Against All Odds

New Mexico's Banner Year Protecting Wilderness, Wildlife, and Water
Our supporters know the challenges that conservation has faced over the past several years. That is why it gives us great pleasure to report that this has been a banner year for our work in New Mexico. At the top of this list of good news is the designation of additional wilderness areas for our state. On March 12, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act was signed into law, creating 13 new wilderness areas and expanding one. This adds 272,586 acres to the gold standard of conservation on public lands: Federal wilderness designation. This would be a remarkable achievement in any year, but in today’s political climate it is a stunning victory.

New Mexicans from every corner of the state and every walk of life supported this legislation. The perseverance of our congressional delegation led by Senators Udall and Heinrich made the difference. All our New Mexico representatives—Ben Ray Luján, Deb Haaland, and Xochitl Torres Small—supported the bill. First introduced by former Senator Bingaman in 2009, Michelle Lujan Grisham co-sponsored parts of the final bill in the last congress. Significantly, the imperiled Land and Water Conservation Fund was permanently reauthorized. This fund has supported public lands in every New Mexico county.

The good news does not stop with new wilderness areas. After years of effort on the part of NEW MEXICO WILD and our partners to achieve permanent protection for Chaco, on October 30, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act, which would permanently prevent oil and gas development projects on federal lands within the ten-mile buffer zone surrounding the national park. Threats to this historic landscape remain, but progress is being made. We will work to see this passed by the Senate in 2020.

In April, Governor Lujan Grisham signed SB 462 into law, creating New Mexico’s first Division of Outdoor Recreation and Equity Fund. This new office will boost the state’s outdoor economy and includes a provision that will help more New Mexico youth experience our state’s magnificent public lands and wild places. Finally, support for Wild and Scenic designation for the Gila and San Francisco rivers continues to grow, capped by a historic Resolution of Support by the Grant County Commission. This is a major step forward to permanently protect the Gila.

Our robust Wilderness Ranger program continues to thrive. Working in partnership with the US Forest Service, during the 2019 season we had 9 rangers performing stewardship, monitoring, education, and volunteer engagement in four national forests: Santa Fe, Pecos, Cibola, and Lincoln. Thanks to our Forest Service Partners and to the rangers for being our boots on the ground in these New Mexico wilderness areas.

Against all odds, this has been a remarkable year of conservation progress. Yet the challenges ahead are formidable. Thanks to your support, NEW MEXICO WILD continues to protect wilderness, wildlife, and water in the Land of Enchantment.

Nancy Morton
Board Chair

Mark Allison
Executive Director

Front cover photo, Valles Grande by Garrett VeneKlasen
Expansion of Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness
(by approximately 2,250 acres
for a total of 43,420 acres)

This wilderness area between Farmington and Crownpoint showcases a diverse environment of rolling grasslands and broken, rugged badlands cut by broad washes and gently sloping mesas. The Bisti (pronounced Bis-tie), a name derived from a Navajo word meaning “badlands,” is a strange, otherworldly sort of place.

Ah-Shi-Sle-Pah Wilderness
(approximately 7,242 acres)

Formerly a Wilderness Study Area, this region features scenic, multicolored badlands, as well as low, sparsely vegetated hills and mesas containing highly significant fossil remains. Ah-shi-sle-pah is southeast of Farmington and just north of Chaco Culture National Historical Park.

Cerro del Yuta Wilderness
(approximately 13,420 acres)

The centerpiece of Cerro del Yuta is Ute Mountain—a 10,000-foot-high extinct shield volcano that rises more than 2,600 feet above the surrounding plain and overlooks the Taos Gorge. Located about 10 miles west of Costilla, it is the dominant feature for those driving north from Taos along N.M. 522.

Río San Antonio Wilderness
(approximately 8,120 acres)

The Wilderness is made up of the rolling grasslands to the north and west of San Antonio Mountain, including a portion of the Río San Antonio. The Río San Antonio itself flows 200 feet below a plateau, creating a unique riparian area.
Aden Lava Flow Wilderness  
(27,673 acres)  
This area offers one of the best opportunities in the continental United States to view lava flows and the many unique shapes and structures created by them. Basalt flows, volcanic craters and sand dunes characterize the landscape 20 miles southwest of Las Cruces where a shield volcano (a wide volcano with shallowly-sloping sides built up by successive outpourings of very fluid lava) produced extensive lava flows more than 10,000 years ago.

Potrillo Mountains Wilderness  
(105,085 acres)  
Just 45 minutes from El Paso and Las Cruces is one of the largest relatively undisturbed stretches of Chihuahuan Desert landscape in the state. In one of the large basins in the center of the mountains, a unique “cholla savannah” features eight- to 10-foot-tall cholla cactus.

