

New Mexico Land Conservancy

Conserving Land. Preserving Heritage.

2014
Annual
Report

NEW MEXICO
LAND CONSERVANCY

Conserving Land. Preserving Heritage.



OUR MISSION

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



Founded in 2002, the New Mexico Land Conservancy (NMLC) is a statewide, non-profit land trust working to protect significant natural habitat, productive agricultural lands, scenic open space, cultural and historic resources, and recreational lands for conservation purposes and public benefit at community, watershed and landscape scales. We work in collaboration with private landowners, community and non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, businesses, and other public and private partners to pursue and achieve our mission.

NMLC's twenty-five-year goal is to protect, directly or in partnership with others, one million acres of high conservation value lands in priority areas around the state by 2037. To date, NMLC has helped permanently protect over 144,000 acres of high conservation value land throughout New Mexico and completed one project in Arizona.



Photo Courtesy of Sally Thomson

OUR GOALS

NMLC's strategic framework is comprised of three primary goals:

CONSERVATION

Sustainable land conservation for New Mexico

- To strategically increase the quantity and quality of land conservation in New Mexico.
- To ensure that these conserved lands receive appropriate and sustained stewardship over the long-term.

EDUCATION

Increased awareness of and appreciation for land conservation in New Mexico

- To increase understanding of land conservation methods and benefits.
- To raise general public awareness of and appreciation for conservation in New Mexico.

CAPACITY

Greater capacity for land conservation in New Mexico

- To build NMLC into a viable and sustainable statewide land trust.
- To help increase statewide capacity and support for land conservation.
- To contribute to a collaborative and sustainable land conservation community for New Mexico.



OUR PROGRAMS

We work to achieve our mission and goals through the following programs and activities:

CONSERVATION

- *Land Protection:* using conservation easements and other voluntary land conservation methods to help landowners protect, conserve (and restore) their land.
- *Stewardship:* monitoring, stewarding and legally defending the easements and properties we have helped protect.

EDUCATION

- *Information:* serving as a statewide information resource, and providing information about land conservation and NMLC through different forms of media.
- *Communications & Outreach:* educating landowners and partners about land conservation and stewardship tools, methods and benefits; informing and engaging the public, and creating opportunities to connect people to the land.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- *Organizational Development & Fundraising:* developing human and financial resources, and internal plans, policies and organizational capacity; and ensuring compliance with non-profit and land trust standards, practices and accreditation requirements.
- *Policy:* engaging in policy initiatives that further land conservation and stewardship in New Mexico.
- *Administrative:* ensuring sound administrative systems and procedures for effective and efficient land trust operations.

Dear Friends,

This time last year, we informed you that we had embarked on the process of pursuing professional accreditation through the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission (LTAC), an independent body of conservation professionals that recognizes land conservation organizations that demonstrate compliance with the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) “standards and practices” for the industry. We are pleased to announce that we were recently awarded our accreditation by LTAC and we now join the ranks of the approximately 300 land trusts that have achieved this distinction across the country since the inception of the accreditation program in 2008.



Cullen Hallmark and Scott Wilber

Successfully achieving this milestone demonstrates our commitment to sustainable land conservation, which benefits the entire state. We believe that accreditation provides the public with an assurance that the New Mexico Land Conservancy meets the high standards for quality and that the results of our conservation work are truly permanent. Our land trust is a stronger organization today having gone through this rigorous accreditation program. We believe that accreditation will enhance our credibility with donors and the general public; and should better enable us to achieve our land conservation, stewardship, fundraising and organizational development goals.

Of the approximately 1,700 land trusts operating in the country, less than 20% of them have actually achieved accreditation. It is worth noting, however, that these 300 accredited land trusts account for more than three quarters of the total land area conserved by all land trusts. LTA and the New Mexico Land Conservancy believe that land conservation helps ensure and sustain clean air and drinking water; important habitat for plants and animals; local agriculture and food production; cultural, historic and recreational sites; and scenic landscapes and views.

Across the country, local citizens and communities have come together to form what is now a national movement to save the places they love. Community leaders in land trusts throughout the country have worked with willing landowners and public and private partners to conserve over 47 million acres of farms, ranches, forests, parks, open space and other places people care about. Strong, well-managed land trusts provide local communities with effective champions and caretakers of their critical natural, cultural and agricultural resources, and safeguard the land through the generations.

The New Mexico Land Conservancy is proud to be part of this movement and to have the opportunity to help private landowners and our partners achieve their land conservation goals, thereby ensuring that we are preserving our unique natural, cultural and agricultural land heritage. This year, we helped to conserve another 17,000 acres of private land around the state and to create a new state wildlife management area. We appreciate your continuing support of our efforts.

