



New Mexico Wilderness Alliance

Summer 2019 Advisory Newsletter

PECOS UNDER THREAT

Dear Member:

Just 16 miles from the Santa Fe Plaza, a mining company from Australia is proposing to drill 30 test sites for future extraction of gold, copper, and zinc near Tererro and the roadless public lands surrounding the pristine Pecos Wilderness. This immediate threat must be countered but it also serves to highlight the importance of permanently protecting these special sensitive lands surrounding the Wilderness. Your support is essential to our success!

Please help us protect the Pecos now!

**We'll send you a
"No Tererro Mine"
sticker with your
donation.**



Mark Allison
Executive Director

RED FLAGS NEAR THE PECOS WILDERNESS

For those who love to hike the Pecos Wilderness, whether on Hamilton Mesa, the Truchas Peaks, or Santa Fe Baldy, you may pass Tererro, Brush Ranch, and the Holy Ghost Campground which

are adjacent to the proposed 4,300-acre mining exploration claim. Ironically, this is the same area that experienced a disastrous mining contamination in the 1990's when the Pecos River literally ran yellow and 90,000 fish were killed downstream at the Lisboa Springs Fish Hatchery. The mining company wants to begin drilling as early as October. We immediately took the lead to convene a powerful coalition made up of pueblos, private property owners, sportsmen, acequia and watershed associations, small businesses and conservation organizations to delay these permits so that impacts can be better assessed and to eliminate this threat if possible.

Unfortunately, current federal law essentially prevents the Forest Service from outright stopping mining activity of existing claims on federal lands. Nevertheless, we are vigorously pursuing several strategies and interventions to prevent this tragic project, including environmental and cultural reviews. The area of proposed mining is habitat for several endangered species and final critical habitat for the threatened Mexican Spotted Owl. It is also important to migratory bird, plants, and animals that move in and out of the areas seasonally as they seek food and water. Public hearings have been called for by New Mexico Wild but have not yet been scheduled.

WE MUST DEFEND THESE SPECIAL LANDS SURROUNDING THE PECOS WILDERNESS

New Mexico Wild has identified critical public lands, watersheds, rivers, and tributaries around the Pecos that we believe should have permanent protections. So while the fight to stop mining is at hand today, the long-term need is to eliminate these types of threats by getting these special lands the designations they deserve.

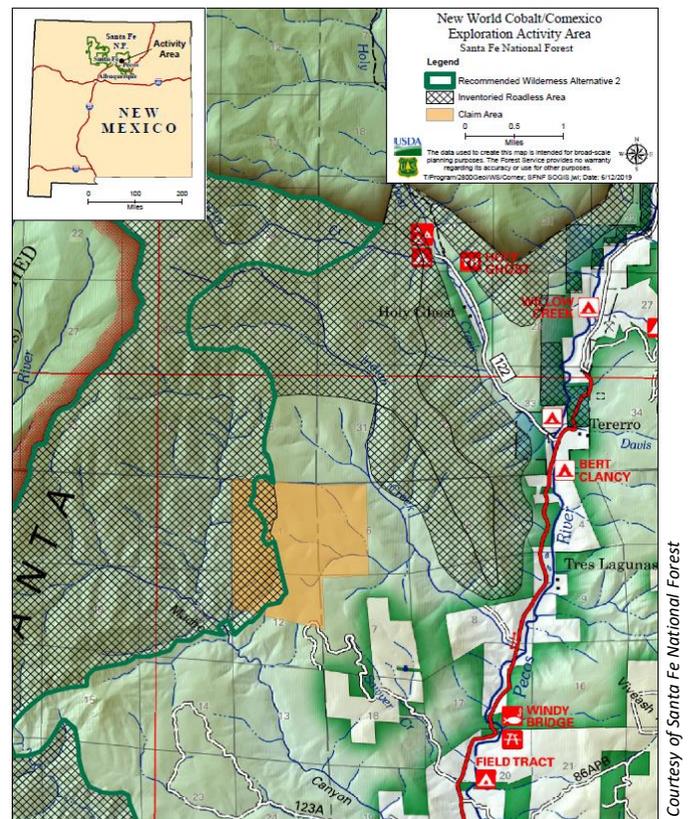
The Pecos Wilderness holds 223,637 acres but there are more than 120,000 acres of surrounding forests and meadows that are designated as Inventoried Roadless Areas. These lands are critical habitat for elk, deer, bear, turkey, and one of America's most robust herds of Rocky Mountain Big Horn sheep. Its waters are home to brown trout as well as the Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Its 400 miles of trail are beloved by hikers, equestrians, backpackers, anglers, and climbers.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE

We need to stop the threat of mining near Tererro now. At New Mexico Wild, we will fight the proposed test mines. If the exploratory drilling does occur and the company tries to move forward, we will do everything in our power to prevent the



Please help us continue to fight the mining proposal today and protect more of the public lands surrounding our Wilderness in the years ahead! Donate securely and easily online at <http://bit.ly/StopTererroMine>



Mining Claim and Inventoried Roadless Area Map

project or require enough cultural and environmental safeguards so that that it becomes economically unviable. We will work with our coalition partners to make it clear that the community does not want mining. We will help our local partners secure the resources they need. We will continue to meet with state and federal officials and our elected leaders to secure their assistance. We will continue to monitor public lands inside and surrounding the Pecos Wilderness to prevent the encroachment of development or prohibited activities. We will continue to consult with tribal, government, and non-profit partners to promote the value of these treasured lands. And, with your help, we will mobilize the public to secure these lands for the generations ahead.

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PO Box 25464 Albuquerque, NM 87125 505-843-8696 nmwild.org