East Potrillo Mountains Wilderness  
(12,155 acres)  
Located about 40 miles southwest of Las Cruces, the East Potrillos (“colt” in Spanish) can be generally described as an uplifted west-tilted fault-block within the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. No perennial streams originate in the range, and none flow nearby. Chihuahuan Desert scrublands, creosote bush desert, and desert grasslands thrive here.

Cinder Cone Wilderness  
(16,935 acres)  
Part of the Greater Potrillo Mountains Complex, located approximately 30 miles southwest of Las Cruces adjacent to the border with Mexico, this wilderness features a high concentration of cinder cones, giving evidence of its past volcanic history.
Chihuahuan Desert grassland makes up the majority of the plant cover in the area. Unusually large specimens of barrel cactus also live here.

Whitethorn Wilderness
(9,616 acres)
The Whitethorn Wilderness is located in the Potrillo Mountains Unit of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. It is named for the prevalent white-thorn acacia, a key year-round food source for quail and a summer food source for desert mule deer. The volcanic landscape is characterized by cinder cones and craters.

Mount Riley Wilderness
(8,382 acres)
Mount Riley is the highest point in the area, rising abruptly more than 1,700 feet above the surrounding desert plain. The Wilderness, on the east side of the Potrillo Mountains section of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, is comprised of three volcanic cinder cones.
Sierra de las Uvas Wilderness (11,114 acres)
These desert peaks northwest of Las Cruces feature volcanic mountains and outstanding high desert grasslands with thriving populations of quail, deer, javelina and other wildlife. In addition, three different Native American cultures left their marks in various sites, including petroglyphs made by peoples of the Jornada Mogollon Culture.

Broad Canyon Wilderness (13,902 acres)
A secluded gem, the Broad Canyon area shelters hidden winding canyons, water pools, flat-topped mountains and dozens of rich cultural sites. Only 45 minutes from Las Cruces, this area has beautiful views that stretch across southern New Mexico and into Mexico and is a vital watershed draining more than 75 square miles of land.

Robledo Mountains Wilderness (16,776 acres)
Just 20 miles northeast of Las Cruces, these mountains house the internationally significant Prehistoric Trackways National Monument, a small section of which is within the new Wilderness area. Named after Spanish colonist Pedro Robledo, this area is potential habitat for desert bighorn sheep reintroduction.

Organ Mountains Wilderness (19,916 acres)
The jagged, high spires of the Organ Mountains define the Mesilla Valley and form one of the steepest mountain ranges in the Western United States. This wilderness east of Las Cruces is the focal point of the monument and provides great recreation opportunities while protecting critical watersheds. The presence of seasonal springs and streams makes the area critically important to wildlife, including golden eagles, hawks, owls and mule deer.
Tererro Mine

A proposed mine in the Santa Fe National Forest, just south of Tererro and the Pecos Wilderness, is only 16 miles as the crow flies from the Santa Fe Plaza. The proposed mine could put wilderness, wildlife, water, and the humans living in the area at risk. NEW MEXICO WILD convened an emergency stakeholder summit with pueblos, private property owners, acequia and watershed associations, small business owners, outdoor enthusiasts and others to work together to prevent the proposed Tererro Mine from ever becoming a reality. We will continue advocating to protect sensitive lands surrounding the Pecos from exploitation.

Gila Wild and Scenic

The Gila is home to one of the largest undammed headwater watersheds left in temperate North America. The highest level of protection for this state treasure will be achieved under the Federal Wild and Scenic River Act. We are encouraging Senators Udall and Heinrich to introduce Wild and Scenic legislation for the Gila.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

While public lands victories this year have been significant, there is no mistaking the threats on the horizon. New Mexico Wild has added staff capacity in legal, communications, and community outreach to help meet those challenges. Here are four of the many threats and opportunities that will have our attention.
Wildlife Corridors
From the perspective of a migrating elk, a native cutthroat trout finding a reliable source of food, or a bobcat seeking a mate, human-imposed, artificial boundaries matter little. Wildlife will go where it needs to go to survive—or better yet, thrive. The State of New Mexico recently passed a Wildlife Corridors Act that seeks to substantially decrease the risks that animals face as they move from one place to another. Improving wildlife corridors has a direct human benefit as well, reducing the number of annual wildlife-vehicle collisions. We’ll be spending more time working with state agencies on the best practices for these corridors in the year ahead.

Cerro de la Olla
We are striving to bring Cerro de la Olla under wilderness designation protection. This 9,500-foot volcanic mountain is among a triune of giant volcanoes that rise above the sage-covered Taos Plateau. Cerro de la Olla lies toward the center of Rio Grande del Norte National Monument about four miles west of the Rio Grande Gorge. Our work with our senators, the Friends of the Rio Grande del Norte Coalition, and the Taos community will be front and center for our efforts in the coming year.
Magnifying Their Support

Donations from individuals to NEW MEXICO WILD, whether through membership, outright gifts, or special appeals, make up more than half of our annual income.

