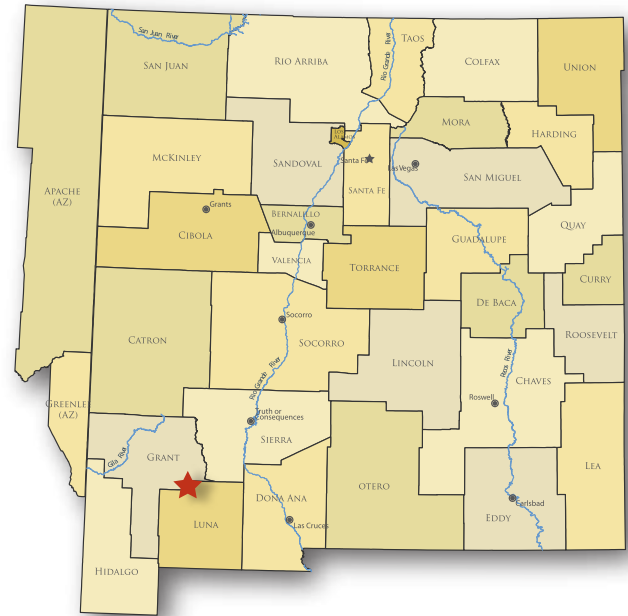




## River Ranch – A River Runs Through It

The River Ranch is a unique and special place located along the southernmost perennial reach of the Mimbres River near the town of Faywood in southwest New Mexico. Over the years, the River Ranch has generated much interest from conservation groups such as the Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy due to its location within a transitional area between the Chihuahuan Desert and Arizona-New Mexico Mountains ecoregions, which translates into particularly high biodiversity values.

The owners, Gene and Elizabeth Simon, moved to the area in the late 70's after running a cattle operation on an 80-section allotment in the Gila National Forest for many years. Now in their 90's, they continue to actively manage the ranch for the benefit of livestock grazing and wildlife enhancement. Gene still makes daily rounds on the ranch



*Gene Simon with NMLC interns Katherine McKinney and Ellen Gass (Photo by Scott Wilber)*

to ensure that everything is operating to his satisfaction. NMLC cannot imagine any other landowners who are as committed as the Simons to the sustainable and holistic management of their land.

A permanent conservation easement will protect the River Ranch from

subdivision and development, and will also help to preserve crucial habitat for multiple avian and other wildlife species. The riparian corridor alone provides excellent habitat and includes a unique stand of Velvet Ash trees (including the largest Velvet Ash tree in New Mexico and possibly the United States). The ranch also includes a rare, native Sacaton grassland community which Gene has worked to maintain and preserve throughout his tenure as landowner. The conservation easement will also contribute to the protection of the scenic viewshed along State Highway 61 that is frequently traveled by people visiting City of the Rocks State Park located within a few miles of the ranch.

NMLC, in partnership with the New Mexico State Forestry Division, secured state funding in the fall to complete this project. NMLC anticipates completing this easement in spring of 2011.

## A Center for Conservation

At the Petchesky Conservation Center (PCC) each day, we enjoy looking out at beautiful scenery with mountain views in every direction. Our work is inspired by Jane Petchesky, a great person devoted to land and water conservation, who donated the property to NMLC in 2009.

In 2010, Jane was named one of Santa Fe's Living Treasures. This award publicly honors elders who have served our community with kind hearts and good deeds. The story of the Petchesky family's years in Santa Fe and their establishment of a horse ranch on Richards Avenue are important elements of the local historical record.

We have enjoyed opening the ranch for several events this year.

### Natural Heritage Conservation Act Signing Ceremony

During the 2010 legislative session, New Mexico took the important step of passing the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (NHCA) which created a dedicated funding mechanism for land conservation and restoration. In early March, after the session ended, NMLC was honored to host the signing of the NHCA into law by Governor Bill Richardson at the PCC. In attendance were representatives of the Governor's office, the state legislature, and the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, as well as members of conservation and agricultural groups that supported the legislation.



*Signing ceremony for the Natural Heritage Conservation Act at the Petchesky Conservation Center. L-R: Sandy Buffett (Conservation Voters NM), Scott Wilber, Secretary Jon Goldstein, Governor Bill Richardson, Speaker Ben Lujan, Sen. Carlos Cisneros (Photo by Kris Murphey)*

### National Land Trust Alliance Visits Petchesky Center

Staff and board members of the national Land Trust Alliance visited the Land of Enchantment in early June, and came to the PCC to meet with staff and board of the state's land trust organizations, to learn about New Mexico land conservation and land trust priorities and to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern.



