

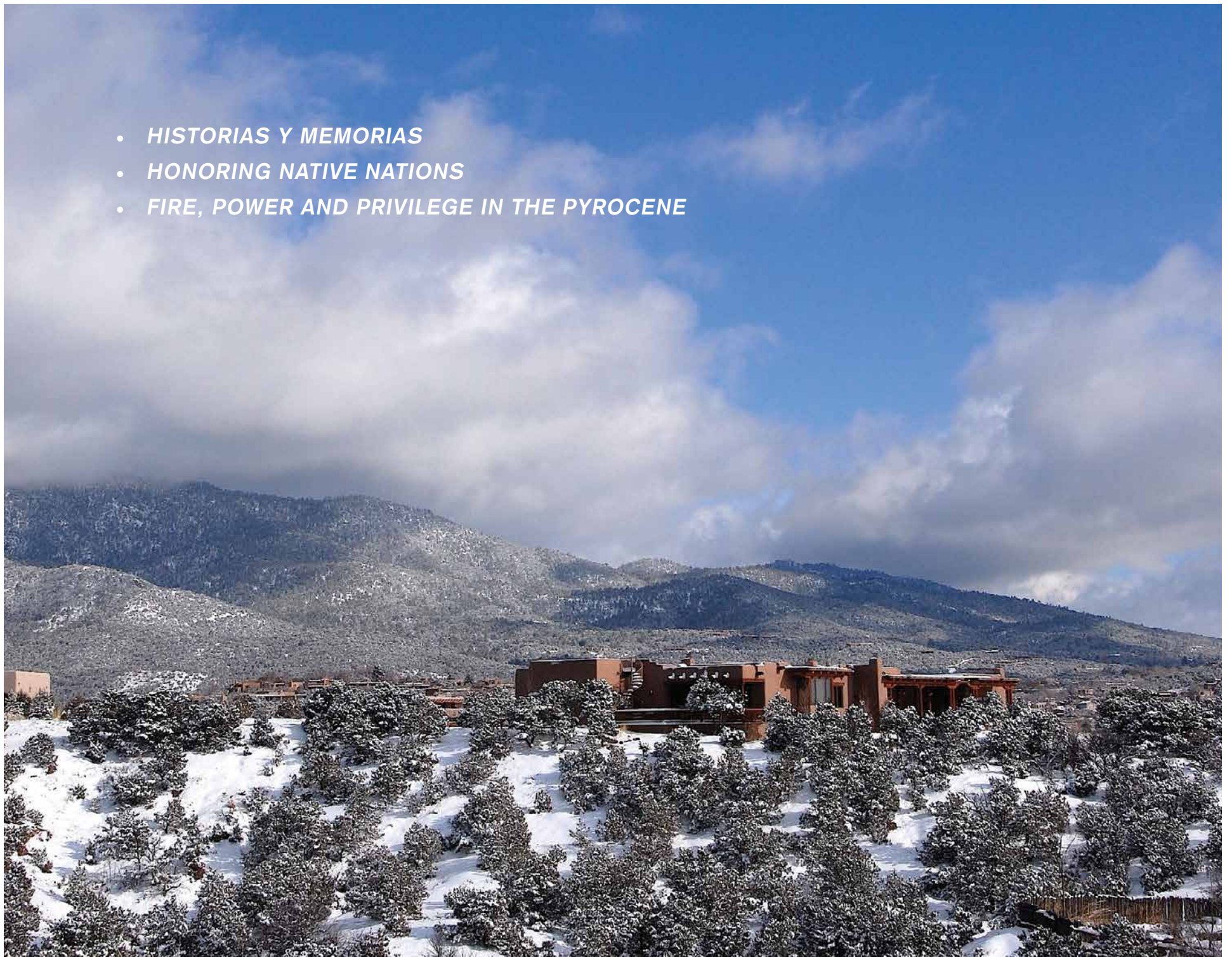
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

UTILIZING CULTURAL LIFEWAYS

# GREEN FIRE TIMES

*News & Views from the Sustainable Southwest*

- *HISTORIAS Y MEMORIAS*
- *HONORING NATIVE NATIONS*
- *FIRE, POWER AND PRIVILEGE IN THE PYROCENE*



LAS VEGAS GRANDES BY HILARIO E. ROMERO

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**COVER:** WINTER IN SANTA FE © SETH ROFFMAN

## GREEN FIRE TIMES REALLY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Green Fire Times is a platform for regional, community-based voices—useful information for residents, businesspeople, students and visitors—anyone interested in the history and spirit of New Mexico and the Southwest. GFT’s small, dedicated staff and multitude of contributors generate articles documenting the interrelationship of community, culture, the environment and the regional economy. The sustainability of our region affects all of us, and requires people from all backgrounds working together to create solutions. One of the unique aspects of GFT is that it provides multicultural perspectives that link green, cutting-edge innovations with time-honored traditions.

