Dear members and friends of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance,

We are pleased to present to you our annual report for the fiscal year that ended September 30, 2012. This is the first time we have published an annual report and we look forward to your feedback. Let me comment here mostly about the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance (NM Wild) as an organization.

First, let me express my pride in this organization and its excellent staff. With our limited resources we are doing first-rate work throughout the state. We count on the support and trust of a broad membership, and this has garnered the respect of our funders and conservation organizations across the nation.

Our primary mission is to enhance the protection of public lands in New Mexico. We have had a fundamental role in developing broad based coalitions to support the establishment of National Monuments in the northern part of the state (Rio Grande del Norte) and southern part (Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks). We carefully monitor the work of the federal agencies that manage our forests and landscapes. We urge the reintroduction of the Mexican gray wolf, and protection of the animal and plant species that belong on our lands. We carry out service projects in several national forests; we demand that various state agencies recognize their responsibilities to conserve public lands; and whenever possible we work together with like-minded organizations.

Please take a look at our financial statements. In this fiscal year we had a slight reduction in our net capital, and much of this relates to an accounting adjustment that makes the previous fiscal year look better. However, we have eroded our capital base and need to maintain spending austerity as we work harder than ever to increase our income. Individual contributions were down notably over the last couple years, and we attribute this in part to the overall economy and in part to the demands of the current political campaigns. We hope that many of you will offer new and generous support to NM Wild in the coming months.

As I write this, we are in the beginning of our next operating year, and there is important news to share with you. Elsewhere in this report you will see the letter that our senators have sent to the White House urging the use of the Antiquities Act to create the National Monuments noted earlier in this letter. This is an exceptionally important action by senators Bingaman and Udall, and from our conversations with them, we have learned that they are clearly committed to better protection of New Mexico’s public lands.

We recently promoted an exceptional concert in Santa Fe by the famed international pianist Hélène Grimaud, which served to raise funds and awareness for efforts to protect the Mexican gray wolf. We extend again our special thanks to Ms. Grimaud and the organization she founded in New York, the Wolf Conservation Center.

Looking to the future, in October 2014, NM Wild and the City of Albuquerque will be joint hosts for a major conference that will celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Wilderness Act. This is significant recognition of the high standing that NM Wild has with public and private conservation organizations across the country. We will be keeping you informed of our plans for this event, and hope many of you will participate.

In closing, I have the pleasure of acknowledging the dedication of our Board of Directors, which gives many hours to this organization. As previously mentioned, we have excellent, dedicated staff members who every day move us closer to our goals. Finally, I extend a sincere thanks to all our members and contributors, and an extra special thanks to some extraordinary volunteers and supporters who have given us crucial help throughout this year.

Sincerely,

Ken Cole
Chairperson
We have learned that many people in New Mexico do not understand what federal public lands are and the importance of protecting them through Wilderness designation. Protecting wilderness is the best way to safeguard our natural resources for all New Mexicans. Our job is to teach people about the importance of protecting natural core areas of wilderness to protect wildlife habitat, clean air and clean water.

The Wilderness Act defines wilderness stating, “A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”

Congress can designate wilderness areas on America’s public lands—land that is already set-aside as national forests, lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, national parks, or national wildlife refuges. Wilderness areas, like other public lands, belong to all Americans.

Lands that are designated as wilderness areas are preserved in a natural state in perpetuity. Hunting, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, camping, canoeing and other non-mechanized outdoor recreation are permitted in wilderness areas. Mining and livestock grazing are permitted to continue in wilderness areas if these practices existed prior to an area’s designation. Wilderness areas are protected from future development such as roads, dams, or other permanent structures; from most timber cutting and the operation of motorized vehicles; and from new mining claims and mineral leasing.

New Mexico was the birthplace of the wilderness movement. We have some of the finest wild public lands in the country, and our landscapes are renowned for their unique beauty. However, less than 3 percent of New Mexico is permanently protected.