*Jack Loeffler  
(Photo by Vanessa Baez)*

### An Afternoon at the Ranch

On October 16, Jack Loeffler, famed "oral and aural historian" of Santa Fe, spoke at the first fall fundraiser NMLC has held at the Petchesky Ranch. Jane Petchesky attended and expressed satisfaction with the activities at her former home, saying she hoped other events would bring people out from the community to enjoy the center and learn about conservation.

## Inside the New Mexico Land Conservancy

### Internship program

For the first time, NMLC was delighted to provide internship opportunities for two aspiring land conservationists in 2010. Ellen Gass came to us by way



*Katherine McKinney and Ellen Gass (Photo by Scott Wilber)*

of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and Katherine McKinney joined us after completing her Master's degree in Environmental Sciences at the University of Montana. Ellen and Katherine spent four months working with us, during which they supported a variety of land conservation and stewardship activities under the supervision of Michael Scisco, our Conservation Director. We are very grateful for the hard work and cheerful company Katherine and Ellen brought during their time at NMLC.

### Upgrading our Facilities and Operations

At our headquarters at the Petchesky Conservation Center, we are working with landscape designer Christie Green to envision and implement changes that will help us fulfill Jane Petchesky's vision of a community facility dedicated to conservation. Improvements for which we are currently seeking funding include native plant landscaping, and development of an outdoor gathering space and nature trail.

NMLC also plans to honor Mrs. Petchesky's vision by starting a monthly speaker series at the Petchesky Conservation Center in 2011 and holding an annual fundraising benefit. In addition, NMLC plans to make the center available to outside groups for events and meetings on a limited basis.

With the help of consultant Marsha Ahrenkiel, we have been working to revamp our website, which will include video footage about the Petchesky Ranch. We are planning to launch the new site in early 2011 and look forward to your feedback.

We also engaged several photographers from around New Mexico to take high-quality photos of areas of conservation interest and lands we have protected. We are thrilled with the results and many of the images appear in this publication. We hope to continue this project in the future.

And, lastly, we have successfully completed another annual financial audit. As a non-profit organization funded by charitable contributions, we are dedicated to careful and responsible handling of your donations. Receiving another clean audit is one demonstration that we are following sound accounting and management practices. We are grateful to Mackie, Reid & Company, and Debbie Saunders in particular, for their careful work in confirming our financial and accounting systems and procedures.



*Sketch by Christie Green, Down to Earth*







## **Tax and Financial Incentives: The “Bread and Butter” of the Private Land Conservation Movement**

Notwithstanding the conservation intentions and generosity of our landowners, tax and financial incentives are essential to motivating and facilitating the work that we and the other land trusts do. In New Mexico, in addition to federal tax deductions and funding programs, we enjoy state tax credits and funding that directly support land conservation. The New Mexico Land Conservancy worked hard this year with the other land trusts, agency partners and elected officials to help maintain and improve existing incentives and to create new ones.

### **Extending the Federal Enhanced Conservation Easement Tax Incentive**

In the 1970s, Congress passed legislation that created a federal tax deduction for landowners donating conservation easements. This tax deduction has been the principal driving force behind the private land conservation movement over

the last 40 years and has substantially increased the growth of land trusts across the country and the amount of land they have collectively conserved. For years, however, landowners were limited to writing off the value of their easement donations at a rate of 30% of their adjusted gross income over a maximum period of six years. In 2006, the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), in partnership with approximately 1,500 land trusts across the country, was able to pass legislation that increased both the amount of the tax deduction and the timeframe within which it could be used. Ordinary taxpayers could now write off the value of their easement donations at a rate of 50% of their AGI over a maximum period of 16 years, and agricultural landowners earning at least 50% of their income from qualifying agricultural activities could take a 100% deduction over the same timeframe. This year, thanks again to the hard work of LTA and land trusts across the country, Congress took action to extend the enhanced federal tax incentive through the end of 2011. We are proud and grateful that the entire New Mexico congressional delegation supported the extension of this critical legislation. LTA's long-term goal is to make this incentive permanent.