Storytelling is at the heart of community health. We have an opportunity to change the story going forward, which can lead to positive transformational change. GFT shares inspiring stories of hope and community action. By helping our communities discover who they once were and what they can become, a more positive future can be created.

Of course, it is an extremely challenging time to continue to produce a free, quality, independent publication. Production costs have greatly increased. Many local and regional publications have folded or have been bought up by corporate entities. Fortunately, a growing number of publications are receiving boosts from nonprofits that are devoted to protecting journalism. GFT is owned by Southwest Learning Centers, Inc. (est. 1973), a nonprofit educational organization. SWLC provides a mentorship program for some of GFT’s writers, aspiring journalists and documentarians.

Green Fire Times is struggling to survive. We also need funding to upgrade our online archive and make 14 years of articles more accessible to community members, students and researchers. Don’t assume that someone else will help. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation through our website, or send a check made out to Southwest Learning Centers (with a notation ‘for GFT’) to P.O. Box 8627, Santa Fe, N.M. 87504-8627. Also, please advertise! The print edition—currently published every other month, while our website is updated more frequently—is widely distributed from Albuquerque to Taos and beyond. For a rate sheet, visit [GREENFIRETIMES.COM](http://GREENFIRETIMES.COM).

## HOMAGE TO YVONNE SANDOVAL

February 17, 1976 – September 23, 2023

BY MACEO CARRILLO MARTINET



We honor the life of our sister, Yvonne Sandoval, a Chicana activist, therapist, farmer and mother. Yvonne was a vibrant spirit that righteously stewarded the land. She embodied an unrelenting love for people and the Earth. She was always busy working with youth on a food forest, planting and harvesting *remedios*, and strategizing with neighbors on how to provide more local food for the community.

As director of El Valle Women’s Collaborative and a council member of the Bueno para Todos Farming Cooperative, her dream—which many of us share and have worked on—was to establish a community farm in Villanueva, New Mexico, on land that had been abandoned. The farm became not only an economic development project but also a sanctuary for people from all walks of life and cultures. It has been regularly visited by international students from United World College near Las Vegas, N.M. It is a gathering place for community events and has attracted local as well as urban folks to work on many projects. It is a safe learning space for anyone who wants to learn and be in community.

*A vibrant spirit that righteously stewarded the land*

*remedios*, like lavender, are found throughout. Birds and insects have proliferated, along with colors, smells, tastes, laughter and camaraderie. As Yvonne explained in a 2021 video made during the peak of Covid, “We are doing Indigenous Permaculture... but these terms have been co-opted and really mean the original way of life... wisdom that has been here for so long, people are starting to tap into it.”

Today, a young fruit orchard stands tall, every drop of rain or flake of snow is harvested in underground reservoirs, a waffle garden bears corn, beans, squash and their other sister plants. Patches of



Yvonne was the essence of a Chicana farmer. She reconnected to, embraced and honored her Indigenous roots. She treated the Earth as a mother, a sacred being, and people working together as a process of healing. She knew that the survival of all life, especially humanity, depends on our connections to each other and on places where these connections are nurtured and protected. The mission to “create community through food,” of growing one’s own food and medicine, was an arduous, spiritual journey, but also an act of resistance to the status quo, the ideology of extractive capitalism that is destroying much of what we love. Community farms and the relationships they build, she would often tell me, will save us when times are difficult. She proved that family can come from anywhere, and that the most remote places on Earth can provide precious insights on how

to change the world we live in. She taught that we shouldn’t be afraid to celebrate who we are, but more importantly, to celebrate what we could be.