Thank you,



J. Scott Wilber
Executive Director



Cullen Hallmark
Chair, Board of Directors

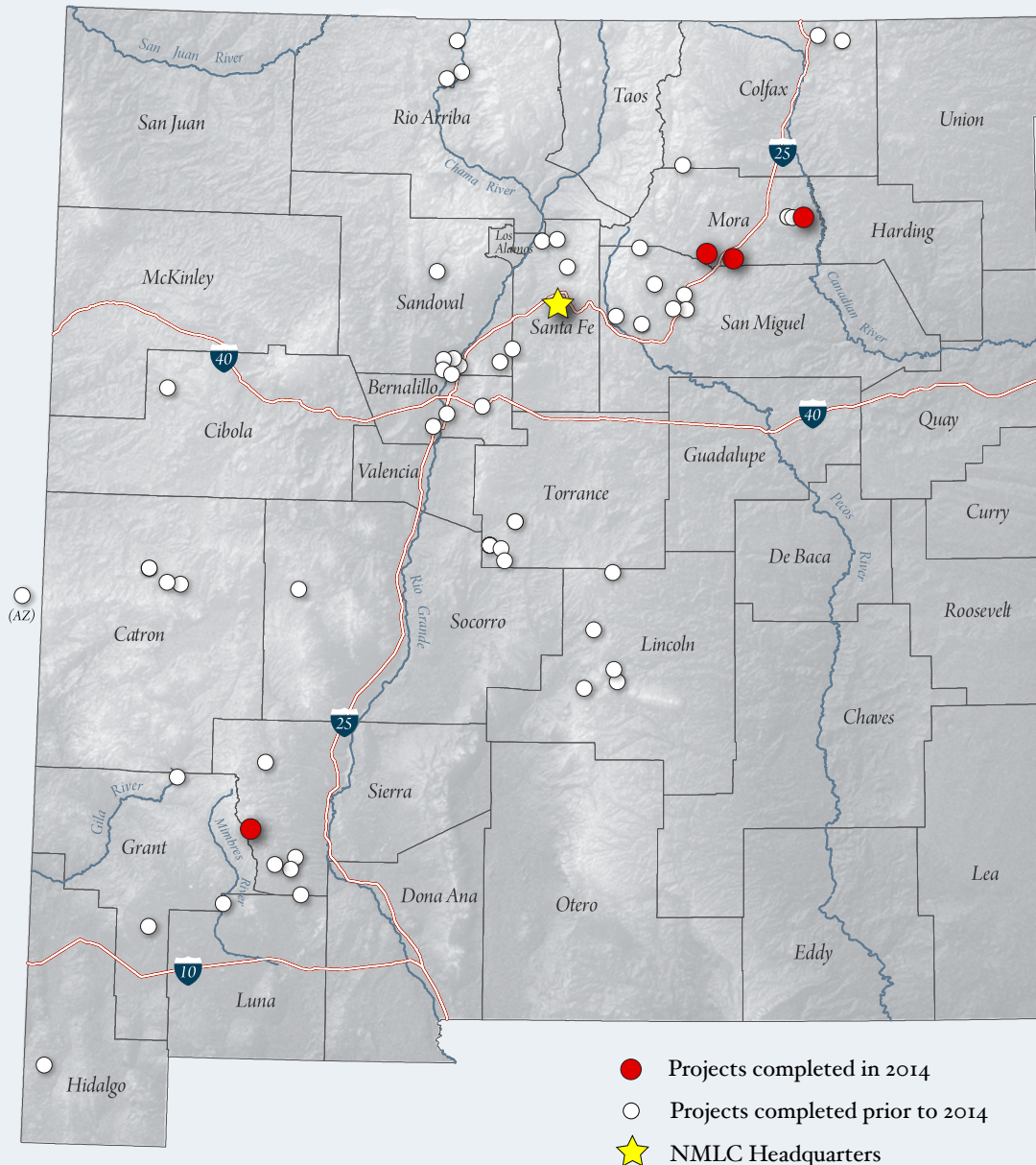


Photo Courtesy of Mark Watson

COMPLETED CONSERVATION PROJECTS

2002 - 2014

144,000 Acres Conserved





RIVER RANCH BECOMES NEW MEXICO'S NEWEST STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

In July 2014, NMLC facilitated the sale of the 1,010 acre River Ranch along the Mimbres River in the southwestern part of the state to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. The River Ranch is located approximately 20 miles northeast of Deming, near City of Rocks State Park, and encompasses a two mile stretch of the lower Mimbres River. The river and the mature Cottonwood-Ash riparian gallery forest sustained by it form an oasis within the surrounding Chihuahuan Desert that supports a wide variety of wildlife, including many threatened and endangered species of birds.

The ranch has since been declared one of the state's newest wildlife management areas is now being managed by Game & Fish for wildlife habitat protection, environmental education and compatible public uses. The property had been owned by Gene and Elisabeth Simon, who had moved to New Mexico from Pennsylvania in the 1970s to live out their "retirement" as ranchers. NMLC had already purchased a conservation easement over the property from the Simons in 2011 with the New Mexico State Forestry Division, which significantly reduced the purchase price for Game & Fish.

The primary sources of funding for the acquisition came from Game & Fish's Share with Wildlife Program and funding that NMLC secured through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Wildlife Habitat Restoration Program, a fund created as a result of a natural resources damages settlement between the State of New Mexico and Freeport-McMoRan Inc., an international mining company. Support funding for this project was also provided by the Turner Foundation, Element Power and Wells Fargo.

Gene Simon unfortunately passed away in 2012 before the sale of the ranch was concluded, at which time Wells Fargo assumed management of his estate. NMLC subsequently negotiated an option agreement with the bank to buy sufficient time to secure the funding and enable Game & Fish to acquire the ranch. The sale included a life estate for Elisabeth which will allow her to live out the remainder of her life on the ranch. "After living in this valley for so long, Gene and I simply couldn't stand the thought of breaking up the integrity of this beautiful place and allowing the land to be developed after we were gone," said Elisabeth Simon, now 95. "I wish that Gene had lived to see this day, but I'm sure that he would be pleased to know that the wildlife and

future generations of New Mexicans are going to be able to continue enjoying the ranch as much as we have." ■

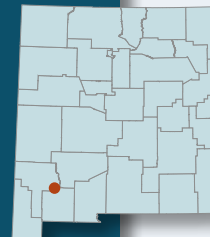
Size: 1,010 acres

Location: Grant and Luna Counties

Ecoregion: Chihuahuan Desert, Mimbres River Watershed

Conservation Values: Wildlife Habitat, Scenic Open Space

Type of Project: Facilitated Acquisition





Ariel Patashnik, Elisabeth Simon & Scott Wilber

LAND CONSERVATION WORK BEGINS AT THE HISTORIC FT. UNION RANCH



In 2014, a unique opportunity arose for NMLC to begin work on what we hope will be a larger-scale and longer-term conservation collaboration on the historic Fort Union Ranch in Mora County, which stretches along the front range of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains north of Watrous. In New Mexico, where so much of the history of the west is written on the landscape, Fort Union Ranch stands out as one of the state's most iconic properties.

The 93,325 acre ranch surrounds the Fort Union National Monument, administered by the U.S. National Park Service. Fort Union was established by the U.S. army along the Santa Fe Trail in the New Mexico Territory in 1851. From that time until its abandonment in 1891, it

served as the focal point for military as well as trade and agricultural activities in northeast New Mexico.

Formerly part of the Mora Land Grant, the ranch was acquired by the controversial Civil War general and Massachusetts politician, Benjamin Franklin Butler, in 1885. Today, the Fort Union Ranch is owned and managed by the Union Land and Grazing Company, which is represented by 18 heirs and descendants of General Butler.

The ranch forms much of the scenic viewshed along I-25 between Watrous and Wagon Mound. The property consists primarily of open grasslands interspersed with piñon-juniper woodland, and also includes a significant area of higher elevation ponderosa pine forest in the



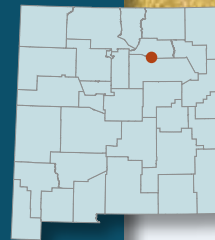
Size: 2,543 acres

Location: Mora County

Ecoregion: Southwestern Tablelands

Conservation Values: Agriculture, Wildlife Habitat, Cultural & Historic, Scenic Open Space

Type of Project: Donated Conservation Easement



Turkey Mountains. Healthy populations of elk, mule deer and pronghorn antelope occur on the ranch, and a series of small ponds and playa lakes provide habitat for migratory waterfowl. Traces of the historic Santa Fe Trail traverse the property on route to and from the monument. The Union Land & Grazing Company donated the land comprising the monument to the Park Service in 1954.

Joshua Miner, a member of the Board of Trustees for the Union Land and Grazing Company, has been spearheading the effort with NMLC to place conservation

easements, in three phases, over a total of 7,500 acres of land on the very southern portion of the ranch. In December 2014, NMLC recorded the first conservation easement on the first 2,543 acres of land within the Wolf Creek drainage, a tributary to the Mora River. We look forward to completing easements over another 5,000 acres of the ranch in 2015, and continuing our discussions with the landowners about how to conserve more of this incredible property in the future. ■

PHOENIX RANCH WEST EASEMENT CONTRIBUTES TO CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN RIO MORA WATERSHED

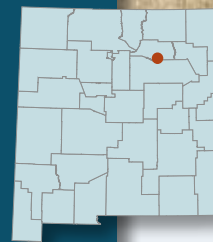
Size: 5,453 acres

Location: Mora County

Ecoregion: Southwest Tablelands

Conservation Values: Agriculture, Wildlife Habitat, Scenic Open Space

Type of Project: Donated Conservation Easement



In 2012, the U.S. Congress designated the new Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area, to be managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in the Mora River Watershed north of Las Vegas, New Mexico. Through a donation of the Wind River Ranch by local art dealer and philanthropist Eugene V. Thaw, who had actively worked to conserve and manage the property for many years to improve habitat for wildlife, particularly migratory birds, the 4,224 acre wildlife refuge was established on the Mora River, 16 miles northeast of Watrous. In addition,

the 962,000 acres of private lands that make up the larger Mora River Watershed and surround the new refuge, received a special designation as the Rio Mora Conservation Area in an effort to highlight the importance of protecting the watershed for water quality and for wildlife.

