

# New Mexico Land Conservancy

Conserving Land. Preserving Heritage.

2015  
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 an accredited, 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 and the Southwest by 2037. To date, NMLC has helped permanently protect over 149,000 acres of high conservation value land throughout New Mexico and completed two projects in southeast Arizona.



*Photo Courtesy of Bob Wicks*

# OUR GOALS

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

## CONSERVATION

*Sustainable land conservation for New Mexico and the Southwest*

- To strategically increase the quantity and quality of land conservation in New Mexico and the Southwest.
- 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 and the Southwest*

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

## CAPACITY BUILDING

*Greater capacity for land conservation in New Mexico and the Southwest*

- 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 and the Southwest.



# 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 and the Southwest.



*Photo Courtesy of Mark Watson*



## *Dear Friends,*

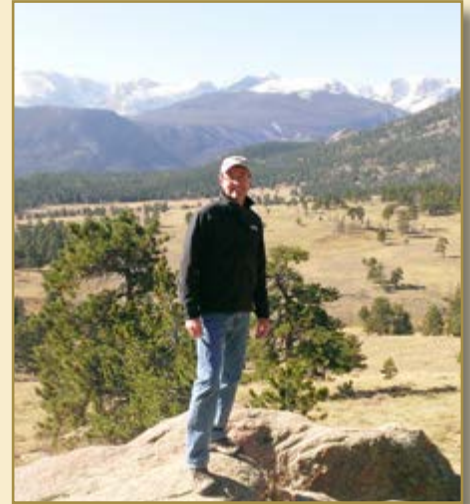
The recent, illegal occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon by a small but vocal group of discontented ranchers and activists calling for changes in public lands grazing policy and privatization of our public lands has gained much attention. The armed occupation resulted in an eight-week standoff with federal, state and local authorities before ending with one rancher fatality and the apprehension of several of the occupiers.

In light of the event, it is easy to overlook all the positive efforts in recent years between the ranching community, conservation organizations and public agencies to advance the sustainable use, conservation and preservation of our western rangelands. We must not allow anomalies like the Malheur tragedy to allow us to fall back on the old stereotypes that only serve to perpetuate myths and fear, and polarize people rather than bring them together to try to solve problems and work together in a respectful and collaborative way.

For years, ranching and livestock grazing have been viewed by many environmentalists as detrimental to our western rangelands, the wildlife, the water and even our climate. From the perspective of these individuals and organizations, there is no logical way to support ranching and cowboy culture, and still be a “friend” of the earth. We must recognize that ranchers have often spent their entire lives trying to make a living from the land while dealing with the issues and complexities surrounding the resources on it. Their bond goes well beyond that of a “friend” as their livelihoods depend on how well they manage those issues and complexities.

Over the last few decades, there has been new awareness of the benefits of managed grazing, the stewardship that ranchers bring to our western rangelands and the power of collaboration – all of which are essential to ensuring healthy western landscapes. As a result of this new awareness, conservation ranching and ranchland conservation movements have emerged that are working to sustain not only the productivity of our western rangelands, but also their health and ecological integrity both for livestock and biodiversity. This is important not only to maintain the continuity and viability of open and intact western landscapes, as well as the associated ranching culture and heritage, but to also ensure that the wildlife habitat and migration corridors, scenic open spaces, cultural resources and recreational opportunities that these lands provide are also preserved.

At the heart of the conservation ranching movement in New Mexico are a number of rancher led collaborations that have evolved such as the Malpais Borderlands Group, the Quivira Coalition, the Chama Peak Land Alliance and the Western Landowners Alliance. These groups are promoting research, restoration, best management practices and supportive policies for our private rangelands, which comprise nearly half of the land base in our



state. In addition, conservation groups, land trusts and public agencies are pursuing complementary efforts to place the highest priority, highest conservation value rangelands under cooperative management agreements and/or conservation easements so as to ensure the long-term protection of their resources. We feel these efforts will be increasingly valuable with growing populations and diminishing working lands.

We are proud to be part of this new thinking, cross-fertilization and collaboration along with other like-minded organizations in the larger, ever-evolving conservation movement. Over the last 14 years, we have placed nearly 150,000 acres of high conservation value land under conservation easement, over 90% of which has been on working rangelands consisting of prairies, pinyon-juniper savannas and woodlands, and desert grass and scrublands. We have only been able to do this with the cooperation and support of ranchers and other private landowners, conservation and agricultural organizations, public land management agencies and concerned citizens who care about the future of our land, resources, recreation and agriculture.



*Photo Courtesy of Evalyn Bemis*

New Mexico and the West is comprised of a mosaic of public and private lands, which are put to many uses for human benefit and enjoyment. If we, as either residents of or visitors to this state and the West, want to continue enjoying our wildlife, wide open landscapes and western heritage then we have to resist the temptation to let events such as Malheur to alienate us from the ranching community and forego the incredible progress that has been made from intelligent and peaceful collaboration. We must continue to recognize the important role of ranching, not only as an industry but as a community of people who are the custodians of much of our open lands, which are at the very core of our New Mexican and Western experience. The role of ranchers who are helping to sustainably preserve and steward the private lands and public grazing allotments deserves not only our appreciation but our support. We hope that you will agree.

*For the land,*

Handwritten signature of J. Scott Wilber in blue ink.