*Photos: (left) Yvonne Sandoval; (above) waffle garden, just completed by Sandoval at the Bueno para Todos community farm in Villanueva, N.M.; waffle garden during the growing season, full with various crops and remedios; Sandoval with Maceo Martinet. They gave thanks and ceremonial tobacco to community members who attended a planting day.*



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L-R: *Acequia del Molino, east Pecos, N.M.; local musicians, Gallinas Cultural Tour; Brittny Seowtewa of the Zuni Youth Enrichment Program; Bottom: Cibolero buffalo hunter; northern N.M. wildfire; Ralph Vigil opening acequia gate to his farm*





(PART ONE)

# LAS VEGAS GRANDES

*A Short Piece of a Long History*

BY HILARIO E. ROMERO

## Geography of Las Vegas Grandes

A beautiful, pristine area of geological, ecological and historical significance, with its *llanos*, *montañas*, *mesas* and *tinajas*, was called Las Vegas Grandes by Spanish explorers. Fed by el Río de las Gallinas and its ecosystem, the river meanders from the upper eastern edge of the Sierra Madre del Sur (southern Rockies) of eastern New Mexico and eventually merges with the Río Pecos. Breathtaking views of ancient rock escarpments covered with ponderosa and spruce, hot springs, exotic flora and fauna, await visitors along the roadway leading to el Cerro de Tecolote Grande. All of this is interconnected by the flowing Río de las Gallinas.

The río flows through the old settlements of Gallinas, Moctezuma, Los Vigiles, San Antonio (Upper Las Vegas, where the first house was built and the oldest church stands today), through Old Town Las Vegas and on to El Puertecito (Romero), San Agustín, Lourdes, La Liendre, through the Antonio Ortíz Grant to Chaperito, and empties into the Río Pecos between Dilia and Colonias. The entire east side of the Río de las Gallinas irrigated large fruit orchards, fields of corn, beans, squash and other vegetables which fed the growing town of San Antonio and the original Las Vegas into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## Flora and Fauna

Most of the lands in this area are in the upper Sonoran Life Zone, characterized by *ponderosa*, *piñon* and *sabina* trees as the canopy, and more sparsely distributed *chamisa* shrubs, *chamisa hedionda*, saltbrush, scrub oak, yucca, buffalo grass, blue grama grass, *choya*, *nopal* and small barrel cactus. Wildflowers are abundant throughout the Río de las Gallinas; upriver there is ponderosa and spruce, and the lower river is dominated by cottonwoods, with some invasive species. These trees, plants, bushes and shrubs are lifegiving foods for fauna that roam along escarpments in the canyon, which has an abundance of sedimentary rock. Life for all species was possible because of the rivers and streams and numerous springs that draw from them. Kangaroo rats and deer mice nest under the yuccas, chamisa bushes, saltbrush and cholla cactus; rattlesnakes in the rocks; rabbits among the *piñon*; along with horned, collared and whiptail lizards. Occasional groups of elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, bears, mountain lions, coyotes and bobcats roam the river's bosque.

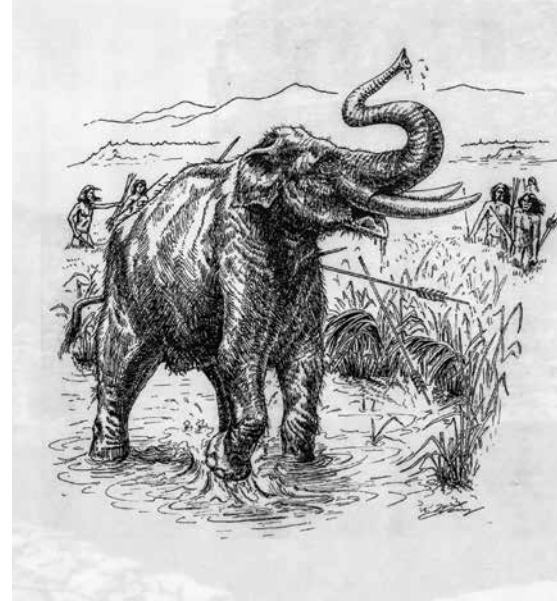
*In the early 1700s, los Ciboleros, buffalo hunters from Santa Fe and Santa Cruz de la Cañada, were made up of mestizos and genízaros.*