Over the past three years NMLC has been focused on strategic planning for land conservation in northeast New Mexico. The designation of the refuge and adjoining acres in the watershed for protection

compliments our project work in the region. In December 2014, Robert Quintana, a local cattle rancher, chose to conserve 5,453 acres of working ranchland on his Phoenix Ranch West Ranch adjacent to the new Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge. This remarkable ranch includes at least 13 playa lakes which are important habitat for resident and migratory birds.

With the donation of the conservation easement on the Phoenix Ranch West to NMLC, Robert Quintana has effectively doubled the acreage of protected habitat in the vicinity of the refuge. We look forward to growing our work with both our private and public partners within the Rio Mora Conservation Area in the coming years. ■

“Connecting working landscapes, one ranch at a time, can happen with patience, perseverance, and a belief that all is possible with lots of hard work and partners at the table.”

Rob Larrañaga, Wildlife Refuge Manager

Northern New Mexico National Wildlife Complex,
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



FINAL PHASE OF WAGON MOUND RANCH COMPLETED



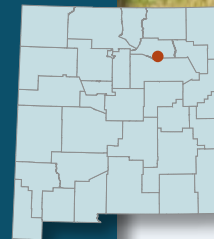
Size: 8,219 acres

Location: Mora County

Ecoregion: Southwest Tablelands

Conservation Values: Agriculture, Wildlife Habitat, Scenic Open Space

Type of Project: Purchased Conservation Easement

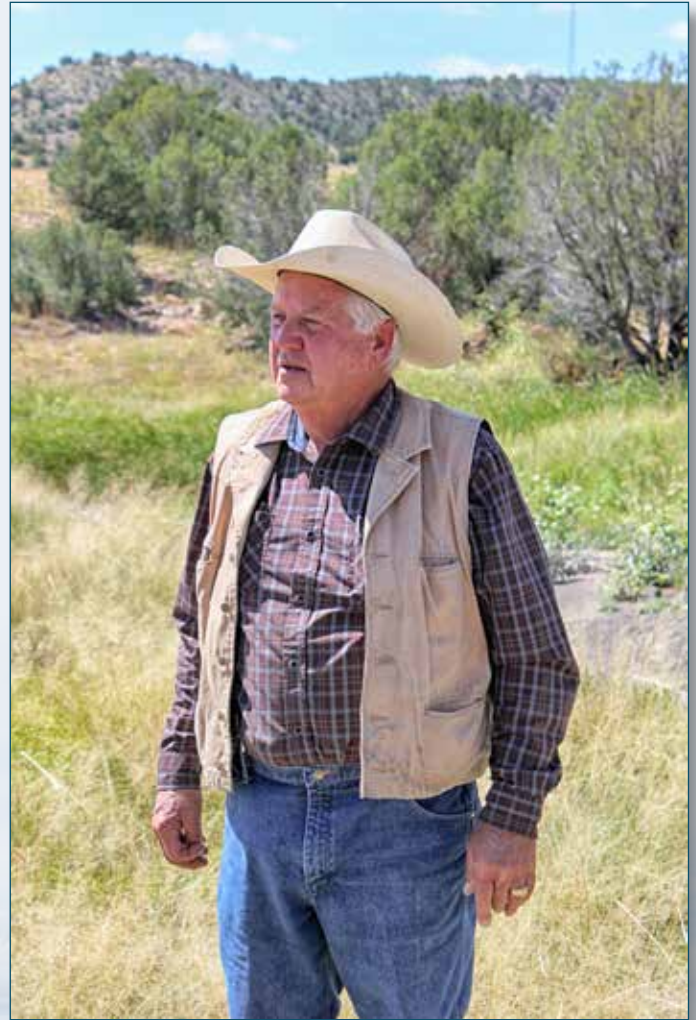


Working with landowner, Greg Moore, and the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in July 2014, NMLC was pleased to complete the third and final phase of conservation easements over the 23,000-acre Wagon Mound Ranch. The first two phases were completed in summer of 2012 and fall of 2013, respectively. This final phase protected the remaining 8,219 acres of Greg Moore's family ranch east of Wagon Mound, forever preserving its productive rangeland and valuable wildlife habitat.

The ranch consists of shortgrass prairie with areas of piñon-juniper woodland and ponderosa pine at higher elevations on Las Mesas de Conjelon. Carrizo Creek, a tributary of the Canadian River, runs across the southern portion of the property. Greg Moore uses sustainable grazing practices and rotates cattle between 20 different pastures on the ranch. He has also designated several areas as wildlife sanctuaries and undertaken habitat improvement projects, particularly along the creek. His tireless work paid off during the

summer of 2014, when the ranch saw excellent rainfall and exploded with diverse native grasses and forbs, the best production in many years.

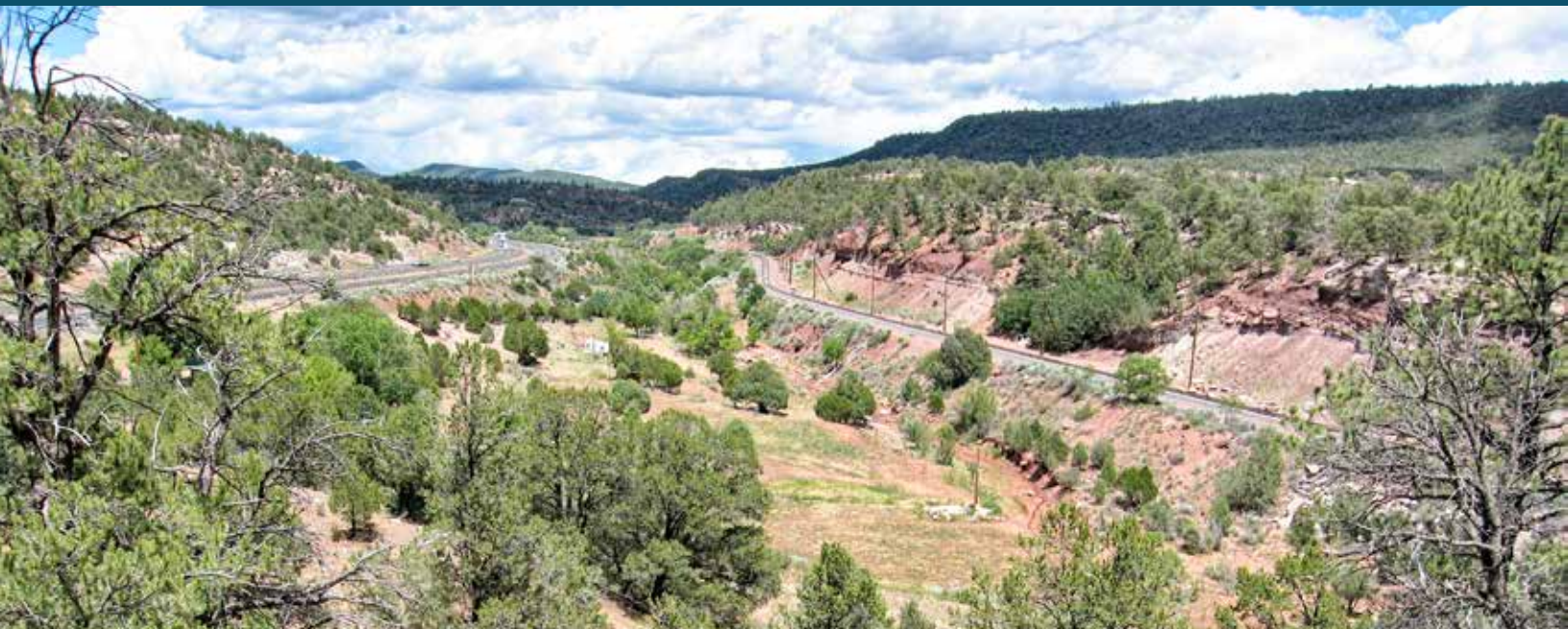
Over the past two years, NMLC was successful in securing \$700,000 through the NRCS Farm and Ranchland Protection Program to help complete the final two phases of easements over Wagon Mound Ranch. Additional support to help complete these easements was provided by the New Cycle and Albert I. Pierce foundations, which have both shown ongoing support for this project and other ranchland conservation work in northeastern New Mexico. ■