J. Scott Wilber

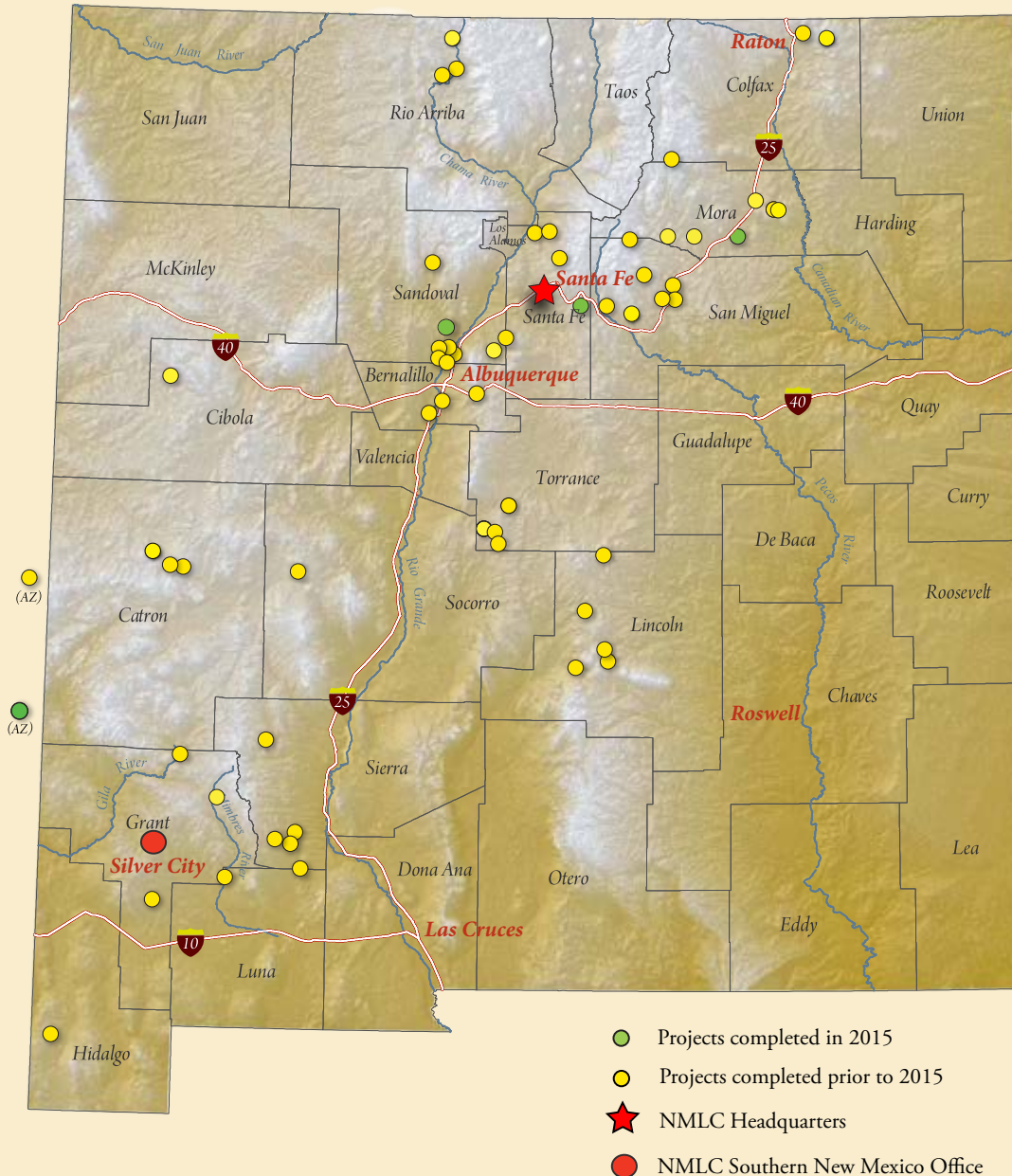


*Photo Courtesy of Clay Ellis*

# COMPLETED CONSERVATION PROJECTS

2002 - 2015

149,705 Acres Conserved





# NMLC ACHIEVEMENTS

	2014	2015
Conservation projects completed by year	4	5
Conservation easements completed since 2002	62	67
Acres conserved by year	17,125	5,066
Total acres conserved since 2002	144,702	149,705
Total square miles conserved since 2002	226	234
Value of CEs donated by landowners by year	\$2,857,650	\$1,843,002
Total value of CEs donated by landowners since 2002	\$41,902,115	\$43,428,117
Public funds raised for CEs & fee acquisitions by year	\$988,500	\$217,000
Total public funds raised for CEs & fee acquisitions since 2002	\$7,976,435	\$8,193,435



# IN HONOR OF A GOOD FRIEND & GLOBAL CITIZEN

**O**n December 1, 2015, our dear friend, Elisabeth Howe Simon, passed away in her home at the River Ranch near Faywood, New Mexico at the age of 95. She was the wife of the late Gene Simons, a Mimbres Valley rancher and Pulitzer Prize winning newspaperman. She and Gene moved to southwest New Mexico from Pennsylvania in the 1970s after selling the Valley News Dispatch, a regional newspaper in western Pennsylvania founded by her father, to the Gannett Corp., so that he could pursue his lifelong dream of being a cowboy.

After operating a grazing allotment on the Gila National Forest for several years, the Simons acquired the River Ranch or “Rancho del Rio” in 1979. While Gene ranched and wrote a weekly column for the Deming Headlight, Elisabeth pursued her interests in reading, advocacy for human rights and world peace through her involvement with the Quakers, community affairs, gardening, cooking and nutrition.

In 2005, the Simons sold part of their ranch to New Mexico State Parks to expand the nearby City of Rocks State Park and subsequently made a substantial donation to the State Parks Foundation to support the park’s operations. They held onto the main part of the ranch along the river and a small parcel of land across Highway 61. This small parcel, which was always Elisabeth’s favorite part of the ranch, contained some of the same, unique rock formations from which the state park takes its name.



In 2010, as part of their estate planning, Elisabeth and Gene entered into an agreement with NMLC to first place their remaining land on the River Ranch under a conservation easement and then subsequently sell the ranch to the State. The easement was completed in 2011 and over 100 members from the community and throughout New Mexico attended a celebration that fall. In March 2012, Gene passed away, but Elisabeth continued to live on the ranch through a life estate agreement even after the ranch was sold to New Mexico Game & Fish in 2014. Like her husband Gene, Elisabeth died where she wanted to – on the ranch – which is now being managed as one of New Mexico’s newest state wildlife management areas, thanks to their foresight and generosity.