## Las Vegas Grandes: Earliest Period

Centuries of human existence have left cultural imprints. The ancestors of the Indigenous Pueblos were the Clovis peoples—who had a kill site located 140 miles southeast as the crow flies from the Vegas Grandes—and Folsom, who had another kill site 100 miles northeast of the Vegas Grandes. Clovis

*In 1450 A.D., the Jicarilla Apachis arrived to hunt, set up permanent encampments and conduct ceremonies.*

peoples date to 13,500 years ago and Folsom peoples to 9,000 years ago, according to archaeologists. There is a possibility that this was a hunting site for these groups because of the lush meadows where animals could feed. Cooking hearths have been discovered near Las Vegas Grandes. (Anthony Boldurian, & John Cotter. Clovis Revisited: *New Perspectives on Paleoindian Adaptations* from Blackwater Draw, New Mexico Dept. of Anthropology, Texas A&M University, 2005)



## Las Vegas Grandes – Pueblo Period 1000 A.D. to 1350 A.D.

From time immemorial, Indigenous peoples lived within this large area, leaving behind pueblo remains, understated shrines and petroglyphs. Life was hard, dangerous and uncertain. Despite this, Pueblo people built villages, farmed, hunted and gathered water and food from the earth. The Towa-speaking Pueblo of Ci'cu'yeh (Pecos Pueblo), was thriving as early as 1300 A.D., until 1838 A.D. It

was located 40 miles to the west of Las Vegas Grandes. Peh' Qui'Lah (Pecos Pueblo people) performed ceremonies in the Las Vegas Grandes. Two pueblos to the east that were precursors of Pecos were Tecolote Pueblo, established about 1050 A.D., and Puertecito, only five miles south of Las Vegas Grandes, which was established about 1100 A.D. By 1300, both pueblos were abandoned. (*The Pecos Pueblo* (Pecos National Historic Park, National Park Service Publication, 2021) & Angela Marie Mallard, Dental Nonnetric *Analysis of Tecolote Pueblo: A Study of Biological Distance*. Master's Thesis: Department of Anthropology, New York University, 2011)



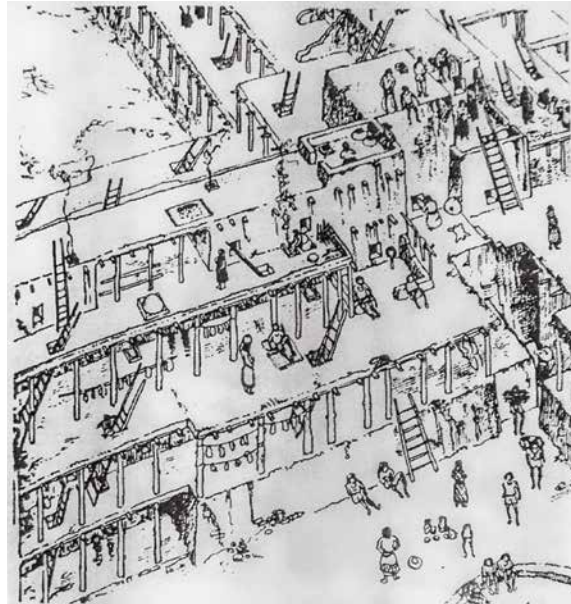
Jesus Rivera, next to wife, daughter standing  
photo by George Bennett, 1880 MNM archives



Left: Pre-Columbian elephant and hunters; Three sisters; right: Wahu Toya, Pecos Pueblo leader; historic image of Pecos Pueblo; Jicarilla Apachi on horse; map of Jicarilla encampments



Wahu Toya, Pecos Pueblo  
photo by John K. Hilters, 1880



Apachis along with the Carlanas who merged with the Jicarillas in Las Vegas Grandes. They had to protect their encampments from periodic intrusions of the Kiowa, Faraón Apachis and Pawnees who were drawn to the area during buffalo migrations. The Jicarilla temporarily moved into the mountains for elk, deer and other game and fish. They most likely performed ceremonies at the hot springs. Conflict and eventual trade between those tribes continued from

*With the rest of the colonies in revolt, Spain slowly lost her hold on the provinces in the Americas.*

