



2017 ANNUAL REPORT
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance

For generations
to come...



BACKGROUND PHOTO © JIM O'DONNELL

The long view



This year marks the 20th anniversary of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance. Our founders recognized that we have been entrusted with some of the most wild and pristine lands in the country and that while the threats may vary from decade to decade, there will always be a need to defend these natural treasures by taking the long view. We have stayed the course in that defense for two decades.

We're had a remarkable year in wins on behalf of the wild places in our state and a remarkably challenging year of threats to those same places.

To celebrate our 20 years of dedication to the "wild," we've simplified our name to "New Mexico Wild" and created a new logo to represent the work we do here in New Mexico.

This year's annual report will share some of the good work that your support has enabled. We depend on your engagement and commitment to the "wild."

Thank you.



Nancy Morton

Nancy Morton
Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Allison".

Mark Allison
Executive Director

A year by the numbers...



8,150

letters of support and petition signatures

1,977

total volunteers



10,148

total volunteer hours



\$244,973

dollar value of volunteer hours



1,698,605

acres of designated wilderness in New Mexico



20

meetings with State and Federal agency staff

!20
years of protecting our wilderness

Ranger Program

miles hiked: **2,165**
bears encountered: **8**
lost children returned: **10**
deadfall cleared: **254**



NEW MEXICO WILD
20th Anniversary

1

new logo



403

youth engaged

While our work has covered nearly every part of the state, these highlights reflect some of our key work this year.



Defending Our Monuments

The Trump administration directed the Interior Department to review national monuments to evaluate reducing their size and opening them to oil and gas drilling. New Mexico Wild aggressively defended our state's two national monuments: Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks. This included generating 7,000 public comments and hosting 1,000 people at town halls in Taos and Las Cruces.



Protecting the Mexican gray wolf

A lawsuit brought by New Mexico Wild resulted in the court throwing out the U.S. Department of Justice's misguided "McKittrick policy" which has been used to allow killing of endangered species including Mexican gray wolves in Southwestern New Mexico. The challenge to the DOJ policy required four years of legal action by our organization and our partner, WildEarth Guardians.

Inspiring the Next Generation



A new program this year placed six Wilderness Rangers afoot across nine wilderness areas on the Cibola, Santa Fe and Carson National Forests through a public-private partnership between the Forest Service and New Mexico Wild. Rangers provide valuable information on current wilderness conditions while enhancing public safety and contributing to positive Wilderness experiences.

Keeping the Peace in the Gila



The Air Force plans to conduct 10,000 fly-overs annually above the Gila National Forest, including the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wilderness Areas. Trainings will include low altitude overflights, at 500 feet above the national forest and 2,000 feet above Wilderness. The proposal would drop 30,000 magnesium flares and toxic “defensive chaff” each year. New Mexico Wild is challenging this plan as a major issue this coming year.

Voices of support



Our supporters make the work of New Mexico Wild possible. While each year there are thousands of stories about reasons for that support, we wanted to share two stories from donors from this past year...



Jim and Bobbi Baca

Jim is a former mayor of Albuquerque and has held numerous positions in state and federal land management agencies. He and Bobbi are long time members of New Mexico Wild.

"The biggest effect of wilderness on our lives is to know that it is there, available and unaltered for all Americans and visitors to enjoy. I helped form this great organization many years ago in hopes of giving a political voice to our public lands as useful for something other than extracting fossil fuels, minerals and forage or livestock. That is an effort that needs to be funded constantly. For a few dollars a month in donations from thousands of people, New Mexico Wild can continue its battle to save our Land of Enchantment, acre-by-acre."



Sue and Fred Gunckel

The Gunckels recently donated a customized 1998 Dodge pop-up camper complete with solar panels, a freezer and an oven, "The Beast" as we affectionately call it, will be used in our new youth ranger program.

"It is a real joy for us to be in wilderness, and the very best times in our 47-year marriage have been backpacking or hiking in wilderness. We're thankful every day to be living in a state where people care about public lands being protected. We're really glad to see The Beast being used! We donated The Beast when we realized it wasn't possible to use the truck due to some health issues. We had put so much of ourselves into making it the perfect back country home, it hurt when we found we couldn't use it any more. We looked for a nonprofit who could really use it for their work. We're extremely pleased to see that New Mexico Wild has been so engaged, especially with young people, getting them into the wilderness. We really believe that this work should be supported by everyone who loves wilderness."

YEAR AT A GLANCE

WHAT WE WORKED ON

Wilderness Protection:

Upgrading the status of public lands by developing long-term legislative or administrative protection. This includes placebased 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 national lands in New Mexico.



OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nancy Morton, chair

Todd Schulke, vice chair

Roberta Salazar-Henry, treasurer

Joe Alcock, secretary

Rick Aster

Ernie Atencio

Wendy Brown

Kenneth Cole

Sam DesGeorges

Renee Frank

Carol Johnson

Sally A. Paez

David Soules

Ann Watson



Our income

Grassroots Donors 41%

National Foundations 51%

Government 8%

Our expenses

Wilderness Defense 23%

Wilderness Protection 25%

Wilderness Outreach, Education, and Stewardship 28%

Fundraising 8%

Administration 15%

\$1,204,245

Unaudited 10/1/16-9/30/17

\$1,176,721

Your support makes a difference! Thank you.



nmwild.org

The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) grassroots organization dedicated to the protection, restoration, and continued enjoyment of New Mexico's wildlands and wilderness areas. Founded in 1997, we achieve our mission through administrative protection, federal wilderness designation, and ongoing stewardship. We have a membership of individuals from all corners of New Mexico and across the nation. Our organizing efforts span the state and involve many diverse groups, including ranchers, sportsmen, land grants, acequia communities, tribal and religious leaders, scientists, youth, and community leaders. We are the largest, homegrown, grassroots advocacy organization focused exclusively on land conservation and wilderness in New Mexico.

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