Although it was only for a relatively short period of time, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to get to know the Simons. Every time I came to visit the ranch I was welcomed with warm smiles and a wonderful meal. Like Gene, Elisabeth had a way of lighting up a room and a conversation. I heard from a family friend that, a few days after her passing, a mountain lion was seen lurking about the ranch house. I can’t help but wonder if it wasn’t coming to pay its respects to Gene and Elisabeth. They will be missed by the many people whose lives they touched, but their spirit will live on at the Rancho del Rio. ■

*Scott Wilber*







# LANDSCAPE SCALE CONSERVATION IN NORTHEASTERN NEW MEXICO

The day to day practice of protecting land for future generations of people and wildlife often means focusing our work on one landowner and one property at a time. But over the past several years, NMLC has begun to put individual pieces of private land protection together to achieve a vision for conserving the integrity of the larger, regional landscape of northeastern New Mexico.

What makes land and water conservation in this part of our state so compelling? Begin with the vast, open views of the grasslands and ranch country from the Interstate 25 corridor as you travel between Las Vegas and Raton Pass. Then, add the distant mountain vistas of the Sangre de Cristo Front Range; the historic cultural landscape of the Old Santa Fe Trail; and the mesa, canyons, grasslands and ranching heritage of the “Hi-Lo Country.” The result is a unique, rural, historic *New Mexican* landscape, rich in its diversity of people, plants and animals.

Important to reaching our greater conservation goals, northeastern New Mexico already supports a patchwork of public lands dedicated to the protection of wildlife and habitat. At the federal level, these include the Las Vegas National Wildlife Area, the Maxwell National Wildlife Refuge and, more recently, the Rio Mora National Wildlife Area, along with two units of the Kiowa

National Grasslands. Coupled with seasonal playas lakes that dot these high plains, which provide wetland habitat for resident and migrating avian species, this interwoven fabric of public and private land provides the foundation for our landscape scale conservation initiative. One key objective of our initiative is to achieve un-fragmented landscapes that provide corridors and buffers within which wildlife can move and migrate through the region.

In 2015, NMLC’s planning and land protection work in northeastern New Mexico took significant strides forward. The second of three phased easements was completed on the historic Fort Union Ranch in December, protecting an additional 2,527 acres along Dog Creek on the southeast end of the ranch. This adds up to a total of 39,400 acres that NMLC has protected to date with 17 conservation easements on 13 properties in northeastern New Mexico. In 2016, we will continue to work on land protection projects on the historic Fort Union Ranch, as well as with other private landowners in the Watrous and Springer area, and in the watersheds of the Gallinas, Mora, Sapello, Cimarron and Canadian rivers. We will also continue our outreach to ranchers in this historic landscape, bringing them the information and inspiration they need to support their vision for the preservation of land and heritage on their working rangelands. ■







# THE FOREST TRUST SHARES ITS LAND PROTECTION LEGACY WITH NMLC

The entire conservation community in New Mexico owes a debt of gratitude to Henry Carey, Executive Director of the Forest Trust, the first land trust established in New Mexico in 1984. Henry was one of the pioneers in private land protection in northern New Mexico. As an early board member of the national Land Trust Alliance (LTA), he was essential to the founding and growth of the land trust movement in New Mexico after acquiring his first conservation property in the 1970s and, shortly thereafter, establishing the Forest Trust.

The Forest Trust holds conservation easements on approximately 8,500 acres of private forest and ranchland in northern New Mexico. When the Forest Trust was founded it had several programmatic goals, which included holding conservation easements. But most of the organization's work involved community forestry, which is concerned with creating economic value and jobs for forest dependent communities. This led to the evolution of a larger, separate, national organization called the Forest Guild.

In 2014, NMLC was honored when Henry approached us to consider the transfer of several Forest Trust

conservation easements to our land trust. In recent years, the mission of the Forest Trust has shifted more towards management of forested lands and away from the acquisition of conservation easements. Within the same timeframe, NMLC was seeking, and was successful in achieving, accreditation from LTA.

NMLC's Board of Directors and staff are excited to be accepting up to five easements from the Forest Trust this spring. In 2015, much of the background work needed to prepare for the conservation easement transfers was conducted by NMLC and Forest Trust staff, in cooperation with the landowners.

Altogether, we will be adding 5,420 acres to our portfolio of easements. These easements include: Cerro Bonito Ranch (1,784 acres, San Miguel County), Ranchos del Rito (2,500 acres, San Miguel County), El Barro Canyon (300 acres, San Miguel County), Twin Willows Ranch (817 acres, Mora County), and Cañones Creek (19 acres, Rio Arriba County). NMLC is grateful to the Forest Trust for the opportunity to work with these dedicated landowners and help steward their extraordinary properties into the future. ■





# BUILDING A LAND PROTECTION PROGRAM IN SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO



Southern New Mexico is characterized by an incredible variety of natural landscapes and ecosystems, including portions of the Rio Grande, Pecos, Gila and Mimbres watersheds. Scattered across the southern part of the state are a number of free-standing mountain ranges including the Zunis, the San Mateos, the Sacramentos, the Organs, the Black and Gila ranges, and the Peloncillos. In between these mountains are vast stretches of pinyon-juniper and oak woodlands, grasslands and Chihuahuan Desert.

These mountains, woodlands, grasslands and deserts are home to a variety of wildlife and the southwest corner of the state boasts some of the highest biological diversity in the state and the nation! This includes unique and rare species such as Coues white-tail deer, southwest willow flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo, Gila trout and Chiricahua leopard frog. The installation of large telescopes to monitor solar flares and the “Very Large Array”, installed to observe space outside the earth’s

atmosphere, are testimony to the distinctiveness of southern New Mexico’s clean air, clear skies and dramatic night skies, free of light pollution.