Greg Moore, owner of Wagon Mound Ranch

PROTECTING A HISTORICAL LANDMARK

Glorieta Pass Battlefield



Size: 16.7 acres

Location: Santa Fe County/Glorieta Pass

Ecoregion: Southern Rockies

Conservation Values: Cultural-Historical, Recreation and Education, Scenic Open Space

Type of Project: Donated Conservation Easement



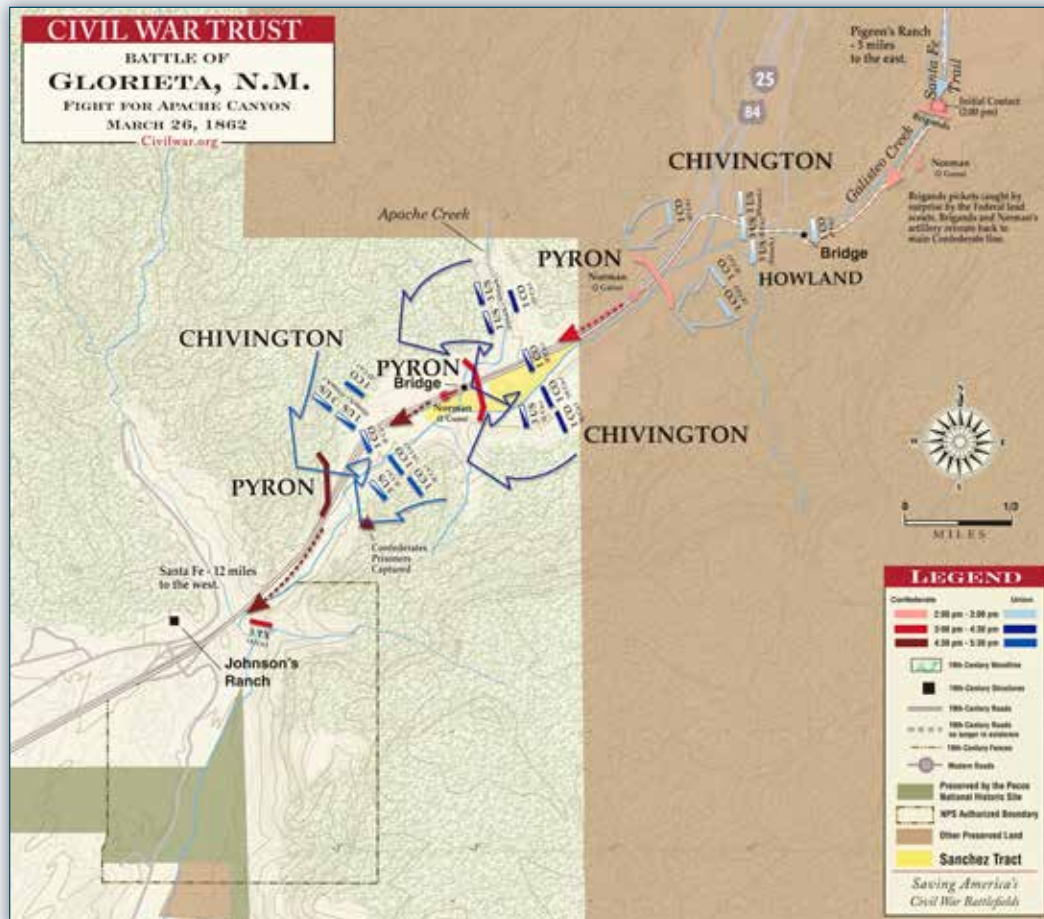
Northern New Mexico has a rich cultural history that is expressed in the historic landscapes that surround us, and that we can often experience daily in our travels. Did you know that driving east from Santa Fe toward Pecos on Interstate 25, just past Cañoncito and Apache Canyon, you are driving through the site of the most important Civil War battlefield in the New Mexico campaign?

The Battle of Glorieta Pass, often dubbed the “Gettysburg of the West,” took place over three days beginning on March 26, 1862. At its conclusion, the Confederate force, consisting mostly of Texas Mounted Rifles under the command of Charles Pyron and William Scurry, were defeated by a Union force consisting of 1st Colorado Infantry force under the command of Col. John Slough and Maj. John Chivington. This Union victory stopped the Confederate westward push for the gold and silver mines of Colorado and California.

In 2013, the non-profit Civil War Trust acquired the 16 acres of private land comprising that portion of the battlefield that lies along a one mile stretch of Galisteo Creek, directly adjacent to Interstate 25, from the Sanchez family with a grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program. One of the requirements of the grant was to place a conservation easement over the property, so in early 2014, the Civil War Trust approached NMLC to hold the easement. As the project evolved, the State of New Mexico's Historic Preservation Office became involved and will co-hold the conservation easement with NMLC. This year, with the assistance of an outside consultant, NMLC completed an assessment of

the cultural resources on the property and anticipates recording the easement in early 2015.

In addition to a major portion of the battlefield, the property also contains traces of both the historic Santa Fe Trail and historic Route 66. NMLC is pleased to have had the opportunity to work with our state and federal partners to protect this important historic property, and anticipates completing the conservation easement early next year. Limited public tours of the site will be provided by the Park Service as part of their interpretive programs at the nearby Pecos National Historic Park.



BUILDING ON MIMBRES RIVER CONSERVATION

Ancheta Springs Ranch



Size: 910 acres

Location: Grant County

Ecoregion: Arizon & New Mexico Mountains

Conservation Values: Wildlife Habitat, Scenic Open Space

Type of Project: Donated Conservation Easement



The completion of a conservation easement over Ancheta Springs Ranch in the fall of 2014 added to NMLC's conservation successes in southwestern New Mexico. This 910-acre ranch, located northeast of San Lorenzo along State Highway 152, sits in the foothills of the Black Range adjacent to the Gila National Forest. Ancheta Creek, a tributary of the Mimbres River, runs through the property, providing seasonal riparian habitat for sensitive bird and amphibian species. The upland portions of the ranch consist of mixed piñon-juniper-oak woodland and desert scrubland that provide habitat for a variety of wildlife, including elk, deer, turkey, javelina, and several species of raptors and other birds. The ranch boasts expansive views of the Black Range to the north and east, and the Mimbres Valley to the west.

