Grassroots
by Nature

Local action + conservation = success
Dear Members and Supporters,

From restoring lands taken from Bears Ears and other national monuments at the national level to stopping low altitude military overflights above the Gila here in New Mexico, citizen-based activism has been a real force of nature.

NEW MEXICO WILD is dedicated to being an advocate for Wilderness, Wildlife, and Water in our state. What makes us effective is that we have strength in numbers. Thousands and thousands of residents and visitors share our passion for wildlands and demonstrate that by taking action. Signing petitions. Calling elected representatives. Joining a rally. Despite the pandemic, it has been a remarkable time of grassroots action. This year’s annual report highlights a number of those successes.

Yet for the NEW MEXICO WILD family, it has also been a time of loss. Our devoted board chair, founding member Nancy Morton, passed away early this year. David Soules, a passionate advocate for the environment and board member, also passed away this year. Both believed deeply in grassroots conservation. A fitting legacy of their work is the thousands of acres of lands and waters now protected forever as a result of their efforts.

Sincerely,

Mark Allison
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Wendy Brown
BOARD CHAIR

Grassroots advocacy is powerful because it is local.

We have staff around the state working closely with everyone from ranchers to acequia parciantes, government land staff, local elected officials, hunters, kayakers, Pueblos and Tribes, fishers, backpackers, traditional communities, scientists, businesses, and private landowners.

It is through the combined support of many communities and interests that real political change takes place. “Localness” matters, and we understand—that is what NEW MEXICO WILD provides. It is why we can proudly tell donors that every dollar they invest in the work of NEW MEXICO WILD stays in New Mexico.

To expand on our local connections, we’ve added staff for greater Tribal and Pueblo engagement, traditional community outreach, state legislative work, and digital communications.
You make good things happen.

The threats from climate change and the mass species extinction crisis combined with the ever-changing, complex political landscape make the work of conserving our wildlands more urgent than ever. Your support both financially and through actions gives us the ability to meet the moment today and as importantly, to meet the challenges ahead.

Thank you for being part of the NEW MEXICO WILD family!

Taking Conservation to Scale

You may have read about the Biden Administration’s call for a national initiative to protect 30% of our lands and waters by the year 2030. NEW MEXICO WILD helped lead the charge to encourage Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham to issue her own “30X30” Executive Order for New Mexico. This would mean a five-fold increase in protected lands in our state, up from the 6% currently considered protected.

By the way, New Mexico’s own Deb Haaland, a former grassroots organizer, is leading this effort as the first Native American Secretary of the Interior. You can read more about the 30X30 goal on the following page as well as on our website at NMWILD.ORG. The federal government’s call to action is for local, grassroots organizations to drive this effort forward. NEW MEXICO WILD is up to the task.
The America the Beautiful Campaign and its 30x30 goal

One of the first executive orders from President Biden was a call-to-action in support of our natural world. The “America the Beautiful Campaign” focuses on conserving 30% of our lands and waters by the year 2030. This 30X30 goal addresses three challenges: the disappearance of nature and the mass extinction of species, climate change and its impact on both human and wildland communities, and the inequitable access to the outdoors that we see too often.

New Mexico has a significant role in the 30X30 goal. We rank fourth in the nation in biodiversity. Second in bird species. Third in reptiles and mammals. We have a lot to lose in the decades ahead if action is not taken now.

The President’s call to action asks local, grassroots organizations to take on much of the work of meeting the 30X30 goal supported by federal efforts. It is a recognition that lasting conservation must be supported by local communities.

NEW MEXICO WILD will tackle a significant part of meeting this goal in the years ahead.

Volunteers and Citizen Scientists Help Protect New Mexico Wildlands

As many of us emerged from pandemic seclusion, volunteering in an outdoor setting was once again an important activity at NEW MEXICO WILD. The first recipients of the Nancy Morton Wilderness Internship worked with our Wilderness Rangers and 52 volunteers in the Santa Fe National Forest, generating more than 400 hours of trail work and solitude monitoring.

In the Cibola National Forest, 61 volunteers contributed 367 hours. In the Gila National Forest, 52 adults and 69 youth provided 624 hours of volunteer work. Supporters of NEW MEXICO WILD also served as citizen scientists collecting bug data on the Rio Chama to help scientists assess water quality. The “bug team” of 150 adults and 58 youth took on the task.

Volunteers working on Little Bear Trail in Gila Wilderness for collaborative trails project with Heart of the Gila by Laura Aubry
A mining company from Australia is proposing to drill 30 test holes just 16 miles from the Santa Fe Plaza, between 500 and 4,000 feet deep, for future extraction of gold, copper, and zinc near the community of Tererro, just miles from the Pecos Wilderness and the roadless public lands surrounding it.