These landscapes have also long supported a history of diverse agrarian cultures. This agricultural tradition continues to be important to the local economies of many parts of southern New Mexico, ranging from Alamogordo pistachio orchards, Portales sweet potatoes and peanuts, Hondo Valley apple and pear orchards, Hatch green chili and Rio Grande pecans. These irrigated croplands, along with ranching and other farming practices, have helped maintain local businesses, create employment, provide food to our growing population, and maintain the open landscape that we have come to enjoy throughout southern New Mexico.

In an effort to increase support for the protection of southern New Mexico’s unique landscapes and incredible biodiversity, NMLC opened an office in Silver



City in September of 2015. We quickly went to work in anticipation of a funding opportunity offered by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the New Mexico Office of Natural Resources Trustee. In December 2015 we submitted proposals to these agencies for the protection of three properties comprising 4,308 acres of prime riparian and wildlife habitat. These properties include: 1) three miles of the Burro Cienega riparian corridor, southwest of Silver City near the Big Burro Mountains, 2) two and a half miles of Bear Creek, a tributary to the Gila River northwest of Silver City, and 3) one quarter mile of the West Fork of the Gila River near Gila Hot Springs north of Silver City. With approval of the funding for these projects, we hope to move forward in June of 2016.

In December, NMLC was also able to complete a 2,240-acre conservation easement over the western portion of the Bluewater Heritage Ranch located along the northern

flanks of the Zuni Mountains near Grants in Cibola County. This project was the first of a multi-phased project that will eventually protect the entire 7,600-acre ranch. The Nielson family made this generous easement donation to conserve this working ranch which has been in their family for over 100 years.

NMLC currently holds approximately 90,000 acres of conservation easements across the southern portion of New Mexico. We hope that our increased presence, combined with the vision and generosity of landowners, will enable the protection of more critical wildlife habitat and open space, as well as working ranches and farms throughout this region. We do this to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the same New Mexico clear skies, stunning views and agricultural heritage, and so that our youth will not question why our state is known as the “Land of Enchantment.” ■









## LENDING A HAND IN EASTERN ARIZONA

In 2009, NMLC worked with Jim Crosswhite to place a conservation easement on 94 acres of his property at the EC Bar Ranch along Nutrioso Creek, south of Springerville in Apache County, Arizona. Jim was interested in protecting the important riparian habitat found along Nutrioso Creek, which supports a variety of migratory birds and spinedace fish, from development.

Since that time, NMLC has been approached by other landowners in eastern Arizona about helping with land protection. In December 2015, NMLC recorded the transfer of another Arizona conservation easement on 279 acres near Clifton in Greenlee County. The “Anchor Ranch Conservation Easement” was transferred from the White Mountains Land Trust to NMLC, with assistance from The Nature Conservancy of Arizona. The property belongs to James and Clarice Holder and the easement protects an important reach of Upper Eagle Creek, a tributary of the Gila River, as well as several species that are in decline such as the lowland leopard frog, Gila

chub, Mexican spotted owl, American peregrine falcon, bald eagle, common black-hawk, yellow-billed cuckoo and southwest willow flycatcher.

Currently, NMLC is partnering with The Trust for Public Land (TPL) in Cochise County on a project that would protect approximately 6,000 acres of unique grasslands, on the flanks of the Chiricahua Mountains in southeastern Arizona. These mountains and surrounding grasslands are part of the Madrean Archipelago ecosystem that stretches north and east into Arizona and New Mexico from south of the Mexican border. It is one of the most biodiverse ecosystems on the continent and our work in southwestern New Mexico has focused on the same biological richness that occurs here as well as on the other side of the border in Arizona. We are proud of the confidence that our Arizona partners have shown in us by reaching out for conservation collaboration in this landscape, and look forward to accomplishing more land protection in eastern Arizona. ■









# CORAZÓN de la TIERRA

## *Celebrating the 'Heart of the Land' in New Mexico*

**H**earth of the Land... an apt phrase to describe the extraordinary beauty of New Mexico. Marked by canyons, rivers, grasslands, mountains and high desert, it is a magical landscape that supports and sustains us all.

Each year, the New Mexico Land Conservancy celebrates this transformative land and recognizes an outstanding individual who stands out for their deep commitment to conservation in New Mexico. This year we selected rancher Greg Moore to receive our 4th annual Jane Wing Petchesky Conservation Award.

As a life-long rancher, dedicated land steward, restorative resource manager and collaborative conservationist, Greg exemplifies the meaning of Corazon de la Tierra: Heart of the Land. Greg grew up in southeast Texas and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University in 1968. He has held numerous leadership positions in the agricultural community and earned several stewardship awards.

In 2010, he decided to partner with NMLC to begin placing his entire 23,000-acre Wagon Mound Ranch in northeastern New Mexico under conservation easements. Experiencing firsthand the positive impacts of this decision – including agricultural heritage, land health, financial and estate benefits, and family legacy, Greg now advocates for private land conservation among the local ranching community. And so, it seemed only fitting for NMLC and the conservation community to honor Greg with the Petchesky Conservation Award.

Greg's ranch is comprised of a variety of plant communities including shortgrass prairie, pinyon-juniper woodlands, and ponderosa pine. It is also home to a diverse array of wildlife including elk, antelope, deer, black bear and mountain lion. Carrizo Creek, a tributary of the Canadian River, flows through its southern landscape and supports a number of grassland birds. Greg practices sustainable grazing and faithfully rotates cattle among 20 different pastures. He has designated several

areas as protected wildlife sanctuaries and undertaken habitat improvement projects, especially along the creek. The sanctuaries, in particular, have become critical to restoring the wetlands on the ranch. He is now contemplating introducing ferrets to manage his prairie dog populations.