*Waiting for Spring near Deming (Photo by Michael Mudd)*

**Improving the New Mexico State Tax Credit for Land Conservation**

In addition to the federal tax deductions, New Mexico is fortunate to have a state tax credit for landowners who donate land or easements for conservation purposes. The tax credit was created through the Land Conservation Incentives Act in 2004. The credit is for 50% of the value of the land or easement donation and was originally non-transferable and limited to \$100,000, but then was expanded in 2008 to \$250,000 and made transferable. The credit can either be used over a 20 year period to either offset the landowner’s state tax liability or part or all of it can be sold at a discounted rate (typically at about 80% of its face value) and converted to cash. The ability to sell the credit makes it a particularly attractive incentive for land rich, cash poor landowners who don’t have enough income to benefit from the tax offsets.

The tax credit program has been a tremendous success in New Mexico and, given the scarcity of conservation funding, it is now one of the principal drivers behind land conservation in New Mexico. To date, over 44,000 acres have been permanently conserved at an average cost to taxpayers of less than 10% of the appraised value of the conservation easements donated by landowners, based on the actual value of the tax credits claimed to date (see table below).

Land Conservation Incentives Act Results			
Year	Acres Conserved	Value of Donation	Tax Credits Claimed
2004	5,801	\$4,083,100	\$0
2005	8,179	\$5,077,380	\$378,900
2006	1,312	\$3,337,600	\$217,200
2007	4,846	\$4,472,377	\$441,800
2008	12,667	\$9,081,666	\$346,000
2009	9,392	\$12,068,500	\$1,337,500
2010	1,971	\$3,394,000	Not yet available
Total	44,168	\$41,514,623	\$2,721,400

This year, NMLC and the New Mexico land trust community collaborated and worked closely with the two agencies responsible for administering the program – the NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Dept. (EMNRD), and the New Mexico Taxation & Revenue Dept. (TRD) – to improve the administrative efficiency of the program and the process for reviewing the easement appraisals. Unlike other states where abuses of these kinds of tax credit programs have occurred in the past, New Mexico can be proud of having a tax credit assessment and certification process that has successfully prevented any abuses or fraud.

**Creating New Conservation Easement and Restoration Funding for New Mexico**

During the 2010 legislative session, NMLC worked with the Governor’s office, EMNRD, New Mexico land trusts, and conservation and agricultural partners to help pass the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (NHCA), which created a dedicated funding mechanism for land conservation and restoration on private lands having important natural, agricultural and cultural values. Although no funding was attached to NHCA, with the assistance of Gov. Richardson, a \$5 million appropriation was secured through House Bill 5 for conservation easement and restoration projects. In June, EMNRD issued a request for proposals and in August nine conservation easement and

seven restoration projects were approved for funding. NMLC and the other project proponents are now working diligently to complete these projects. NMLC received funding for two of these projects – the River Ranch and the Shortes XX Ranch easements – and anticipates completing both of these projects in early 2011.

Over the long-term, NMLC will continue working in the collective effort to create additional state funding for future land conservation and restoration projects through NHCA. Having such state funding is important since it will help leverage other sources of conservation funding for New Mexico through federal programs such as the Land & Water Conservation Fund, the Farm & Ranchland Protection

Program and other Farm Bill programs, the Clean Water Act and the Forest Legacy Program, as well as state wildlife grants and local bond measures. Studies have shown that New Mexico misses out on approximately \$20 million in federal land and water conservation funding because it does not have adequate state matching funds.



*Ancones Ranch (Photo by Adam Schallau)*



## NMLC Executive Committee 2010



Dr. John B. (Jack) Wright,  
Chair,  
Las Cruces, NM

Jack has been a Professor of Geography at New Mexico State University since 1990. He has consulted in the land trust field for 30 years and written numerous books and articles on land conservation. He holds three degrees in Geography: B.A. from the University of Massachusetts, M.A. from University of Montana, and Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley.



Joseph R. Montoya,  
Vice Chair,  
Santa Fe, NM

Joseph is a native New Mexican with family roots in Mora and Santa Fe. He is currently Deputy Director of Programs at the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority. Previously, he served as Executive Director of the Albuquerque Civic Trust. Joseph's background is in community planning and affordable housing. He holds a B.A. in University Studies and Architecture from the University of New Mexico.



Moo Thorpe,  
Treasurer,  
Santa Fe, NM

Moo, a native of Santa Fe, is a real estate broker with Sotheby's International Realty. During her career, she has marketed and developed several successful communities in Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico. She and her husband Marc built an authentic adobe home where she lives with her two children and many pets. She holds a B.A. in Geography from Middlebury College in Vermont.



