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CONSERVATION NEWS

FALL 2006

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This has been a year of considerable change, transition and progress at the New Mexico Land Conservancy (NMLC). In April, I was honored to accept the position of Executive Director. It is a tremendous opportunity and I look forward to moving the organization forward and helping build the collective capacity for conservation in New Mexico. We have set forth an ambitious goal of conserving 250,000 acres of land by 2014. To achieve this goal, we have been reaching out to landowners, community groups and public agencies around the state to get the word out about land conservation techniques and benefits; and working to promote and create new incentives for land conservation like the new federal tax incentives and the Land, Wildlife and Clean Energy bill that will be introduced during the 2007 legislative session. By year-end, we will have protected nearly 50,000 acres, so we are well on our way. We are also working hard on our own organizational development in preparation for pursuing accreditation in 2008 through the national Land Trust Alliance. This will be essential to ensuring that we continue to operate in an effective, efficient and ethical manner. All of this requires continued support from people like you.

This newsletter highlights some of our accomplishments this year, but I encourage you to visit our new website which provides much more detailed information about who we are and what we do. Our Board and staff wish you all the best during the holiday season and a Happy New Year. Together we can ensure that New Mexico remains the Land Enchantment for future generations to enjoy.

Scott Wilber,
Executive Director



Berrenda Creek Easement

STATEWIDE CONSERVATION FUNDING INITIATIVE – THE LAND, WILDLIFE AND CLEAN ENERGY BILL

New Mexico is one of the few western states that do not have comprehensive and sustainable funding for land conservation, wildlife management and clean energy. For the past three years, NMLC has been involved in a broad coalition working create a recurring, statewide funding program for these purposes. This coalition is preparing to introduce the Land, Wildlife and Clean Energy (LWCE) bill during the 2007 legislative session, which

would generate up to \$20 million per year using an existing Oil and Gas tax. These funds would be available to state agencies, political subdivisions of the state, tribes and private conservation organizations; and could be used to match and leverage other sources of public and private funding. Please refer to www.nmlandconservancy.org or www.legis.state.nm.us websites for further information.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW WEBSITE

We are pleased to announce the completion and posting of our new website. This website highlights NMLC's mission, goals, projects and other accomplishments along with beautiful photographs of land we have protected in New Mexico.

Through a secure and convenient link with Paypal we've made it easier for you to donate to NMLC. Just access our **DONATE NOW** feature on our site, follow the instructions and you've helped to preserve New Mexico's land heritage. Our website was completed with support from the Santa Fe Community College Media Arts class and instructor, Jan Deligans. Mark Gruber and Mark Watson of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish also provided many of the wildlife images displayed on the site. The website also features our new logo which is displayed on this newsletter. Visit us at WWW.NMLANDCONSERVANCY.ORG

THE MISSION OF THE NEW MEXICO LAND CONSERVANCY

Our mission is to preserve New Mexico's land heritage by protecting significant wildlife habitat, natural and cultural resources, productive agricultural lands, scenic open space and recreational lands for conservation purposes and public benefit.

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Photo Courtesy of NMDGFP



Minge Farm Easement - Corrales

CORRALES FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM (SANDOVAL COUNTY)

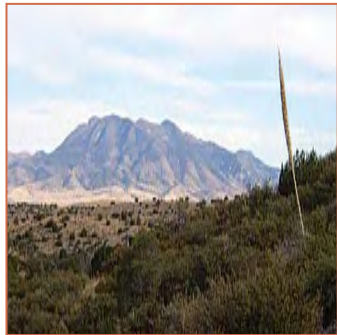
NMLC continues to work under contract with the Village of Corrales to provide assistance with the implementation of their Farmland Preservation Program. In April 2006, NMLC worked with the Corrales Farmland Preservation Committee to prepare a new funding application to the federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program.

The Village and NMLC were awarded \$290,000 in June 2006 by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which will be matched with an equivalent amount of Village bond measure funds and used to protect additional prime farmland within the Village by September 2008.

BIORESEARCH RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT (HIDALGO COUNTY)

This pristine 1,700-acre property is located in the heart of the Peloncillo Mountains, southeast of Rodeo in Hidalgo County. The Peloncillo Mountains have been identified as one of the most significant biodiversity areas within the state, and as a critical wildlife corridor between the Gila Range and the Sierra Madre Mountains in Mexico.

The property is located just west of the protected Gray Ranch and south of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Owl Canyon Wilderness Study Area. The property contains several unique plant communities, which provide critical habitat for Desert bighorn sheep, mountain lion, javelina, Coue's whitetail deer and a variety of birds. A jaguar was sighted near the property in March this year. After acquiring the "ranch" in 1972, the landowners have been operating it as an ecological research site and facility.



Bioresearch Ranch

They now want to ensure its permanent protection through a conservation easement. NMLC has been actively fundraising for this project over the past year and anticipates completing this easement by June 2007.