We wish to thank our many dedicated sponsors, partner organizations, volunteers and friends, who made Corazon de la Tierra possible. This year's event was once again held at the Petchesky Conservation Center, with more than 130 people braving chilly weather to celebrate Greg Moore and NMLC's conservation successes. Past recipients of the Petchesky Conservation Award have included Bill deBuys (2012), an award winning environmental author, conservationist and founding board member of the Valles Caldera Trust; Jim Winder (2013), a rancher from southwest New Mexico and co-founder of the Quivira Coalition; and Lesli Allison (2014), Executive Director of the Western Landowners Alliance and co-founder of the Chama Peak Land Alliance ■





Photos Courtesy of Ken Adkins & Lenny Gannes

*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 2009, Jane donated her ranch 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.*



# A BIG WIN FOR CONSERVATION!

## *Tax Incentive Now Permanent*

Landowners and land trusts alike are celebrating a tremendous victory with the recent passage of the enhanced federal tax incentive for conservation easement donations – the tax law that has now been made permanent! In a rare and much appreciated show of bipartisan action, including the **support of the entire New Mexico congressional delegation**, the incentive passed and was signed into law on December 18, 2015. In another turn of good fate, the tax law was declared retroactive to January 1, 2015. The incentive, considered by many to be the most important conservation legislation for the land trust community in 20 years, supports landowners who place permanent conservation easements on their property to protect important natural landscapes, scenic and historic resources, and productive agricultural lands.

The incentive was first enacted in 2006, and until now had to be legislatively renewed every couple of years. The impact of the incentive has been tremendous. It is directly responsible for helping landowners conserve more than two million acres of America's natural outdoor heritage. Lands placed into conservation easements can continue to be farmed, grazed, hunted or used for outdoor recreation and wildlife conservation.

Additionally, these lands remain on county tax rolls, strengthening local economies.

Please join us in thanking the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) who tirelessly led this multi-year effort. This legislation represents a huge win for us all and we're grateful for LTA's leadership, perseverance and foresight. Just as important, we hope you'll take a moment to call your congressional representatives to express your appreciation. Any Capitol Hill office can be reached by dialing **(202) 224-3121**. Thank you!

For more information on using the tax incentive, please go the Land Trust Alliance page: [www.landtrustalliance.org/issues-action/take-action/tax-incentives](http://www.landtrustalliance.org/issues-action/take-action/tax-incentives). ■





# HOW TO USE THE ENHANCED FEDERAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT INCENTIVE

One of the most important land protection incentives is the federal conservation easement deduction, which allows landowners to deduct all or part of the value of a donated easement from their taxable income. At the end of 2015, Congress made permanent the federal tax deduction for conservation easement donations, helping thousands of landowners conserve their land.

If you own land with important natural or historic resources, donating a voluntary conservation easement (also called conservation agreement) can be one of the smartest ways to conserve the land you love, while maintaining your private property rights and possibly realizing significant federal tax benefits.

## *The enhanced conservation easement incentive:*

1. *Raises the deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30 percent of his or her income in any year to 50 percent;*
2. *Allows qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100 percent of their income; and*
3. *Extends the carry-forward period for a donor to take tax deductions for a voluntary conservation agreement from 5 to 15 years.*

These changes apply to donations made at any time in 2015 and to all donations made after that. This is a powerful tool for allowing modest-income donors to receive greater credit for donating a very valuable conservation easement on property they own. For land trusts, this translates to the possibility of protecting much more land through the use of conservation easements.



*Photo Courtesy of Mark Watson*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS - *Executive Committee*



*Cullen Hallmark, Chair, Santa Fe, NM*

Cullen is an attorney with the Santa Fe firm of Sommer, Udall, Sutin, Hardwick and Hyatt, P.A. He is an experienced cyclist, backpacker, river runner, cross-country skier and gardener. He has been a member of the Quivira Coalition for more than 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.



*Sayre Gerhart, Vice Chair, Corrales, NM*

Sayre is an architect with Architectural Research Consultants, Inc. 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.



*Moo Thorpe, 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 family and many pets. She holds a B.A. in Geography from Middlebury College in Vermont.



*Alan Overton, Treasurer, 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.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



*Dale Armstrong, Board Member, 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.



*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.



*Tessa Davidson, Board Member, Corrales, NM*

Tessa is the founding member of the Davidson Law Firm in Corrales, New Mexico where her law practice focuses on water law issues and natural resource disputes. Since 2013 Tessa and her firm have been included in the Best Lawyers of America in Water Law and in 2015 she was named “Attorney of the Year” in Water Law for the Albuquerque area. In 2015 she was noted in Women Leaders in the Law. Tessa is a fourth-generation New Mexican from a ranching family in southwestern New Mexico.



*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.



*Lawrence Rael, Board Member, Los Ranchos, NM*

Lawrence is a native New Mexican who grew up in the small town of Sile, NM. He has had a notable career as a public servant, beginning as the Deputy Secretary of Transportation for NM. He later served on the staff of Senator Jeff Bingaman in Washington, D.C., and then joined the city of Albuquerque, where he eventually assumed the role of Chief Administrative Officer. In 2012 Lawrence became the Executive Director for the Mid-Region Council of Governments, and later was appointed by President Obama as Director of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Services Agency for New Mexico. He holds a B.A. in Sociology and a M.A. in Public Administration from the University of New Mexico.



*Judith (Judy) Novotny Suiter, Board Member, Sandia Park, NM*

Judy is owner and President of Zephyr Design, Inc., an environmental consulting and planning firm based in Albuquerque, NM since 1988. Judy's firm specializes in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)-related environmental analysis, visual resource analysis, site planning and project permitting. Judy holds a B.A. in Art & Design from the University of Tennessee and a M.A. in Community and Regional Planning from the University of New Mexico. She is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the American Planning Association.





# NMLC 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.



*Joseph R. Montoya, Former Chair & Board Advisor, Santa Fe, NM*

Joseph is a native New Mexican with family roots in Mora and Santa Fe. Previously, he was Deputy Director of Programs at the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority and 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.