NMLC applied for and obtained funding to cover the transactional costs of putting the Ancheta Springs Ranch conservation easement in place. These funds came from a wildlife habitat restoration funded created through a natural resources damages settlement between the Freeport-McMoRan Corporation, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the New Mexico Office of the Natural Resource Trustee. The settlement was intended to mitigate for habitat damages resulting from three Freeport-McMoRan mines in the area. This conservation easement was a good fit for the funding because the landowners, Johnnye Lewis and Vern Westerberg, are dedicated to protecting the property and restoring the riparian habitat of Ancheta Creek, having already completed several restoration projects on the property through the USFWS Partners in Wildlife Program.

NMLC ACHIEVEMENTS

	2013	2014
Conservation projects completed by year	5	4
Conservation easement completed since 2002	58	62
Acres conserved by year	12,581	17,125
Total acres conserved since 2002	127,577	144,702
Total square miles conserved since 2002	199	226
Value of CEs donated by landowners by year	\$3,167,000	\$2,857,650
Total value of CEs donated by landowners since 2002	\$39,044,465	\$41,902,115
Public funds raised for CE & fee acquisition by year	\$995,000	\$988,500
Total public funds raised for CE & fee acquisitions since 2002	\$6,987,935	\$7,976,435

CORAZÓN de la TIERRA

Celebrating Land Conservation in New Mexico

Thanks to the support of wonderful donors, organizations and friends of NMLC, our annual celebration of land conservation, Corazón de la Tierra, was a tremendous success. This year's recipient of the 3rd annual Petchesky Conservation Award was Lesli Allison, Executive Director of the Western Landowners Alliance (WLA) and Co-founder of the Chama Peak Land Alliance (CPLA).

Lesli is a rising star and advocate of the private land conservation movement in the west, where she works with landowners to sustain working landscapes, connect landscapes, protect native species and assure the land is whole, healthy and productive, while remaining a place for families to prosper. Her work at WLA spans several programs, including water resource management and conservation, energy planning, sustainable economies, land use policy and native species, among others. At CPLA, she worked to develop a public-private partnership to protect and restore the Chama and San Juan watersheds in northern New Mexico and southwestern Colorado through collaborative planning and biomass utilization.

Prior to her work with the WLA and CPLA, Lesli managed 34,000 acres of private land in the southern San Juan Mountains of Colorado, where she implemented conservation management through award-winning programs in restoration forestry, prescribed fire, grazing, stream restoration, native trout recovery, hunting and wildlife management, and scientific research and monitoring. Lesli grew up in Pecos and Santa Fe, New Mexico, and is a graduate of Columbia University and St. John's College.

This year's event was held at the Petchesky Conservation Center, with over 150 people in attendance to celebrate NMLC's and WLA's conservation successes. Past recipients of the Petchesky Conservation Award have included Jim Winder (2013), a rancher from southwest New Mexico and co-founder of the Quivira Coalition; and Bill deBuys (2012), an award winning environmental author, conservationist and founding board member of the Valles Caldera Trust currently living in Trampas, New Mexico. ■

The 2015 Corazón de la Tierra event will be held on Saturday, October 3rd at the Petchesky Conservation Center in Santa Fe.





The Jane Wing Petchesky Conservation Award is given annually by NMLC to an individual, organization or public agency for outstanding contributions to private or public land and/or natural resource conservation in New Mexico. The award is given in honor of Jane Wing Petchesky (1921–2011), a long-time Santa Fe resident who was committed to open space preservation, water conservation, community service and philanthropy in support of these causes. In 2009, Jane donated her house and 282 acres of land to NMLC. Renamed in her honor, the Petchesky Conservation Center now serves both as the headquarters for our statewide operations as well as a community resource center.

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME

Petchesky Conservation Center Outdoor Event Facility

Over the past several years, NMLC has hosted outdoor events at the Petchesky Conservation Center to celebrate conservation success stories in New Mexico and to honor individuals who have contributed to protecting the important land and water resources across our magnificent state. In 2014 the Board and staff at NMLC began to envision a permanent outdoor event facility that could accommodate group events for our organization, as well as for other community or private functions.

The Petchesky Ranch provides an amazing setting, as a refuge amidst urban residential growth, with its quietude and sweeping views. We envision sharing the experience of this place, where we are so lucky to work.

So, we contacted Surroundings Studio, a landscape design and architectural firm based in Santa Fe.

After studying the site, they delivered an inspired conceptual plan to us. It features a stage with outdoor seating, and a pavilion in the area formerly occupied by a “round pen” that was used by the Petcheskys for training quarter horses. This space is designed to be expanded outward to the southwest, with stunning views of the Ortiz and Sandia mountains, for meetings, educational events and celebrations. In their design, Surroundings also addressed access, sustainable landscaping, and additional parking. NMLC hopes to turn this dream into reality in the not too distant future! ■



LEGEND

- 01 PORTAL WITH STAGE AT EAST SIDE
- 02 BUILT IN AMPHITHEATER
- 03 COVERED ROUND PEN EVENT SPACE
- 04 LOWER PARKING LOT
- 05 DROP OFF
- 06 BUS PARKING
- 07 VIEW AREA
- 08 RAISED CROSSING
- 09 TRAIL TO PARKING AND FUTURE TRAILS
- 10 SPLIT ROAD ENTRY
- 11 SOUND BARRIER WALL
- 12 ADA PARKING
- 13 COTTONWOOD / PORTAL SMALL EVENT SPACE
- 14 STABILIZED CRUSHER FINES
- 15 EXHIBITS
- 16 KEY MAP SPLIT ROAD ENTRY FROM RICHARDS AVE.

OPEN SPACE MEASURE PASSES IN BERNALILLO COUNTY

As a result of the fall 2014 elections, the residents of Bernalillo County voted to expand an existing mill levy for open space preservation, with 72% of the voters supporting the measure. Through a collaborative effort between the Trust for Public Land, the Land Trust Alliance, the Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust and NMLC, a successful outreach campaign was organized to support this measure. The approved measure establishes a 0.20 mill levy for 15 years for the purposes of acquiring, improving, operating, and maintaining natural areas, open spaces, and cultural, historic and nature education sites within the county to protect drinking water sources, wildlife habitat, and agricultural land, including along the Rio Grande.



FEDERAL TAX INCENTIVE FOR CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Land Trusts and Landowners in Your Community Request Your Help to Make this Important Conservation Tool Permanent

Since 2006, an enhanced income tax deduction has allowed family farmers, ranchers, and other private landowners to receive a significant tax benefit for donating a conservation easement on their land. Unfortunately, it expired at the end of 2014!

Conservation easements allow private landowners to permanently retire development rights to protect significant natural resources. The enhanced conservation easement tax incentive opened the door to voluntary, landowner-led conservation on millions of acres of important wildlife habitat, farmland, and scenic open space across the country. The incentive also enhances “bargain sales” of easements purchased by local, state and federal conservation agencies.

Donating development rights to land – often a family’s most valuable asset – requires careful planning and consideration. It often takes years from the initial conversations with a landowner before a conservation easement is executed. Landowners considering a perpetual commitment of their land should not be pressured by an artificial deadline, and many will never even begin the process without the reassurance of a permanent incentive.

