In his book *Winter World* American naturalist Bernd Heinrich points to the phenomenon of birds flocking up in winter—even among those that are solitary the rest of the year. He outlines a number of reasons—the “many eyes” effect of detecting threats, learning from one another, and the improved hunt for food. Some birds seasonally roost together for long winter nights to share warmth, conserve energy, and get protections that come from belonging to a group.

We too need one another. There is strength and safety in numbers for our wilderness protection work. Conservationists, like you and me, gather instinctually when we face winter times, coming together quickly, energetically, to fight off an imminent threat. Could wilderness benefit if we did this all the time?

Consider how we become a critical mass when hearing of a new proposal to divert the Gila River or fracking plans for a roadless area adjacent to the San Pedro Parks Wilderness. Many times in these conservation winters we win decisively against the senseless damages, and sadly, sometimes we lose. Any and all losses need our honest assessment if there was work we could have done earlier, more consciously, more strategically, more pro-actively, and with more of us at all times.

Why do we go back to our individual ways when imminent threats appear to be over? It’s natural maybe—we are all busy—but let me ask you to consider the wisdom of proactive energy at all times, all seasons. Not just playing defense but also leading real prospects of wilderness protection in the future. And that time happens to be right now.

Here at the Alliance, we want to strengthen, engage, and welcome more and more great members like you. Yes, for the winter times. And equally as important all the time. Staying current with wilderness inventories, developing citizen-informed conservation plans, educating the public, diligently watching the complex plans of resource-hungry entities, assessing sophisticated but potentially bankrupt ideas by industry scientists, pushing for new Wilderness, developing true conservation strength in numbers, building true coalitions that honor all species...this is the spring, summer and fall work that deserves the fullness of all of our attention as citizens. If we are honest, we must work together at all times—what is left of wild lands in New Mexico is in a long winter fight to survive.

We know fresh off the heels of two successful landscape-scale conservation victories in New Mexico in 2013 and 2014, campaigns held up as “national models” for the number and diversity of stakeholders, that we want to apply lessons learned to more New Mexico wild lands we care about and want to protect.

Still stirred by the experience of 1,200 wilderness advocates coming to Albuquerque last month from across the country to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, we are excited to push even harder. Proud and humbled to co-host this historic event, selected in large part because of the profound role New Mexico has always played in land conservation, we feel a responsibility to continue that legacy. Recognizing that our federal congressional delegation, and our two senators in particular, are the envy of our conservation colleagues from the rest of the US, we feel the urgency of seizing this moment. And hearing the author and historian Douglas Brinkley recently proclaim that “New Mexico is now the headquarters of the wilderness protection movement” furthers our sense of responsibility and our excitement we share with you.

As one of our founders, Dave Foreman, teaches in his *Around the Campfire* article in this issue, the role of the citizen activist is paramount in achieving lasting protections—it is historically evident that engaged citizens speaking with a collective voice are essential to winning protections. We are passionate and steadfast in our cause to protect New Mexico’s increasingly rare wild places before they are lost. The benefits of wilderness are many but in the end we fight for its protection for its own sake.

And we know, and as we are reminded by examples from the natural world itself, there is strength in numbers. Thanks for being part of the flock and please help New Mexico Wilderness Alliance grow more citizen conservationists.

Wishing you peace and joy in this and all seasons,

Mark Allison
**New Mexico citizen conservationists in the Questa area are united for a new project. Thinkers and artist from everywhere are welcomed!**

*Thinking Wilderness* is a year-long “online thinkers in residency program,” with a radio show, an event series in Questa NM featuring diverse voices and creative works on Wilderness. Could one of those voices be you? In addition or alternatively, you can find other thinkers, invigorate your own ideas and creativity, and grow your capacity to stand up for Wilderness by reading, viewing and listening.

One of the featured thinkers is her husband Chris Cote, a specialist on the subject of wilderness as a natural event and how we learn to live safely with it.

Each day, your scrappy and resourceful NM Wild staff members fight for your wild public lands. We...