*Elizabeth H. Richardson, Founding Board Member & Board Advisor, 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.



*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. Jacks 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.

## STAFF



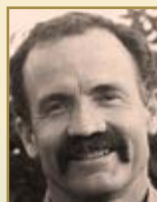
*J. Scott Wilber, Executive Director*

Scott has over 30 years of experience working in natural resource management, 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.



*Ron Troy, Southern New Mexico Project Manager*

Ron joined NMLC after spending seven years focused on protection and restoration of Chinook salmon and steelhead habitat for The Nature Conservancy in Salmon, Idaho. Ron's previous experience also includes fishing and whitewater guiding, wildlife research, and operating a small farm and ranch operation in Hondo, New Mexico. Ron holds a B.S. in Finance from University of Idaho, a B.S. in Fish and Wildlife Science from New Mexico State University, and an M.S. in Biology with an emphasis on Ecological Restoration from Idaho State University. Ron is based in Silver City.







### *Connor Jandreau, Stewardship Coordinator*

Connor Jandreau has a background in conservation biology and conservation partnerships in the intermountain west, Canada and East Africa. Connor holds a B.A. in studio art, a B.S. in fish, wildlife and conservation biology, both from Colorado State University, and an M.S. in Natural Resource Management from the University of Manitoba, Canada. He is especially interested in the new face of collaborative conservation taking flight across the West. As an avid outdoorsman, he also revels in the chance to explore New Mexico's backcountry, whether with skis, boots, bikes or boats.



### *Elizabeth Temple, Development Coordinator*

Elizabeth has 15 years of philanthropic experience working for non-profit organizations. Elizabeth started her development career with The Nature Conservancy of Montana, where the former mid-westerner fell in love with the Rocky Mountain West – its scenic vistas, wild critters and outdoor lifestyle. She holds a Liberal Arts B.A. from Concordia College in Minnesota. She also attended the College of Santa Fe where she studied documentary filmmaking and music composition.



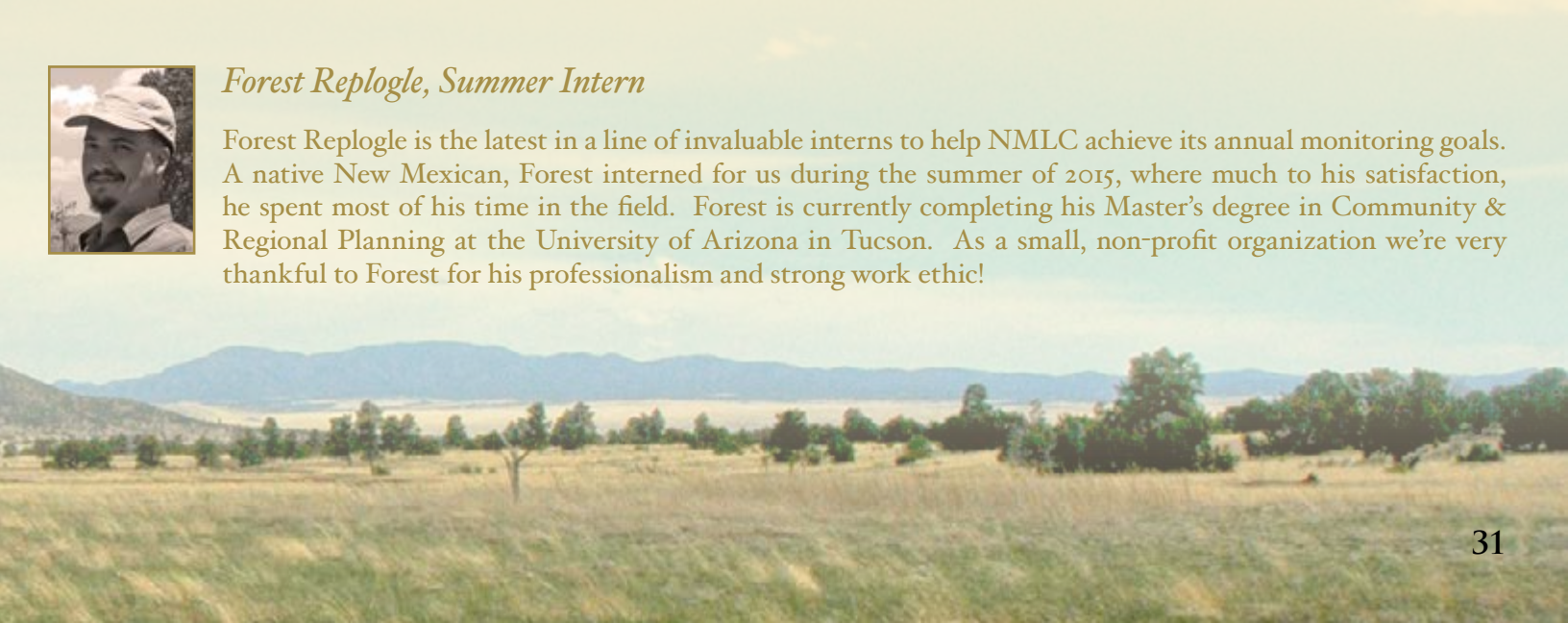
### *Barbara Godbey, Office Manager*

Barbara has over 18 years of experience with office, data, and financial management. In her new role with NMLC, Barbara wears many different hats. She manages the financials, maintains the smooth functioning of the office, creates efficiency systems, supports our development department and trouble shoots computer issues. She is a long-time New Mexican who cherishes the unique landscape of her native home.



### *Forest Replogle, Summer Intern*

Forest Replogle is the latest in a line of invaluable interns to help NMLC achieve its annual monitoring goals. A native New Mexican, Forest interned for us during the summer of 2015, where much to his satisfaction, he spent most of his time in the field. Forest is currently completing his Master's degree in Community & Regional Planning at the University of Arizona in Tucson. As a small, non-profit organization we're very thankful to Forest for his professionalism and strong work ethic!