The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance has implemented an aggressive grassroots organizing and media outreach strategy to invigorate traditional supporters of wild lands protection, convince non-traditional constituencies of the values of Wilderness preservation, and motivate a new generation of Wilderness advocates. At the same time, we are working to provide interim protection and restoration for wild public lands so that they can still be protected for future generations.
October 25, 2012

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As cosponsors of S. 667, the Rio Grande del Norte National Conservation Area Establishment Act and S. 1024, the Organ Mountains–Doña Ana County Conservation and Protection Act, we write to voice our support for you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to designate these areas as National Monuments.

New Mexicans on every level, from grassroots campaigns to Mayors and County Commissioners, have expressed their support for the protection of these special places. Community leaders, business owners, student groups, and conservation advocates from across New Mexico have traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with your staff and representatives at the Department of Interior to lend their support for the protection of the Rio Grande del Norte in Taos County and the Organ, Potrillo, Robledo Mountains and related areas in Doña Ana County. Still, there is much work to be done to ensure these areas are protected this year.

We will continue to work to advance legislation in the Senate to conserve these important areas in New Mexico, but in the absence of any certainty about the passage of legislation, we believe you should work with local communities to explore how a National Monument designation would protect the archeological and cultural resources in these two regions. Since the legislation has been carefully crafted to secure broad support, we request that you carefully consider these proposals.

Thank you for you continued commitment to preserving our valuable places in New Mexico for future generations.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator

Tom Udall
United States Senator

CC: Secretary Ken Salazar, Department of Interior
Chair Nancy Sutley, Council on Environmental Quality
Acting Director Mike Pool, Bureau of Land Management
**Campaigns**

**El Rio Grande del Norte proposed national monument**

The Rio Grande runs through this area, carving stunning cliffs through wildlands that host a flourishing population of plants and animals and archaeological sites dating back thousands of years. Additionally, this is home of the Rio Grande Migratory Flyway, which becomes home to thousands of migratory bird species in the winter months.

**Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks proposed national monument**

The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument proposal encompasses 600,000 acres of Chihuahuan desert grasslands, sky island peaks, seasonal streams, rare native cacti, dramatic canyons and historical artifacts on public land. Over the last six years, NM Wild has engaged diverse community support in a united effort to designate the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks as a national monument. Historic treasures that would be protected include the Butterfield Stagecoach Trail, the Apollo Space Mission training site at Kilbourne Hole, World War II aerial bombing targets, Apache Draw and its extensive archaeological resources, and the ecologically and culturally rich lands of the greater Sierra de las Uvas Mountains.

**Otero Mesa**

Otero Mesa is the largest and wildest grasslands left on public lands in America. We continue to work toward permanent protection for more than one million acres of wild grasslands in Otero Mesa. This important habitat must be preserved for its cultural resources as well as the aquifer that lies beneath it. In addition to nearly 1,000 plant and animal species, Otero Mesa holds special cultural significance through the petroglyphs and other ancient archaeological sites dating back more than 1,500 years.

**Columbine Hondo proposed wilderness**

This Wilderness Study Area is a beautiful example of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in New Mexico, with high peaks, aspen forests, alpine meadows, and mountain streams. NM Wild is working with a coalition of local citizens including sportsmen, business owners and land grant members to protect more than 43,000 acres as wilderness.

**Chaco Canyon proposed wilderness**

Located in northwestern New Mexico in a remote canyon, Chaco Culture National Historical Park preserves the most significant pre-Columbian ruins north of Mexico. The scale of Chaco’s architecture, the complexity of its community life, the high level of its community social organization and its far-reaching commerce created a cultural vision unlike any other seen before or since. Chaco is still considered sacred by virtually all of the Pueblo groups as well as the Navajo. Unbelievably, development and oil and gas drilling nearby continue to threaten this World Heritage Site, one of only eight cultural sites with this designation in the United States.

**Mexican Gray Wolf**

Through the Mexican Gray Wolves: Share The Land campaign, we strive to educate, motivate, and unite citizens around the fact that whole, intact ecosystems are necessary and desirable to existence. If we don't share the land, we will destroy it.