- **Monitor** and “watchdog” New Mexico’s federal public lands and Wilderness Areas to hold management agencies accountable for following the law and minimizing abuses.
- **Conduct field research** to identify and document lands with characteristics that are currently unprotected and at threat from off-road vehicles, oil and gas, timber harvesting and development.
- **Train and coordinate volunteers** for service projects on public lands.
- **Build broad community support** for wilderness protection and cultivate new stewards through education, outreach and service projects.
- **Advocate** for the permanent protection of our dwindling special wild places in New Mexico by building grassroots campaigns and working with our federal congressional delegation and the executive branch.
- **Fight, fight, fight** for the places we all hold dear!

Join the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance today!

- **YES!** Yes, I wish to purchase an annual membership to the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance!  
  - $15—Student/Senior  
  - $25—Individual  
  - $45—Household  
  - $100—Premium  
  - $500—Lifetime  

**Visa**  
**Mastercard**  
**Check** (Please make checks payable to the NM Wilderness Alliance.)

**Card #**  
**Expiration**

**Signature**  
**Name**

**Phone**  
**Address**

**Email**

Mail your annual tax-deductible membership dues to:

New Mexico Wilderness Alliance  
PO Box 2564  
Albuquerque, NM 87105  
Questions? 505.243.4526

You will receive a signed copy of *The Great Conservation Divide*, Dave Foreman, 2014 (20 retail value).

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**Get Involved**

- **Join or renew your membership**
- **Ask your friends and family to join NM Wild**
- **Give the Wild Guide as gifts to your loved ones**
- **Join us for one of our many outings;**
- **Act on our advocacy alerts**
- **Volunteer in the field or the office**
- **Host a membership gathering**
- **Write a piece for our newsletter**
- **Contribute financially what you can**
- **Let us know what is on your mind**
- **Connect with us: nmwild.org**
- **Follow us:**
  - facebook.com/nmwilderness
  - twitter.com/nmwild
  - instagram.com/nmwilderness

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**Join Chris Cote, Resident Thinker at Thinking Wilderness.org**

Chris Cote, member of Thinking Wilderness, and board member of NMWild, says that the idea driving this innovative effort is that “the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Wilderness Act offers a poignant opportunity to reflect on fifty years of wilderness protection and to consider its role in the 21st century and beyond.” One of the featured thinkers is her husband Chris Cote, a specialist on the subject of wilderness as a natural event and how we learn to live safely with it.

Excerpted from *El Primer Presidio: Live and Work in Santa Fe with a Resident Thinker* by Chris Cote, published 2014 by Living Earth Press. This article is published with permission by the Rewilding Institute.

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**What We Do**

- *Multi-agency efforts.*  
  - U.S. Forest Service (USFS or FS)—Department of Agriculture  
  - National Park Service (NPS)—Department of the Interior  
  - Bureau of Land Management (BLM)—Department of the Interior  
  - Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)—Department of the Interior

- **Around the Campfire | Wildlands Conservation**

- **New Mexico Wilderness Alliance**

- **Questa NM featuring diverse voices and creative works on Wilderness.**  
  - Could one of those voices be you?
  - In addition or alternatively, you can find other thinkers, invigorate your own ideas and creativity, and grow your capacity to stand up for Wilderness by reading, viewing and listening.

- **Volunteer in the Questa area**

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**About the Campfire**

- Chris Cote, Executive Director of The Rewilding Institute  
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**Dave Foreman**

Executive Director of The Rewilding Institute  
Around the Campfire | Wildlands Conservation  
March 2014 and reprinted with permission of the Rewilding Institute
As the warm days of autumn fade in New Mexico, many of us retreat to the warmth of our fireplaces to read a good book. My kids, now fully stocked with sweets after Halloween, need to be reminded to get outside and appreciate the beauty of nature all around us. The smells of fall, the sounds of the coyotes, and the beautiful sunsets are the little gems that will carry us through winter.

In these colder months, it is a great time to take the opportunity to explore the desert areas that are often too hot in the summer. The Ojito Wilderness is a great destination, where you can discover petroglyphs, hoodoos, and sandstone grottos tucked away between majestic ponderosa pines. This Wilderness Area is only 45 minutes from Albuquerque, and it is a great day hike or overnight trip. Here is one of our favorite kid-friendly hikes.

Hoodoo Pines Hike: Ojito Wilderness Round Trip Length: 2+ miles Difficulty: Easy to moderate

This is one of the easiest, yet most unique hikes in Ojito and it is accessible to a wide range of skill levels. It is called the Hoodoo Pine hike because it leads to an area of mushroom shaped rock formations called hoodoos and relic ponderosa pine growing at elevations far below where they are generally found in New Mexico.