# FINANCIALS

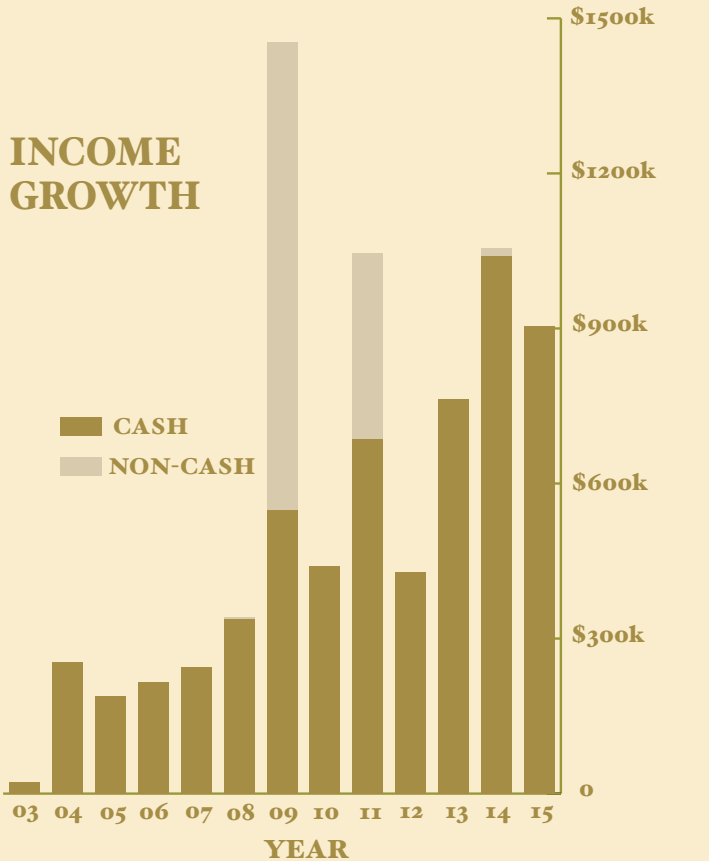
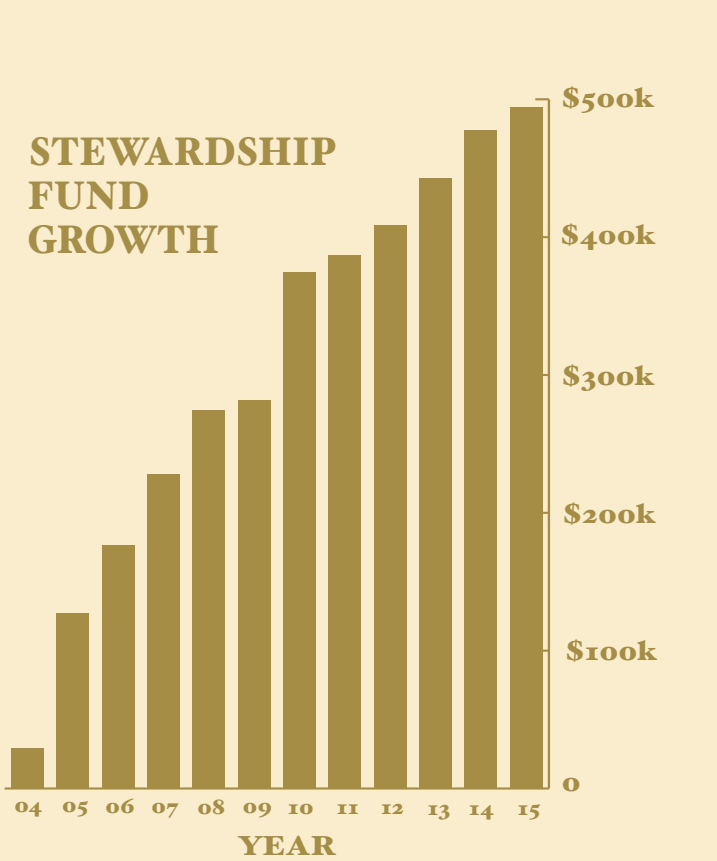
## Statements of Financial Position - June 30, 2014 & 2015

Assets	2014	2015
Cash	\$229,181	\$315,768
Promises to give	\$619,190	\$204,000
Prepaid expenses	\$15,355	\$12,988
Land, building and equipment	\$1,193,722	\$1,179,046
Stewardship fund	\$477,813	\$501,381
Deferred loan cost	\$4,256	\$3,542
Long-term promises to give	\$47,952	\$0
Other assets-deposit	\$30,000	\$0
Total Assets	\$2,617,469	\$2,216,725

Net Assets	2014	2015
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$1,459,908	\$1,747,984
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$689,629	\$232,000
Total Net Assets	\$2,149,537	\$1,979,984
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,617,469	\$2,216,725

Liabilities	2014	2015
Accounts payable	\$243,415*	\$10,086
Accrued expenses	\$10,007	\$18,156
Current maturities of mortgage payable	\$6,021	\$6,307
Mortgage payable, less current maturities	\$208,489	\$202,192
Total liabilities	\$467,932	\$236,741