A survey by the Land Trust Alliance showed that this incentive has helped America’s 1,700 land trusts increase the pace of conservation by a third – to over a million conserved acres a year.

In February 2015, bipartisan legislation to restore and make the enhanced incentive permanent was introduced in the House and Senate. The Conservation Easement Incentive Act was introduced in the House by Reps. Mike Kelly (R-PA) and Mike Thompson (D-CA) as H.R. 641 and in the Senate by Sens. Dean Heller (R-NV) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) as S. 330. President Obama’s Fiscal Year 2016 budget request also endorses making the tax incentive permanent.

The House voted 279-127 on February 12 to pass H.R. 641 as part of a larger package of charitable bills. This package is similar to those voted in the House in July and December of 2014, containing incentives for donations of food to food banks, and provisions for tax-free charitable donations from IRAs.

Now we need your help to secure co-sponsors for S. 330 in the Senate. Please contact Sens. Udall and Heinrich and ask them to consider co-sponsoring this important legislation. ■



How the Enhanced Easement Incentive Works

The enhanced incentive helps landowners of modest means choose conservation by:

- Raising the maximum deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) in any year to 50%;
- Allowing qualified farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their AGI; and
- Increasing the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 6 to 16 years.

Without the enhanced easement incentive, an agricultural landowner earning \$50,000 a year who donated a conservation easement worth \$1 million could take a total of no more than \$90,000 in tax deductions! Under the enhanced incentive, that landowner can take as much as \$800,000 in tax deductions – still less than the full value of their donation, but a significant increase.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS - *Executive Committee*



Cullen Hallmark, Chair, Santa Fe, NM

Cullen is an attorney with the Santa Fe firm of Garber and Hallmark, P.C. He is an experienced cyclist, backpacker, river runner, cross-country skier, and gardener. He has been a member of the Quivira Coalition for ten years, and manages its Red Canyon Reserve in Socorro County. He holds a B.A. from St. John's College and a J.D. from the University of Texas.



Moo Thorpe, Vice Chair and Secretary, 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.



Dale Armstrong, Treasurer, Albuquerque, NM

Dale was born and raised on a ranch in Quemado, NM. Over the past three decades, he has grown TLC Plumbing & Utility from a one-man shop into one of the premier service companies in the state with over 300 employees. He and his wife Gail have four children, four grandchildren and operate a cattle ranch in Magdalena.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Deanna Archuleta, Board Member, Albuquerque, NM

Deanna owns a small consulting firm specializing in government outreach with a focus on water and energy. She was formerly a Senior Advisor on Cultural and Historic Preservation (with an emphasis on Latino Heritage) and also served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science in the U.S. Department of the Interior, where she oversaw the Bureau of Reclamation and the Geological Survey. Deanna earned a B.A. in Sociology & Communications from the University of Washington, an M.A. in Sociology from the University of New Mexico, and is currently finishing her doctoral degree in Sociology at UNM.



Anthony L. (Tony) Benson, Past Chair & Founding Board Member, Taos, NM

Tony is a retired geologist who serves as an Adjunct Professor at UNM-Taos and a member of the Board of Supervisors of the Taos Soil and Water Conservation District. He is also a Board member of the Taos Land Trust, New Mexico Society for Range Management, New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts, BLM Resource Advisory Council, and the New Mexico Geological Society Foundation. Tony earned his B.S., M.S. and PhD degrees in geology from Ohio State University.



Sayre Gerhart, Board Member, Corrales, NM

Sayre is an architect with Architectural Research Consultants in Albuquerque who has been active in land-use planning and land conservation issues for many years. She served as councilor and Mayor Pro Tem for the Village of Corrales, where she initiated, funded and implemented projects focused on issues such as land use and preservation of farmland and wildlife habitat. Sayre holds a B.A. from Princeton University and an M.A. in Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania.



Claudette Horn, Board Member, Albuquerque, NM

Claudette is an Environmental Manager at PNM Resources. She has served on the United Way of Central New Mexico Women in Philanthropy Council. Claudette holds a B.A. in University Studies from the University of New Mexico.



John F. (Jack) McCarthy, Board Member, Santa Fe, NM

Jack McCarthy, a native of Taos, is an attorney practicing with the firm of Cuddy & McCarthy, LLP, in Santa Fe. He is Past President of the New Mexico State Bar and the New Mexico Bar Foundation, and has extensive experience on the boards of non-profit organizations. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Benedict's College and a law degree from the University of New Mexico.

BOARD (continued)



Alan Overton, Board Member, Santa Fe, NM

Alan is a Senior Vice-President and Commercial Lender with Century Bank in Santa Fe. He has 30-years of commercial banking experience and has worked with property owners in southwest Colorado on banking transactions involving conservation easements. Alan has a B.A. in Business Administration & Finance from the University of Houston.



Elizabeth H. Richardson, Founding Board Member, Los Angeles, CA

Elizabeth worked for Colorado Open Lands, a statewide land trust, for ten years and served on the Board of the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts for twelve. She continues to be actively involved in the land trust movement by volunteering for the Southern California Council of Land Trusts. Elizabeth 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.

BOARD ADVISORS



Sid Goodloe, Board Advisor, Capitan, NM

Sid has been owner-operator of the Carrizo Valley Ranch for more than five decades. He is a Board member of the Quivira Coalition and of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association, a founding member of the New Mexico Riparian Council and an international livestock consultant. Sid and his wife Cheryl founded the Southern Rockies Agricultural Land Trust in 1998 and operated the organization until 2011 when they transferred their easements to NMLC and subsequently dissolved the organization. Sid has a B. S. in Animal Science and a M.S. in Range Science from Texas A & M University.



John B. (Jack) Wright, Former Chair & Board Advisor, Las Cruces, NM

Jack has been professor of geography at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces since 1990. He served on the NMLC Board of Directors from 2003 through 2011, as Chair for eight of those years. He has consulted in the land trust field for 30 years and has designed more than 100 conservation easements in New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana. Jack has earned three degrees in geography: a B.A. from the University of Massachusetts, a M.A. from the University of Montana and a PhD from the University of California at Berkeley.



Joseph R. Montoya, Former Chair & Board Advisor, 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. He served on the NMLC Board of Directors from 2004 through 2013, as Vice-Chair for eight years and then as Chair for two years. 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.

STAFF



J. Scott Wilber, Executive Director

Scott has over 30 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 Conservation Director and was named Executive Director in 2006. Previously, Scott worked for The Trust for Public Land, Colorado Open Lands, The Nature Conservancy, the Tropical Forest Foundation, and the U.S. Forest Service. He holds a B.S. in Forest Management from Northern Arizona University, and an M.A. in Geography and Latin American Studies from the University of New Mexico.



Beth Mills, Conservation Director

Beth previously worked as a senior planner for many years with Santa Fe County's Open Space and Trails Program and as a Land Use Planner/Project Manager with the Sonoran Institute in southwestern Colorado. With a background in cultural geography, Beth is particularly interested in the relationships between communities and their environment. Beth earned her PhD in Geography from the University of California, an M.A. in Geography from the University of New Mexico, and a B.A. in English from Wesleyan.



Ariel Patashnik, Conservation Specialist

Ariel grew up in San Diego and lived for six years in Connecticut while attending college. Ariel held a number of seasonal positions in Oregon, Washington and Wyoming, and spent two years working as an Americorps volunteer for NMLC prior to becoming a fulltime staff member in 2014. She earned her B.A. in Environmental Studies from Yale University and her M.S. in Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.