**Gila National Monument**

The Greater Gila Ecoregion is home to one of the largest and most intact ecosystems in the Southwest. It is also home to the endangered Mexican gray wolf. At the heart of the region are the Gila and Aldo Leopold wilderness areas and the Blue Range, America's last remaining primitive area. Together, these areas encompass more than one million acres. Surrounding the core wilderness areas of the Gila is an additional 1.5 million acres of wild public land currently unprotected and therefore open to potential mining, logging, road building, and other extractive uses.
Rio Grande del Norte

- We have organized crucial support for the campaign from the traditional land grant community that has historic ties to the proposal area, as well as grazing permittees, Native Americans, sportsmen, conservationists, business owners, military veterans and elected officials.
- We have received resolutions of support for a national monument from the City of Santa Fe, Taos County Commissioners, Town of Taos, Taos Pueblo, Taos Chamber of Commerce, Taos Green Chamber of Commerce, and more than 100 business letters of support.

Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Proposed National Monument

- A recent poll showed that 83 percent of local residents and 82 percent of people statewide support a national monument.
- Between April and October 2012, the town of Mesilla, cities of Las Cruces and El Paso, and the Doña Ana County Commission all passed resolutions supporting the designation of a national monument.

Otero Mesa

- We are fighting against new hardrock mining leases from Geovic Mining, which most immediately threaten Wind Mountain, the most iconic peak in Otero Mesa. The method they are using to search for rare earth minerals could eventually level the peak.
- We are working to prevent any oil and gas leasing and have fought to uphold the Otero Mesa special pit rule, which prohibits the use of wastewater disposal pits.

Mexican Gray Wolf

- We produced a major fundraiser—Wild Harmonies—with world-renowned pianist Hélène Grimaud at the Lensic Performing Arts Center in Santa Fe. More than 600 people attended the performance and two days of events with Grimaud that raised awareness and funds for the NM Wild Mexican gray wolf campaign and the Wolf Conservation Center.
- NM Wild members helped stop the killing of the alpha female of the Fox Mountain wolf pack by writing 1,000 letters and making phone calls to public officials.
- We dedicated a newsletter to the Mexican gray wolf, which educated the public about the fight to save the last remaining wolves of the southwest, now numbering at 57.
- We are working with artists. We hosted an artist-in-residence who created artwork focusing on the coexistence of Mexican gray wolves and people for the International Symposium on Electronic Art 2012. We also released the second annual Mexican Wolf Conservation Stamp.
**Gila Wilderness**

- In partnership with the Silver City Green Chamber Chapter, an economic forum will be held in December 2012 to inform the business community and public about the economic value of outdoor recreation and protected public lands in our state.
- To date, 24 businesses in Grant and Catron counties have signed on to our business promotion program.
- NM Wild teamed up with a local outfitter to provide our first ecotour in the Gila Wilderness.

**Columbine Hondo Wilderness**

- Senator Bingaman introduced legislation to protect Columbine Hondo in April 2012.
- Support has been garnered from Taos County Commission, Taos City Council, Columbine grazing permittees, Arroyo Hondo Arriba Land Grant, Taos Chamber of Commerce, Lower Hondo Acequia Community, El Salto Domestic Water Association, multiple neighborhood associations, Taos Ski Valley and the San Cristobal Water Association.
- The wilderness coalition has gathered more than 320 letters of individual support and more than 290 business letters of support in Taos County.