Anthony (Tony) Anella,  
Secretary,  
Albuquerque, NM

Tony is the principal of Anthony Anella Architect AIA, an award-winning practice dedicated to site-sensitive design; and a partner in Conservation Design Partners, an Albuquerque group that specializes in conservation-based design and development. Born and raised in Albuquerque, Tony spent his early summers working on farms and ranches in New Mexico. He holds a B.A. in History from Dartmouth College and a M.A. in Architecture from the University of Colorado.

*Lichen on Agnew Property (Photo by Adam Schallau)*





## Board Members 2010

**Dale Armstrong, Albuquerque, NM** Dale was born and raised on a ranch in Quemado, NM. Over the past 22 years, he has grown TLC Plumbing, Heating and Cooling from a one-man shop to one of the premier service companies in the state with 275 employees. He and his wife Gail have four children and operate a cattle ranch in Magdalena.



**Anthony L. (Tony) Benson, Past Chair & Founding Member, Taos, NM** Tony is a retired geologist and former Vice-President of Exploration for the Amoco Corporation. In 1999, he granted a conservation easement to the Taos Land Trust on part of his cattle ranch near Cerros de Taos. He serves as an Adjunct Professor at the University of New Mexico-Taos, a member of the Board of Supervisors of the Taos Soil and Water Conservation District, and a Board member of the Taos Land Trust. He holds B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Geology from Ohio State.

**Vernon Casados, Radium Springs, NM** Vernon has been farming and ranching all his life. In 2009 he worked with NMLC to put an easement on his ranch along the Chama River near the Village of Los Ojos. Following the sale of his ranch, Vernon and his wife Dora bought a small farm in the Radium Springs area, where he grows corn, chile, tomatoes, and alfalfa. In addition to farming and ranching, Vernon loves training and showing horses.



**Dave Johnson, Farmington, NM** Dave works with a private environmental consulting firm specializing in wildlife habitat, wetlands, land conservation and erosion control. Prior to that, he worked for over 25 years with New Mexico State Parks where he retired as Director of Design and Development. Some of his principal projects included the Rio Grande Nature Center, Living Desert State Park, and the Mesilla Valley Bosque Park. He holds a B.S. in Environmental Biology from the University of Colorado.

**Allen L. Lewis, Albuquerque, NM** Allen is Owner of United Enterprises, Inc., a real estate development and property management company, and Managing Partner for Harvard Mall Partners, a real estate development partnership redeveloping land across from the University of New Mexico. The award winning, fourteen million dollar project is a transformation of an old neighborhood into a revitalized New Urbanism community called The Bricklight District.



**Ray Powell, Los Ranchos, NM** Ray is the Regional Director of the Jane Goodall Institute's Roots and Shoots Four Corners States Program. Previously, he was the Executive Director for the Valles Caldera National Preserve from 2004-2005, and New Mexico State Commissioner of Public Lands from 1993-2002. He has a D.V.M. from Tufts University, a M.S. in Botany and Ecology from the University of New Mexico, and a B.S. in Anthropology and Biology from the University of New Mexico.

**Elizabeth H. Richardson, Founding Member, Los Angeles, CA** Elizabeth retired from Colorado Open Lands, a statewide land trust, in 2001, but continues to be actively engaged in the land trust movement. She served on the Board of the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts for 12 years. She holds a B.A. from Radcliffe College, a M.P.A from University of Southern California, and an M.B.A. in Finance from University of Denver.



## NMLC Staff 2010



**J. Scott Wilber,**  
**Executive Director**

Scott has over 20 years of experience working in natural resource management, land conservation and community development throughout the Rocky Mountain West

and Latin America. He joined NMLC in 2004 as its Conservation Director and was named Executive Director in 2006. Previously, he worked for The Trust for Public Land, Colorado Open Lands, The Nature Conservancy, the Tropical Forest Foundation, and the U.S. Forest Service. He also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras and speaks pretty good Spanish for a gringo. He holds a B.S. in Forest Management from Northern Arizona University, and a M.A. in Geography and Latin American Studies from University of New Mexico.