Lisa Adkins, Finance & Administration Manager

Lisa has more than 20 years of experience providing support in various areas of business and finance, and previously worked for many years at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. She earned a B.A. in Accounting and a M.B.A. from the College of Santa Fe. 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.



Thommy Thompson, Intern

Thommy Thompspon, a native of Gallup, New Mexico, worked as our conservation intern for the 2014 season, supporting our annual conservation easement monitoring. He has a background in outdoor education and ecology, and is currently finishing his graduate degree in geography from the University of New Mexico, specializing in geographic information systems (GIS).

These interns learn fast - supervising the Executive Director on a flat tire change in the field

FINANCIALS

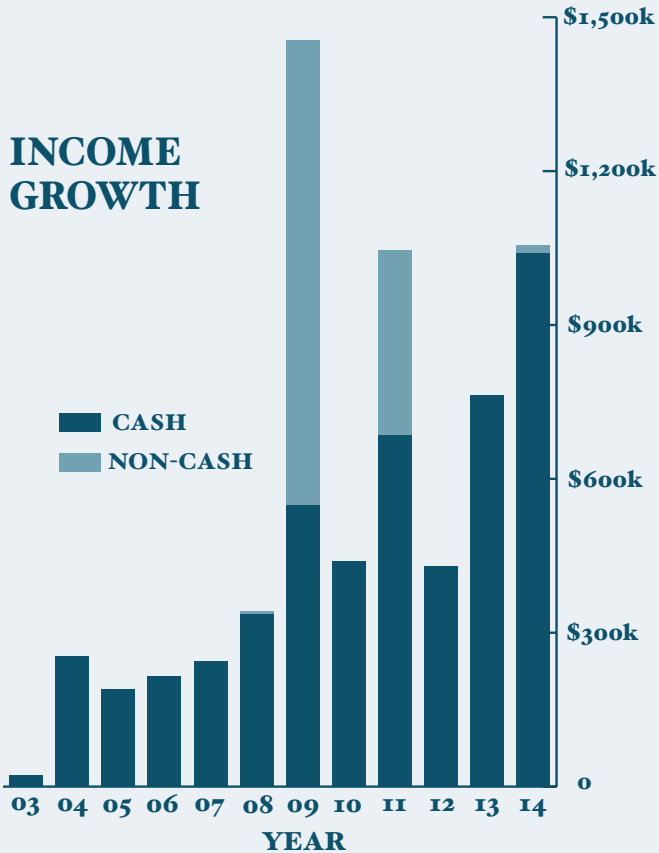
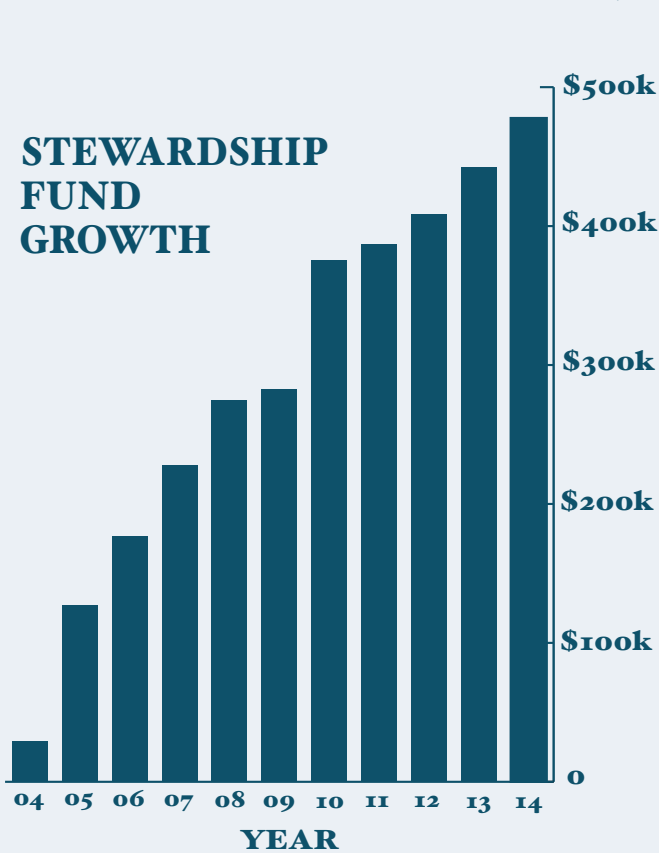
Statements of Financial Position - June 30, 2013 & 2014

Assets	2013	2014
Cash	\$120,969	\$229,181
Promises to give	\$52,850	\$667,142
Prepaid expenses	\$7,254	\$15,355
Land, building and equipment	\$1,267,940	\$1,193,722
Stewardship fund	\$442,672	\$477,813
Deferred loan cost	\$4,969	\$4,256
Other assets-deposit	\$0	\$30,000
Total Assets	\$1,896,654	\$2,617,469

Net Assets	2013	2014
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$1,477,842	\$1,459,908
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$53,350	\$689,629
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	\$0	\$0
Total Net Assets	\$1,531,192	\$2,149,537
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,896,654	\$2,617,469

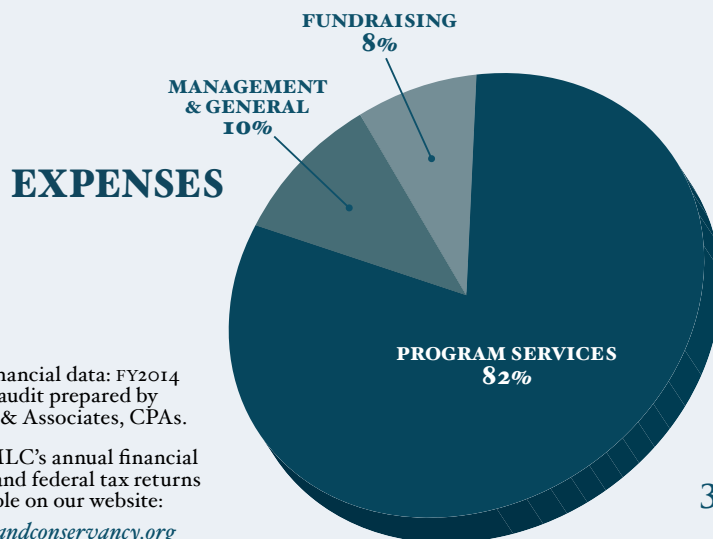
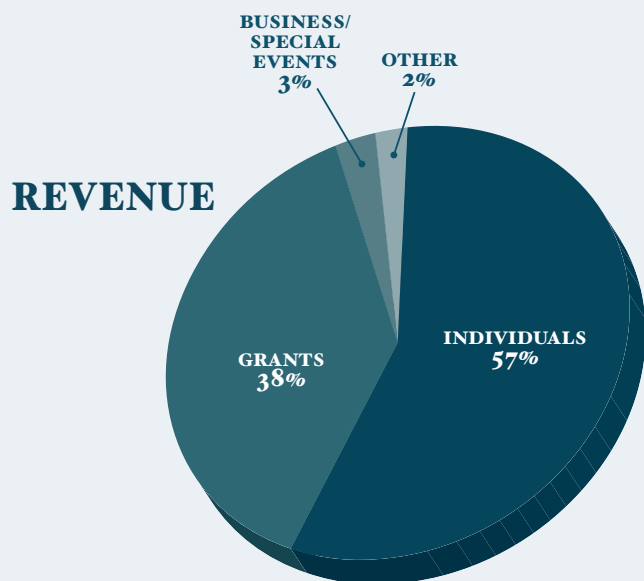
Liabilities	2013	2014
Accounts payable*	\$37,068	\$243,415
Accrued expenses	\$8,198	\$10,007
Line of Credit*	\$100,000	\$0
Current maturities of mortgage payable	\$5,682	\$6,021
Mortgage payable, less current maturities	\$214,514	\$208,489
Total liabilities	\$365,462	\$467,932