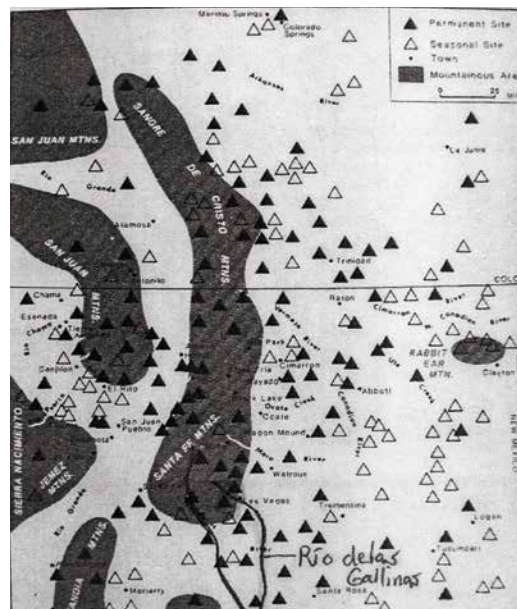
**Arrival of the Jicarilla and Other Semi-nomadic Tribes**

In 1450 A.D., the Jicarilla Apachis arrived to hunt, set up permanent encampments and conduct ceremonies. They began hunting buffalo in the plains east of Las Vegas Grandes and trading with the pueblos of Ci'cu'yeh. However, it was the Jicarilla



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1450 A.D. to 1830. The Kiowa, Faraón and Pawnee kept the Spanish and later the Mexicans from establishing communities in the area. Four centuries passed as the Jicarilla Apachis lived in Las Vegas Grandes and other sites to the north. The Jicarilla Apachis settled in the northeastern area of what would become La Provincia de Nuevo México de la Nueva España, as far north as the Río Napeste (Arkansas River) and as far south as El Cerrito de Bernal, 14 miles south of Las Vegas Grandes. The Ollero band set up encampments

*Two pueblos that were precursors of Pecos were Tecolote Pueblo, established about 1050 A.D., and Puertecito, established about 1100 A.D.*

CONT. ON PG 35



# UTILIZING CULTURAL LIFEWAYS, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND EXISTING RESOURCES TO INCREASE COMMUNITY HEALTH

*Gallinas Cultura Tours, LLC*

BY CENTER OF SOUTHWEST CULTURE STAFF

Rock Ulibarrí lives on the ranch where three of his great uncles were born and raised. Their stories and lives continue to inspire and motivate him to make sure the homestead remains in the family for generations to come.

His three ancestors played a major role in New Mexico history. In February 1889, brothers Juan José, Pablo and Nicanor Herrera organized resistance to protect half a million acres of land from encroachment by cattle ranchers. They called themselves *Las Gorras Blancas*, or the “white caps,” after the hoods they wore to hide their identity.

In the early 1890s, a depressed sheep and wool market adversely affected northern New Mexico’s economy. Communal lands dictated by the original Spanish land grants were increasingly being split up and fenced off as private land, and pastures were not as plentiful. This mostly impacted Hispano farmers who relied on the communal lands to raise their stock.

Las Gorras Blancas tore down fences, burned barns and haystacks, scattered livestock and threatened worse if justice did not prevail. A group under the direction of Juan José Herrera set thousands of railroad ties afire when the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad refused to raise the low wages it paid Hispano workers.

Ulibarrí is a graduate-degree educator, artist, historian and community activist who is also an active farmer, rancher and outdoorsman. He previously served as a San Miguel County commissioner, and currently serves on the national board of HECHO (Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hiking and the Outdoors).

He lives in Gallinas on property handed down for over seven generations. “I intend to leave this ranch to my children and grandchildren,” Ulibarrí said. “I want it to be a ranch that can sustain my family for years.”

He had been longing for economic opportunities that would permit him to stay rooted in place by using resources he owned or had access to in his rural enclave. Fortunately, several years ago, he met Arturo Sandoval at the dedication of a historic mural Ulibarrí created in downtown Las Vegas, New Mexico. Sandoval is the founding director of the Center of Southwest Culture (CSC), a non-profit whose mission is to support Indigenous and Mexicano/Chicano communities through economic development, cultural and educational programs. CSC’s work takes an approach centered on cultural (including linguistic) lifeways, traditional knowledge and existing resources to increase overall community health.

The center assists in developing businesses based on owned assets such as land and water, with a focus on regenerative agriculture and culturally based outdoor tourism. To help rural communities, CSC provides a full spectrum of business development resources and training to new and emerging small businesses, including training in formal business incorporation processes, business and financial systems management, branding and marketing strategies and plans, including identifying local and regional markets, logo development, food safety compliance, program development, etc.