**Michael Scisco,**  
**Conservation Director**

Michael has ten years of experience working in the natural resource conservation field. He joined NMLC in 2008 and directs the organization's conservation, stewardship

and outreach efforts. He has extensive conservation planning and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) experience related to open space preservation, water quality enhancement, habitat protection, and farmland preservation. Michael holds a B.S. in Environmental Science from Western Washington University and a Graduate Certificate in GIS from Portland State University.



**Kris Murphey,**  
**Operations Manager**

Kris has worked for more than two decades in non-profit management, for organizations ranging from a non-profit news service to an university training center

to a family foundation. She joined NMLC in 2007 as a part-time office manager. Her current community volunteer work includes serving on the Board of The Food Depot and of Dragonfly Nature and Science School, both in Santa Fe. She holds a B.A. in Linguistics from the University of California at Berkeley.



**Lisa Adkins,**  
**Administrative Assistant**

Lisa comes to NMLC with more than 18 years of experience providing support in all areas of business and finance. She has a BA in Accounting and a MBA from the College of Santa Fe. Prior

to working at NMLC, she was employed by Los Alamos National Laboratory as a Senior Financial Analyst. Lisa volunteers with the Cub/Boy Scouts, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and is on the Board of Directors for The Food Depot. She has a passion for land conservation, as her father was one of the first Hispanic Park Superintendents for the National Park Service and she spent her childhood visiting and living in national parks.

## In Gratitude to Our Supporters



*Bioresearch Ranch (Photo by Clay Ellis)*

**Businesses:** American Public Land Exchange, Atrisco Café, Cave Creek Ranch, Century Bank, Community Bank, Joe's Diner, New Mexico Tax Credit Alliance, Permaculture Credit Union, Plants of the Southwest, REI, Santa Fe Planning Group, Santa Fe Rafting Co., Tax Credit Connection.

**Foundations:** LEF Foundation, McCune Charitable Foundation, New Cycle Foundation Fund of the Santa Fe Community Foundation, Sabatini Family Foundation, Santa Fe Community Foundation, Max and Anna Levinson Foundation, Turner Foundation.

**Government Partners:** U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department - Forestry Division.

**Other Supporters:** Land Trust Alliance, Santa Fe Conservation Trust, Taos Land Trust.

**Individuals and Trusts:** Paul Abrams & Abigail Adler, Anthony Allen, Charmay Allred, Anthony Anella, Anonymous (8), Joann & Bob Balzer, Asa & Jean Barnes, Allan Beezley, Tony Benson, Scott Berdell, John Besser, Elspeth Bobbs, Hamilton Brown, Larry Brown, Lisa Burns, Joan Bybee, Elizabeth Campbell, Vernon & Dora Casados,

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## NMLC Statement of Activities 2010

Revenue and Other Support	Unrestricted	Temp Restricted	2010 Total	2009
<b>Revenue</b>				
Individual Contributions	\$277,871	\$ 99,615	\$377,486	\$161,394
Business Donations	18,559		18,559	500
Professional Services				3,600
Government Grants				312,333
Foundation Grants	44,500	5,000	49,500	34,750
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>340,930</b>	<b>104,615</b>	<b>446,545</b>	<b>512,577</b>
<b>Other Support</b>				
Interest Income	4,928		4,928	6,358
In-kind Contributions	3,160		3,160	2,639
Land and Property				902,000
Other	1,334		1,334	175
<b>Total Other Support</b>	<b>9,422</b>		<b>9,422</b>	<b>911,172</b>
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>350,352</b>	<b>104,615</b>	<b>454,967</b>	<b>1,423,749</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Program Services	441,520		441,520	321,884
Management and General	72,910		72,910	39,796
Fundraising	32,806		32,806	46,358
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>547,236</b>		<b>547,236</b>	<b>408,038</b>
Net Assets, Beginning of year	1,403,814	104,615	1,500,314	359,037
Net Assets, End of year	1,408,045		1,408,045	1,500,314
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$(196,884)</b>	<b>\$104,615</b>	<b>\$ (92,269)</b>	<b>\$1,015,711</b>