**Directions: Hoodoo Trailhead**

From Bernalillo, travel on U.S. 550 about 21 miles (about 2 miles before San Ysidro) turning left onto Calvezon Road (County Road 906). Follow the left fork approximately 9½ miles to an Ojito Wilderness sign. Continue almost 1½ mile to a developed parking area on the left side of the road. From the parking area, walk back about 400 feet to the east where a trail leads north into the Wilderness on the opposite side of the road. The most interesting hoodoos are just over a mile from where you parked.

**Resource Recommendation**

**Holiday season is upon us and we recommend two books that are sure to fit someone on your list who loves Wilderness Books.** The both offer something for everyone. 

Dave Foreman, RavenEyePress.com ($39.95); New Mexico’s High Peaks: A Photographic Celebration by Mike Butterfield, University of New Mexico Press, UNMpress.com ($20.00)

**We Remember Patricia Ann Hoban, 1956-2013**

Patricia (Patty) Hoban. Her expertise was to be most favorably viewed. Perfect gift for New Mexico residents and people you want to entice to read a good book. My kids, now full of stories that will carry us through winter.

**A Shepherd in our Midst**

This is a riveting story told as only a shepherd can. Every young person should read this book! The joy of climbing at Ojito Wilderness, New Mexico

We sincerely thank the entire Hoban family for stewarding Patty’s last wishes to help New Mexico Wilderness fulfill its mission to protect wilderness for all species. And thank you, Patty, for your universal love and care of the wild things and threatened species in remote areas, learning everything she could with an unquenchable appetite for knowledge and expertise. We thank you, Kathy, for sharing your sister with us. We thank you, Irmgarda—you and Thomas gave us your beautiful sister and parents. We thank you, Irmgarda—you and Thomas gave us your beautiful sister and parents. We thank you, Irmgarda—you and Thomas gave us your beautiful sister and parents. We thank you, Kathy, for sharing your sister with us.

"We met in college. Later, Pat and I shared the experiences of our lives and our careers. Patty was particularly true while Managemen

Associate Director

Wendy Brown, remembers Patty as New Mexico’s shepherd in our midst. Patty was a true shepherd of the conservation movement in New Mexico. Refuge manager, biologist, naturalist, researcher, GIS expert, educator, friend, colleague—they all fit accurately.

Literally speaking of her as a shepherd, Patty raised Flyer, a long-eared Nubian goat, who became the stellar pack animal for hikes in some very rugged areas. Agile and strong, Patty hiked many a mile during her 30 years of management work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This was particularly true while Managing Director at the San Andres NWR. Her extensive telemetry work with the San Andres Desert Bighorn sheep herd, provided researchers with a tremendous amount of data to better assist in the revival of this and other declining sheep populations within New Mexico. Research colleague, Wendy Brown, remembers Patty as a kindred spirit in the pursuit of science. We met in college. Later, Patty gave me the gift of pack goats as a lifelong passion. She was the hardest working person I know, often times a one-person show in the remote refug.
Show your colors!

New Mexico Wilderness Alliance Gear
Celebrating the 50th anniversary of Wilderness Act

All Cotton Canvas Hats: $20
Large Magnets: $4
Mugs: $10
100% Cotton T-shirts: $20

Great gifts for Wilderness Lovers anywhere!
Order online at www.nmwild.org. Go to Shop.

Support the work of achieving and protecting wilderness in New Mexico. New Mexico Wilderness Alliance is a non-profit organization. Please support by donating securely online at www.nmwild.org or by sending a check payable to NMWA, P.O. Box 25464, Albuquerque NM, 87125. Please also consider remembering NMWA in your will. To learn more about making a charitable contribution, including stock transfers and bequests, contact Alicia Johnson by e-mail: alicia@nmwild.org | phone: 505-400-4133 — Thank you!

The Peace of Wild Things
By Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forebought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

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Wendell Berry. Reprinted with permission of Counterpoint.

Happy Holidays to You. May our hands, our feet, our hearts and our heads be a blessing to Wilderness and its species. May our work fill you with hope. We wish you and your loved ones the peace of wild things.

From everyone at New Mexico Wilderness Alliance