Tom and Valerie Armer realized that and wanted to help encourage brand new donors to "support the organization and to encourage existing donors to increase their level of giving. The Armers pledged to match other donor giving on a dollar-for-dollar basis. For example, a new member signing on to make a monthly donation of $25 would see that gift doubled by the Armers’ match. Over the year, the Armers’ gift matched 389 donors to fulfill their pledge. Thank you Tom and Valerie for this wonderful gift and for pledging to do it again for 2020.

Every gift matters! Please join our thousands of donors...it’s easy! Here are some of the ways you might consider contributing.

Sustaining Monthly Membership
The easiest way to support NEW MEXICO WILD is by an automatic monthly debit to your bank account or credit card. You may stop the automatic withdrawal at any time. All monthly donors receive special member premiums based on their giving level.

Annual Membership
Your donation of $35 or more ($25 for students and seniors) provides membership for one year in NEW MEXICO WILD. We offer member premiums at donation levels of $100, $250, $500, and $1,000.

Gift Membership
Give someone you care about a membership in NEW MEXICO WILD. We will gladly notify the recipient of your thoughtful gift based on your instructions.

Other Ways to Give
We accept gifts of stock or distributions from your Individual Retirement Account. Please contact our office for instructions on this type of donation.

Tribute and Memorial Gifts
You can honor someone with a gift to NEW MEXICO WILD and have that donation recognized in our annual report.

Legacy Gifts
Providing funding to NEW MEXICO WILD from your estate makes a meaningful and lasting contribution to protecting our state’s natural treasures.

Gifts via Participating Organizations
Members are eligible to join Nusenda Credit Union and participate in their Community Rewards Program, which benefits NEW MEXICO WILD. We also participate in the Combined Federal Campaign, HealthyLife Foundation and Amazon Smile reward programs...all of which add support for NEW MEXICO WILD.

Special Donations
From time-to-time and for important advocacy campaigns, we ask members and other supporters for special donations. For members, any gifts to an appeal contributes to your annual membership and giving level.

All these methods of supporting NM WILD can be found at our website: NMWILD.ORG.
**TOTAL EXPENSES FY 2018-2019**

$1,347,638

- **Grassroots Donors**: $931,174 (55%)
  - Includes: Local Grants, Memberships, Contributions, Bequests, and other income
- **National Foundations**: $581,569 (34%)
  - Includes: National Grants and Contracts
- **Government**: $195,131 (11%)

- **Administrative**: $191,914 (14.24%)
- **Fundraising**: $118,809 (8.82%)
- **Outreach and Education**: $306,679 (22.76%)

- **Wilderness Defense**: $193,710 (14.37%)
- **Wilderness Protection**: $327,876 (24.33%)
- **Wilderness Rangers**: $208,646 (15.48%)

*Unaudited 10/1/2018 - 9/30/2019*

**TOTAL INCOME FY 2018-2019**

$1,707,874

- **Grassroots Donors**: $911,174 (55%)
- **National Foundations**: $581,569 (34%)
- **Government**: $195,131 (11%)

**NEW MEXICO WILD** is proud to have a Four-Star rating from Charity Navigator and a Gold rating from GuideStar.

**OUR WORK**

*New Mexico Wild embraces a three-pillar approach to protecting, defending and preserving the natural resources of New Mexico.*

**Wilderness Protection**

Upgrading the status of public lands by developing long-term legislative or administrative protections. This includes place-based campaigns, grassroots organizing, and advocacy with elected officials.

**Wilderness Defense**

Improving the management of public lands. This includes a range of legal oversight and “watchdog” activities to hold agencies continuously accountable for managing public lands consistent with relevant statutes, regulations, rules, and plans.

**Wilderness Outreach, Education and Stewardship**

Sharing the love of the wild. This includes public outreach, education, and outings to expose all ages to the wild heritage of our public lands in New Mexico. The Wilderness Ranger Program is a large part of this effort.
Thank You to Our Donors

On the following pages we have listed the thousands of generous donors who gave to New Mexico Wild in fiscal year 2019.
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Keeping it WILD!

**Spending on outdoor recreation**
$9.9 billion

**TOTAL ACRES OF DESIGNATED WILDERNESS**
1,972,507

**Petition signatures gathered**
4,833

**Legislator contacts made**
15,503

**Total Volunteer Hours**
6,203

**DOLLAR EQUIVALENT of VOLUNTEER TIME**
$161,278

**Total acres of public land**
23,280,000

**Jobs supported by outdoor recreation**
99,000

**MEXICAN GRAY WOLF POPULATION**
131

**Acres added this year to designated wilderness**
272,586

**TOTAL ACRES OF DESIGNATED WILDERNESS**
1,972,507

**Jobs supported by outdoor recreation**
99,000

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Field offices in
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