**New Mexico Land Conservancy Statements of Financial Position,  
June 30, 2010 and 2009**

	2010	2009
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash, partially pledged	\$142,317	\$384,098
Promises to give	95,000	96,500
Prepaid expenses	10,118	3,519
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>247,435</b>	<b>484,117</b>
Land and building	936,841	928,597
Equipment	85,289	50,136
Promises to give	9,615	
Deferred loan cost	7,108	7,123
<b>Designated for stewardship</b>		
Cash	288,704	196,750
Certificates of Deposit	86,338	85,421
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,661,330</b>	<b>\$1,752,144</b>
 <b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 5,129	\$ 2,092
Accrued Expenses	12,711	10,123
Current Maturities of Mortgage Payable	4,819	4,190
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>22,659</b>	<b>16,405</b>
<b>Mortgage Payable, Less Current Maturities</b>	<b>230,626</b>	<b>235,425</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>253,285</b>	<b>251,830</b>
 <b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	1,303,430	1,116,643
Temporarily Restricted	104,615	378,671
Permanently Restricted		5,000
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>1,408,045</b>	<b>1,500,314</b>
 <b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$1,661,330</b>	<b>\$1,752,144</b>



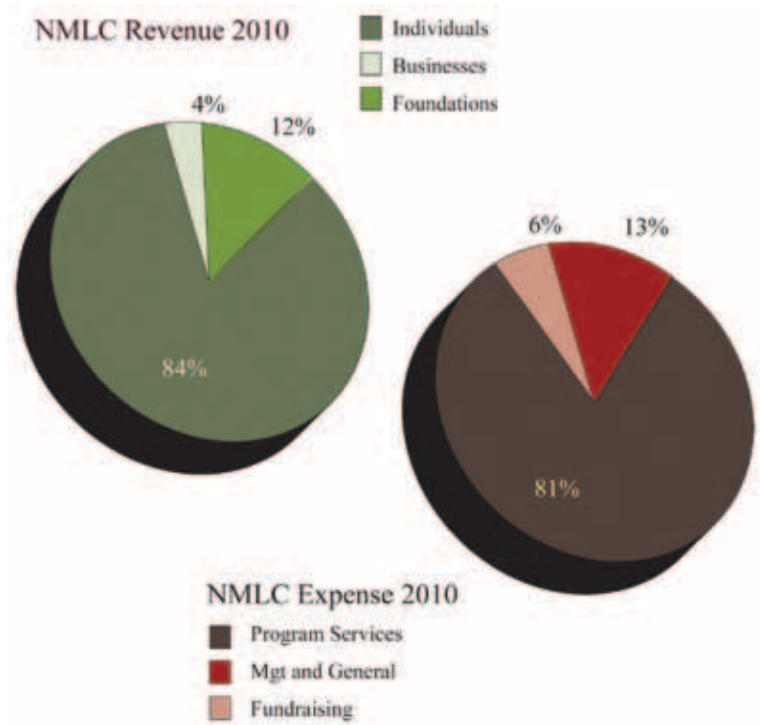
*Alegres Mountain Ranch (Photo by Clay Ellis)*

## Our Track Record as of the End of 2010

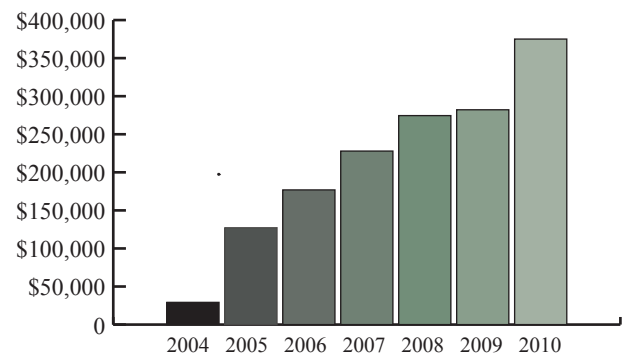
Total Number of Conservation Easements	37
Total Number of Acres Conserved	80,269
Total Square Miles Conserved	125
Total Donated Value of Conserved Acres	\$38,206,194
Acres Conserved this year	3,880
Donated Value of Conserved Acres This Year	\$3,635,782
Public funding used to help purchase easements this year	\$792,230
NMLC cost per acre conserved	\$28.97



*Ancones Ranch (Photo by Adam Schallau)*



## NMLC Stewardship Fund



*Front cover photos, top to bottom: Ancones Ranch (Photo by Adam Schallau), Montosa Ranch (Photo by Clay Ellis), Shortes XX Ranch (Photo by Clay Ellis), Jacona Farms (Photo by Teri Thomson Randall). Back cover photos: Insect at Alegres Mountain Ranch (Photo by Clay Ellis), Sandia Mountains (Photo by Sally Thomson).*



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Preserving New Mexico's Land Heritage