**Chaco Canyon Proposed Wilderness**

- NM Wild has met with the State Land Office and other agencies to forestall gas and oil development near Chaco Canyon. Widespread publicity initiated by NM Wild pressured Cimarex Energy to delay plans for developing leases visible from the park's visitor center.
- NM Wild recently hosted an archaeological summit and panel discussion in Santa Fe with the superintendent of Chaco Culture National Historical Park, archaeologists, and historians to provide a public forum to discuss the proposed Wilderness campaign.
- NM Wild staff has met with editorial boards and traveled to Washington DC to educate agencies and elected officials about the need for legislation to protect wilderness-quality lands in and near Chaco Culture National Historical Park.
From Tisha Broska, Interim Executive Director

NM Wild members and volunteers are the backbone of our work. Your dedicated support has been critical to our success, and I am grateful for your generosity. While you can count on NM Wild to be here to protect our best public lands—by standing up against oil and gas development, mining, logging and irresponsible off-road vehicle use on lands that should be permanently protected—we know we can count on you to come to public meetings, write letters of support, participate in restoration projects, and give stable financial support. We are partners in an effort that shapes the future of our state.

This year, our grassroots organizing work successfully mobilized thousands of volunteers across New Mexico and across the country to work in various ways to protect New Mexico’s wild places. We have engaged the community through letter-writing campaigns, membership drives, rallies, meetings, hands-on wildland restoration work, and house parties to allow the public the opportunity to make their voices heard and to have a role in wilderness protection.

We offered a wide array of special outings including a wildlife watching trip to Yellowstone National Park, archaeological tour of Chaco Canyon with author and Chaco scholar Dr. John Kanter, two three-day trips with naturalists and experts on the Chama River, a guided botany tour in San Pedro Parks Wilderness, and a week-long adventure in Big Bend National Park.

We continued to maintain a membership of approximately 5,000 people, and grew our volunteer base throughout the year. In the last year more than 900 volunteers contributed more than 9,000 hours of volunteer service, which included participation from more than 300 youth.

Our volunteers helped us assist the U.S. Forest Service in meeting goals of the Wilderness Stewardship Challenge in the White Mountain Wilderness and Capitan Wilderness in the Lincoln National Forest, and the Sandia Wilderness in the Cibola National Forest. We also hosted many different kinds of hikes and weekend trips to appeal to many different people: river trips, birding adventures, archaeological tours, native plant hikes, wildlife encounters, nature journaling workshops, healthy eating hikes, and a wolf country backpacking trip.

We partnered with the Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico Department of the Environment, National Forest Service, Gila Conservation Commission, Lighthawk, Wolf Conservation Center, Pajarito Environmental Center, University of New Mexico NM Wild Student Chapter, Central New Mexico Community College GIS Department, Albuquerque NM Wild Student Chapter, Broad Canyon Ranch, Double Circle Ranch, Town of Chaco, San Antonio de Rio Colorado Land Grant, LEAP (Land, Experience and Art of Place), Far Flung Adventures, Trout Unlimited, New Mexico Wildlife Federation, the Bosque School and the Wilderness Connection Outdoor Leadership program.

Thank You To Our Volunteers:
Doug Campbell
Carla Corwin
Jennifer DeGraaf
Laurie Gunst
Pamela Harris
Carol Johnson
Carly Jones
Chick Keller
Carol Morrison
Maryanne O’Meara

A Special Thank You To:
Charmay Allred
William deBuys
Dr. John Kanter
Jack Loeffler
Dave Parsons
Tracey Weisberg
2011 Support and Revenue

- Grants and Contracts: $720,519
- Contributions: $280,128
- Memberships: $115,336
- In-kind Contributions: $23,403
- Publications and Retail Sales: $6,797
- Conference and Events: $6,648
- Other Income: $5,966

Total Income: $1,158,797

2011 Expenses

- Wilderness Outreach: $789,535
- Wilderness Protection: $161,244
- Fundraising: $185,774
- Management and General: $104,317

Total Expenses: $1,240,870
FY 2012 Financial Statement (audited)

2012 Support and Revenue
Grants and Contracts: $616,193
Contributions: $169,929
Memberships: $107,985
In-kind Contributions: $17,483
Publications and Retail Sales: $6,591
Other Income: $37,097

Total Income
$955,278

2012 Expenses
Wilderness Outreach: $578,912
Wilderness Protection: $204,542
Fundraising: $136,938
Management and General: $91,208

Total Expenses
$1,011,600
Thank You For Your Support!

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