NEW MEXICO WILD and partners are working to stop this threat to the nearby Pecos watershed. The Pecos River was recently named one of America’s 10 most endangered rivers by the national American Rivers organization because of this mining threat. NEW MEXICO WILD members and supporters submitted over 2,600 comments to the Santa Fe National Forest calling for a more in-depth review of the proposed project.

Our work to stop the mines in this sensitive area continues. Senators Heinrich and Luján and Congresswoman Leger Fernandez have introduced the Pecos Watershed Protection Act in Congress to protect this area of the river.
Deepening Our Connections Through the Aldo Leopold Circle

Aldo Leopold worked to create the first protected Wilderness in the nation right here in New Mexico—The Gila Wilderness—in 1924. He was a leading conservationist who reshaped how we manage public wildlands. His famous book, A Sand County Almanac, introduced the world to the idea of a “land ethic.” His legacy of caring for the natural world lives on through the support of our Aldo Leopold Circle members who donate at least $1,000 each year.

Mobilizing again for the Mexican gray wolf

Perhaps more than any other issue, NEW MEXICO WILD supporters have responded with petitions, letters, rallies, and Congressional contact to save the small, endangered, Mexican gray wolf population in southern New Mexico. In fact, NEW MEXICO WILD was founded in 1997 and the wolves were reintroduced to the wild in our state a year later. We’ve been working to protect them virtually every day of our existence.

The current known population in the special range area between New Mexico and Arizona is 186 wolves. However, illegal poaching and range restrictions have taken a toll. Pressure from advocates and a recent court ruling will require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to address these issues and solicit additional public comment. Our supporters stand ready.

Near Santa Fe and Los Alamos, the Caja del Rio is 107,068 acres of public land containing an abundance of history and nature. A proposed highway and transmission line through the Caja is threatening this amazing plateau. The Caja del Rio protection effort accelerated this year with engagement of Pueblos and Native communities. Staff recently helped organize a three-day video shoot including numerous interviews of area residents to tell the story of this ancient site. Ongoing Pueblo engagement includes Cochiti, Tesuque, Santo Domingo, and Jemez. Numerous field trips to Caja del Rio have been conducted for community members to share the rich history of these lands.

Protecting the Historic Caja del Rio

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SUPPORTING NM WILD
Mexican Gray Wolf by Holly Kuchera

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Despite pandemic restrictions, Circle members gathered (sometimes virtually) to hear updates on conservation issues from our Congressional delegation, participated in hikes, and had opportunities to direct questions to Mark Allison, our Executive Director.
Continuing efforts for the Gila

For two decades, NEW MEXICO WILD and partners have been working to have the Gila River receive the Wild and Scenic River designation from Congress to protect one of the last free-flowing rivers in the West. NEW MEXICO WILD staff organized a very successful virtual fly-in with Senator Luján to advocate for Wild and Scenic reintroduction. Participants included Grant County Commission Chairman Ponce, State Senator Hemphill, Fort Sill Apache Chairwoman Ware, League of United Latin American Citizens Secretary Vasquez, and several others including local outfitters, landowners, and businesses. On November 2, 2021, Senators Martin Heinrich and Ben Ray Luján reintroduced legislation to designate 446 miles of the Gila and San Francisco Rivers as Wild and Scenic!
Holloman overflights redirected from the Gila

For several years, the Air Force has been considering using the Gila National Forest and the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wilderness areas for low altitude F-16 pilot training and the grassroots supporters of New Mexico Wild have strenuously opposed it. These overflights would have exposed beloved public lands to the threat of wildfires, extreme noise pollution, disruption to wildlife, and environmental contamination. The plan would have resulted in 10,000 low altitude flyovers annually and allowed discharge of 15,000 magnesium flares and 15,000 toxic “defensive chaff” each year. In January, the Air Force released its final Environmental Impact Statement and moved this training east of Alamogordo—rather than over the Gila.

Advocacy Successes at Greater Chaco, But Work Remains to Secure Its Future

On behalf of the Greater Chaco Coalition, NEW MEXICO WILD asked that all New Mexico congressional offices formally request the Secretary of Interior create a twenty-year administrative mineral withdrawal of the federal lands surrounding Chaco, something Senator Heinrich did several months ago.

We also made this request to State Lands Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard. The only way to permanently protect these historic lands is with federal legislation.

NEW MEXICO WILD members have been active in providing comments to the Bureau of Land Management, which oversees the lands adjacent to Chaco Culture National Historical Park. In November, the Department of the Interior responded with a proposed 20-year withdrawal of all federally-managed public lands within ten miles of Chaco Culture National Historical Park from future oil and gas lease sales.
This year NEW MEXICO WILD and our partners expanded Latino Conservation Week to a statewide coordinated effort. We started with a kick-off event in Santa Fe and were able to coordinate activities throughout the state, including Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Chama, Cuba, Silver City, Las Cruces, and others.