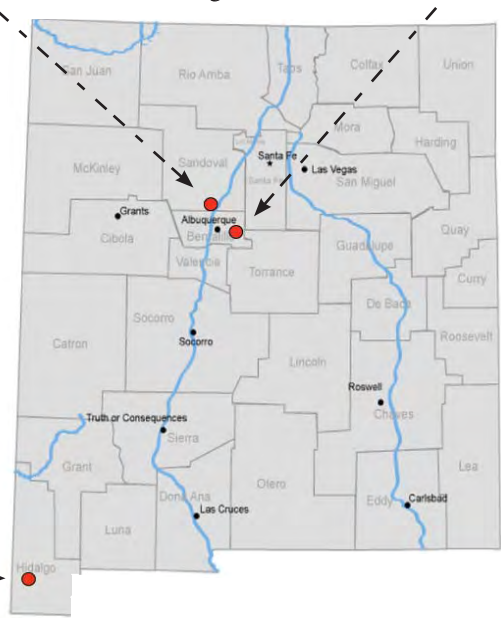
HAWKWATCH ACQUISITION IN TIJERAS CANYON (BERNALILLO COUNTY)

Tijeras Canyon has been identified as one of the top four wildlife corridors in New Mexico and as one of North America's five most important wildlife linkages. For the past two years, NMLC has been working with the Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition (TCSPC) to identify and protect key pieces of land within Tijeras Canyon in support of their goal to create a wildlife corridor between the Sandia and Manzano mountains, and to ensure safe passage of wildlife across the busy I-40 transportation corridor.



Courtesy of TCSPC

In July, NMLC secured a one-year option over one of the key pieces of private land within the proposed corridor - 63 acres owned by Hawkwatch International - and subsequently began working with the Albuquerque City Council to secure funding for its acquisition by the city. In November, the City Council unanimously approved \$650,000 for this project and NMLC anticipates facilitating the sale of this property to the Albuquerque Open Space Division by June 2007.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS... WHY WOULD A LANDOWNER WANT TO CONSIDER A CONSERVATION EASEMENT?

Landowners enter into conservation easements as voluntary acts to preserve their lands. Preserving a piece of land is as much a private property right as developing it. A landowner may use a conservation easement to ensure that a piece of land remains in a relatively natural or undeveloped state. However, conservation easements do not necessarily restrict all development as long as the existing or proposed development is consistent with the conservation purposes of the easement. Conservation easements generally allow for existing residential development and agricultural improvements. Conservation easements may even allow for additional limited development - for example, a landowner may want to provide homesites for his children or reserve a limited number of development lots as a source of future income.



Vera and Lyle Dethlefsen

Board Member Highlights

We welcome our newest board member, Moo Thorpe. She is a native of Santa Fe and has been a licensed New Mexico Real Estate Broker since 1982. She presently is with Sotheby's International Realty in Santa Fe. In her short tenure as board member she has passionately stepped forward by becoming our Host Committee Chair for our first annual event held in October.



Moo Thorpe

She joins Chair - Dr. John B. (Jack) Wright, Las Cruces, NM; Vice Chair - Joseph R. T. Montoya, Santa Fe, NM; Secretary - Anthony (Tony) Anella, Albuquerque, NM; Treasurer - Dave Johnson, Farmington, NM; Anthony L. (Tony) Benson, Founding Member, Taos, NM; and Elizabeth H. Richardson, Founding Member, Denver, CO as part of our current Board of Directors. Welcome on board Moo!



Not Pictured-Dave Johnson

Fall Reception

We would like to thank everyone who attended our first annual fall reception in October. Information about land conservation in New Mexico, delicious food, wine, and good company were shared at the Zaplin Lampert Gallery in Santa Fe.

Highlights from the evening included presentations from our Guest Speaker Ray Powell, DVM and our Board Chair, Jack Wright.

HOST COMMITTEE -

Moo Thorpe, Chair
Jarratt & Diane Applewhite
Tracy E. Conner
Sayre Gerhart
Terry Odendahl
Jane Petchesky
Pamela Roy
Don Tishman
Warren & Mickey Thompson
Linda Whittenberg & Bob Wilber

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Thank You to our Annual Supporters

As a non-profit land trust organization your support to NMLC allows us to continue working to preserve and protect New Mexico's land heritage.

Anonymous - 3	Charles Hagerman	Rancho Viejo Ltd. Partnership
Chilton & Judith Anderson	David C. Johnson	Elizabeth Richardson
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Mary Arnold	Lawrence Keuter	E.W. Schisler
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Lyle & Vera Dethlefsen	Judith Naumburg	Elizabeth Wright
Dorothy Gilbert	Jane Petchesky	John B. Wright
Sean Gilligan		



Residents of Berrenda Creek

We thank you for your commitment in helping us to keep New Mexico as the "Land of Enchantment."

(Donors listed as of January 2006)

Your Help Can Make a Difference!

Each year in New Mexico thousands of acres of prime farm and ranch lands are lost to growth and development, significant wildlife habitats are vanishing, and the remarkable scenic open space we love will be gone forever unless you make a commitment to act today!

As a statewide land trust organization, we are dedicated to protecting a variety of high conservation-value lands. By the end of 2006 we will hold conservation easements on over 50,000 acres across the state.

But there is so much more to do.

Successfully achieving our mission of protecting significant wildlife habitat, productive agricultural lands, natural and cultural resources, and scenic open space depends on your support!

This is not the time to think small. If you act today and make the commitment, your donation will ensure that NMLC can meet the growing demand for land conservation and protect vital ground forever.

You are investing in the future of New Mexico by helping to leave a legacy of conserved land for future generations.

Please consider NMLC and the work that we do as you plan your charitable donations for this year.