* for land and conservation easement acquisitions



Statement of Activities - 2013 & 2014

	2013			2014		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Unrestricted	TOTAL	Unrestricted	Temporarily Unrestricted	TOTAL
Support and Revenue						
Landowner Contributions	\$202,150	\$46,600	\$248,750	\$431,302	\$436,030	\$867,332
Private Grants	\$74,750	\$180,750	\$255,500	\$47,976	\$448,000	\$495,976
Individual Contributions	\$31,886		\$31,886	\$43,309	\$31,440	\$74,749
Government Grants					\$160,000	\$160,000
Corporate Contributions	\$97,979		\$97,979	\$14,445		\$14,445
Special Events	\$21,510		\$21,510	\$35,805		\$35,805
Other Income	\$2,404		\$2,404	\$3,900		\$3,900
Investment Income	\$14,065		\$14,065	\$24,607		\$24,607
Fees for Services				\$35,000		\$35,000
Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$319,433	(\$319,433)	\$0	\$439,191	(\$439,191)	\$0
Total Support and Revenue	\$764,177	(\$92,083)	\$672,094	\$1,075,535	\$636,279	\$1,711,814
Expenses						
Program Services	\$643,825		\$643,825	\$848,711		\$848,711
Management and General	\$87,850		\$87,850	\$104,322		\$104,322
Fundraising	\$63,522		\$63,522	\$86,436		\$86,436
Total Expenses	\$795,197		\$795,197	\$1,039,469		\$1,039,469
Net Assets, Beginning of year	\$1,588,862	\$145,433	\$1,734,295	\$1,477,842	\$53,350	\$1,531,192
Net Assets, End of year	\$1,477,842	\$53,350	\$1,531,192	\$1,459,905	\$689,629	\$2,149,534
Change in Net Assets	(\$111,020)	(\$92,083)	(\$203,103)	\$17,937	\$636,279	\$618,342



Source of financial data: FY2014 financial audit prepared by Barraclough & Associates, CPAs.

Copies of NMLC's annual financial audit reports and federal tax returns are available on our website:

www.nmlandconservancy.org

DONORS

Pioneer (\$25,000+)

AIP Foundation
Anya and Henry Bagley Trust
Jim Keller
Moore Land and Cattle
New Cycle Foundation
Pioneer LLC
Union Land and Grazing Co.
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Village of Corrales
Wells Fargo

Leader (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

McCune Foundation
Robert Quintana
Kevin Sweazea

Benefactor (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Ducks Unlimited
Kent Halla
Land Trust Alliance
New Mexico Tax Credit Alliance
Trust For Public Land

Guardian (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Tony Benson
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The Connable Office
Deer Canyon Preserve
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Sam Holdsworth
LEF Foundation
William Moir
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Norcross Foundation
San Pedro Creek Estates HOA

Protector (\$500 - \$999)

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Kenneth and Eunice Vellon
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Mildred Ortiz
Linda Osborne
Melinne Owen
Dianna Parker
David Policansky
Ashley Pryor
Edward and Melanie Ranney
John Richardons/Blackstone Ranch
Steven Robinson
Mark Schmidt

Delia Scholes
Virginia Smith
Helene Taylor
Russell Toal
Ute Creek Cattle Co
Pershing-Charles Wellborn
Robert Wilber
Sharon Woods
John Wright

Friend (\$1 - \$99)

Judith Anderson
Community Bank
Allan Beezley
Charles Bonfanti
Rob Born

Jacob Caldwell
Marta Chopera
Linda Davis
Rio de la Vista
Cynthia Dixon
Elizabeth Dwyer
Martha Freeman
Anna Heiniger
Wayne Kirkby
Robin Knox
Jennifer Kruger
Charlotte Latier
Barbara Lenssen
Lucy Lippard
Kimberly Macloud
Deborah Madison

Norma McCallan
John Mitchell
Elizabeth Monagle
Evelyn Moran
Letitia Morris
Leslie Schmick
Hampton Sides
Mary Stuever
Craig Taggart

Partners

Chama Peak Land Alliance
Forest Trust
Land Trust Alliance
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural

Resources Department
New Mexico Office of Natural
Resources Trustee
Quivira Coalition
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Natural Resources Conservation
Service
Village of Corrales

CORAZÓN de la TIERRA - Celebrating Land Conservation in New Mexico

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KSFR Santa Fe Public Radio
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Los Alamos National Bank
Jack and Kathy McCarthy
Judith Naumburg
New Mexico Tax Credit Alliance
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance

Dan and Ashlyn Perry
Pam Roy
PNM Resources
Reineke Construction
Elizabeth Richardson
Michael Scisco and Neri Holguin
Surrounding Studios
Quivira Coalition
Marin and Marc Talbert
Thornburg Foundation
TLC Plumbing
WA Group
Western Landowners Alliance
Wild Birds Unlimited

Special Thanks

Bear Mountain Lodge
Cave Creek Ranch
Congeries Consignment
Cowboy Red
The Feed Bin
John Hawkins - Farrier
KGB Spirits
La Cumbre Brewing Co.
The Mineshaft Tavern
Montecristi Hats
Oshara Village, HOA
Al Quintana
REI
Alan Terrell

CONSIDER MAKING A PLANNED GIFT TO NMLC

When you include the New Mexico Land Conservancy (NMLC) in your estate plans, you are making a gift for future generations to experience the land we cherish. A planned gift is a lasting gift to ensure we have the resources to honor our commitment to conserving and stewarding the land you love.

By making a planned gift to our organization, you may be able to provide yourself and your family with valuable tax benefits. Gifts to NMLC are not subject to gift or estate taxes.

There are many ways to include NMLC in your estate plans. Some of these include:

Bequests: One of the most common and lasting forms of planned giving is a bequest. You can designate a specific dollar amount or percentage of your estate to be donated to NMLC.

Gifts of retirement plans/IRAs: You can designate NMLC as a beneficiary of all or part of the remainder of your IRA or retirement plan. Distributions of your IRA or retirement plan to your heirs can be subject to income and estate taxes. By designating NMLC as a beneficiary, 100% of the balance can be used by NMLC.

Gifts of life insurance policies: If you have more life insurance coverage than is needed, you can consider transferring ownership of your policy to the NMLC in order to receive a charitable income tax deduction.

Gifts of real estate: Gifts of real estate to NMLC can allow you to save on taxes and provide you with income. NMLC will accept gifts of real estate for conservation lands intended to be protected and real estate which is intended to be sold by NMLC to support our work.

Please contact your financial planner to discuss options that meet your estate planning and philanthropic needs.



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Fax: 505.986.3806
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www.nmlandconservancy.org

NEW MEXICO
LAND CONSERVANCY

Conserving Land. Preserving Heritage.