As part of the celebration, we held the Third Annual Art & Conservation Art Show in Silver City. Our staff helped coordinate a Back Country Cookout event at Elena Gallegos Park in Albuquerque.

In addition to events in the Gila and Santa Fe National Forest, hosted by our Wilderness Rangers, we hosted a cleanup at the Caja del Río.

For many years, NEW MEXICO WILD supporters have advocated to stop water diversion proposals for the Gila River. In this year’s state legislative session, HB200 passed and was signed into law, ending the nearly two-decade-long push to dam the Gila River. The new legislation not only stopped the diversion scheme but will provide funding to conservation-based water projects creating long-term water security and jobs in southwest New Mexico. Over 2,200 emails were sent by advocates to support the bill.

Over 2,200 emails were sent by advocates to support the bill.
Our grassroots work to protect New Mexico’s Wilderness, Wildlife, and Water

NEW MEXICO WILD has implemented a three-pronged 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 & 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.

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**TOTAL INCOME**
**FY 2021**

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Grassroots Donors</td>
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<td>National Foundations</td>
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*Unaudited: 10/1/2020 - 9/30/2021

**TOTAL EXPENSES**
**FY 2021**

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<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Unaudited: 10/1/2020 - 9/30/2021

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Wilderness Rangers and Nancy Morton Interns by Walker Martin

nmwild.org
Ways to Give that support the work of New Mexico Wild

Donate Monthly
The easiest way to support NEW MEXICO WILD is by a convenient automatic monthly donation from your credit card, debit card or directly from your bank account.

Legacy Giving / BeQuest
You can use a bequest in your will to contribute to NEW MEXICO WILD and leave a legacy for the protection of our public lands.

Tribute Gift
Support Wilderness by giving an honor or memorial gift on behalf of someone who loves public lands.

Matching Gifts
Many companies across the United States match their employee’s gifts. By checking with your company and requesting a matching gift, you can double or triple your gift!

Gifts of Stock
A gift of appreciated securities (stocks) is an easy way to make an impact today and may offer you additional tax advantages.

Donor-advised Funds
Your charitable DAF dollars are a great way to invest in the important work we do every day.

Matching Gift Programs
Many companies across the United States match their employee’s gifts. By checking with your company and requesting a matching gift, you can double or triple your gift!

Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA
By making a QCD distribution of funds from your IRA, you can make a gift that may be excluded from your taxable income, and you receive the benefit of supporting New Mexico’s Wilderness.

Amazon Smile
AmazonSmile is an easy way for you to shop online and give to NEW MEXICO WILD at the same time.

Volunteer
There are many ways you can support NEW MEXICO WILD as a volunteer. Visit our website for volunteer opportunities and application.

Join the Aldo Leopold Circle
NEW MEXICO WILD has recently launched the Aldo Leopold Circle to show our appreciation for members who donate $1,000 or more each year. What better inspiration for this group than Aldo Leopold, who reshaped conservation in our country and did that in part based on his experiences right here in New Mexico.

Nusenda Membership
As a Nusenda Federal Credit Union member, whenever you make a credit purchase, you’ll earn 0.25% cash rewards that are deposited to your checking account each July. Then, each year, Nusenda makes a matching contribution to NEW MEXICO WILD if you designate us as your charitable preference.

Sunset in Apache Kid Wilderness by Walker Martin
nmwild.org
Thank You to our donors!

On the following pages, we list the thousands of donors who supported the grassroots work of NEW MEXICO WILD this past year.

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Left and above: Camping at Big Tesuque by Aaron Bradley

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continued from page 11

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La Cueva, Organ Mountains by Krystyna Gonzales

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浮动在新墨西哥的布拉德利

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Number of volunteer hours this past year

5,959 HOURS

888 VOLUNTEERS

$147,136 VOLUNTEER VALUE

Budding Ferocactus, Organ Mountains by Krystyna Gonzales

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The U.S. Forest Service honored NEW MEXICO WILD with its 2021 Bob Marshall National Wilderness Award, one of the United States Forest Service’s highest honors. The award recognizes our work to preserve our nation’s unique and vital Wilderness.

Bob Marshall was an early head of recreation management with the Forest Service in the 1930s and one of the first to suggest that primitive and unconfined lands needed to be protected for the future. Along with other fathers of conservation like Aldo Leopold, he helped found the Wilderness Society, which worked with Congress to create the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Thank you to the partners and supporters of NEW MEXICO WILD for making this recognition possible.