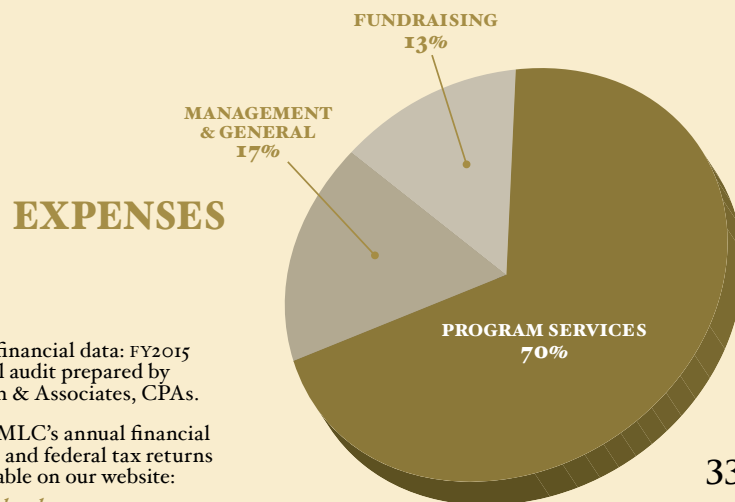
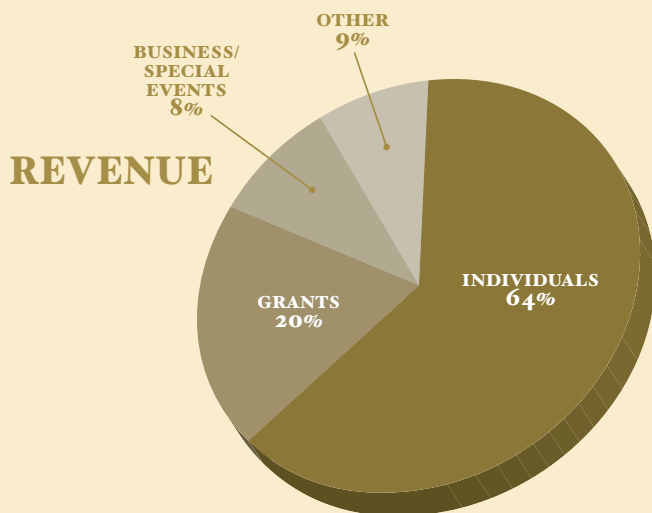
\* For land and conservation easement acquisitions





## Statement of Activities - 2014 & 2015

	2014			2015		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Unrestricted	TOTAL	Unrestricted	Temporarily Unrestricted	TOTAL
<b>Revenue</b>						
Landowner Contributions	\$431,302	\$436,030	\$867,332	\$117,582	\$144,000	\$261,582
Private Grants	\$47,976	\$448,000	\$495,976	\$62,524	\$25,500	\$88,024
Individual Contributions	\$43,309	\$31,440	\$74,749	\$24,151		\$24,151
Government Grants		\$160,000	\$160,000			
Business Contributions	\$14,445		\$14,445	\$4,820		\$4,820
Special Events	\$35,805		\$35,805	\$29,530		\$29,530
Other Income	\$3,900		\$3,900			
Investment Income	\$24,607		\$24,607	(\$298)		(\$298)
Fees for Services	\$35,000		\$35,000	\$39,250		\$39,250
Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$439,191	(\$439,191)	\$0	\$627,129	(\$627,129)	\$0
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,075,535</b>	<b>\$636,279</b>	<b>\$1,711,814</b>	<b>\$904,688</b>	<b>(\$457,629)</b>	<b>\$447,059</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Program Services	\$848,711		\$848,711	\$429,799		\$429,799
Management and General	\$104,322		\$104,322	\$107,226		\$107,226
Fundraising	\$86,436		\$86,436	\$79,587		\$79,587
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,039,469</b>		<b>\$1,039,469</b>	<b>\$616,612</b>		<b>\$616,612</b>
Net Assets, Beginning of year	\$1,477,842	\$53,350	\$1,531,192	\$1,459,908	\$689,629	\$2,149,537
Net Assets, End of year	\$1,459,908	\$689,629	\$2,149,537	1,747,984	\$232,000	\$1,979,984
Change in Net Assets	(\$17,934)	\$636,279	\$618,345	\$288,076	(\$457,629)	(\$169,553)



Source of financial data: FY2015 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](http://www.nmlandconservancy.org)

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Elizabeth Richardson

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J. Scott Wilber  
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Sharon Woods  
Richard Wright & Ada Haunschild  
John (Jack) Wright

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Forest Trust  
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NM Energy, Minerals, & Natural Resources  
Department  
NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council  
NM Office of Natural Resources Trustee  
NM State Forestry Division  
Quivira Coalition  
The Nature Conservancy of Arizona  
The Trust for Public Land  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Village of Corrales  
Western Landowners Alliance  
White Mountains Land Trust

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Louisa Stude Sarofim  
Dave & Ann Simon  
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Western Landowners Alliance  
Wild Birds Unlimited, Inc.  
Jack & Rachel Wright  
Zephyr Design Inc., Judith Suiter

### *Special Thanks*

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Vanessa Baez  
Barrio Brinery  
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Mary-Charlotte Domandi  
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Heather Jones & Family  
KUNM Radio  
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Dan & Ashlyn Perry, Trout Stalker Ranch  
Peggy Pfeiffer  
Veronica Rigales & Family

# NEW MEXICO: OUR MISSION. YOUR LEGACY.

When you include the New Mexico Land Conservancy (NMLC) in your estate plans, you are making a gift for future generations to continue enjoying this unique and special place we all cherish. Like permanently protected land, a planned gift is a lasting contribution to ensure we have the resources to honor our commitment to conserving and stewarding the special places 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. It's as simple as sharing the following with your attorney or financial planner:

*"I bequeath \$\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_% of my estate to the New Mexico Land Conservancy, 5430 S. Richards Ave., Santa Fe, NM 87508"*

**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 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 financial planning needs and philanthropic vision.*

*Tessa Davidson, an NMLC board member, and her husband Matthew have generously included NMLC in their life estate plans. Tessa and Matt live with their family in Corrales, NM and are committed to helping preserve New Mexico's natural heritage. We are grateful for their vision, support and leadership!*



PO Box 6759  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6759  
Tel: 505.986.3801  
Fax: 505.986.3806  
info@nmlandconservancy.org  
www.nmlandconservancy.org

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