Working with Ulibarrí and his team of locals, Gallinas Tours LLC was created in collaboration with the CSC to provide a unique local cultural experience. The tours feature a deep dive into traditional Nuevo Mexicano culture. This includes eating traditional foods and meeting *santeros*,

*“Our goal is to create local economies that can sustain our rural cultures and communities indefinitely.”*

— *Arturo Sandoval*

weavers, musicians and storytellers. As part of their experience, guests actively participate in hands-on activities with traditional artisans. Besides marketing to individuals, Gallinas Cultural Tours are also offered to state and regional organizations interested in attending the tours as part of team-building and/or retreat events.

“Gallinas Cultural Tours is also a spark for businesses tied to the tours,” Ulibarrí said. “The tours’ staff is incorporating a formal business to offer catering to local and regional clients in the San Miguel County area. A horseback-riding business is also being incorporated to support the tours’ core business.”

*Providing a unique, local cultural experience*

“We do economic development by using existing natural and human resources, starting small businesses without obtaining conventional

financing, with an eye toward creating sustainable local economies where currently none exist,” Sandoval said. “Many of our communities exist as transfer economies, relying solely on pension payments, support from family members working in urban areas, and other outside sources of income to survive. Our goal is to create local economies that can sustain our rural cultures and communities indefinitely.”

According to the Center for American Progress (CAP), approximately one-fifth of Americans live in rural areas, and 10 percent of the country’s gross domestic product is generated in nonmetropolitan counties. Moreover, rural areas are crucial sources of water, food, energy and recreation for all Americans. Rural areas constitute 97 percent of America’s land mass and are where many of the country’s vital natural resources are located.

CAP reports that federal policy has left many rural communities behind. Though some are thriving, rural areas overall have yet to match employment levels reached prior to the 2008 recession, and deep poverty persists in many rural communities. Beyond barriers to jobs and economic opportunity, some rural areas also lack access to crucial services such as health care or the internet.

Sandoval said that rural New Mexico, particularly traditional land-based communities, have become marginalized economically, especially since the end of World War II. “We lack local economic engines that can keep our communities stable and growing,” he said. “For example, the U.S. Census reports that the population of Mora County in 2021 was 4,196, 14.2 percent down from the 4,893 who lived there in 2010. For comparison, the U.S. population grew 7.3 percent, and New Mexico’s population grew 2.5 percent during that period.” Sandoval argues that unless these traditional land-based communities use existing talents and resources—both human and natural—to create small local economies for themselves, the lifeways of these traditional communities will likely disappear.

“Working with people like Rock Ulibarrí encourages and inspires us to believe we can reverse the serious economic downturn in New Mexico’s rural areas, and that, together, we can revive and recreate small, sustainable economies for ourselves and our children,” Sandoval said. ■





# Gallinas Cultural Tours



Guests around a fire: (© Catherine Baca); hikers (© Bobby Gutiérrez); Rock Ulibarri finds useful plants in the forest (© Bobby Gutiérrez); tin artisans: (© Alicia Lueres Maldonado); Marco Sandoval, Sarah Dewey, Rock Ulibarri, Arturo Sandoval (© Bobby Gutiérrez); Right side, top: Arturo Sandoval, Marco Sandoval, Bernadette Torres (© Bobby Gutiérrez); Sunset, Hermit's Peak: (© Kateri Zuni); local musicians: (© Alicia Lueres Maldonado); Gallinas Creek (© Kateri Zuni); goats: (© Bobby Gutiérrez); students of Mariachi Cardenal, Las Vegas City Schools (© Kateri Zuni)

## SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

If you are interested in forming a small business, or would like to have a feasibility study done to help you decide if creating a small business is a viable option, contact the Center of Southwest Culture, Inc.: [WWW.CENTEROFSOUTHWESTCULTURE.ORG](http://WWW.CENTEROFSOUTHWESTCULTURE.ORG) or call 505-247-2729 and ask to speak with founding director Arturo





## THE “TRAVELING JEWEL” OF LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO

### *No.11 Trolley Tours, LLC*

From 1881 to 1902, Las Vegas, New Mexico operated “horse cars” (horse-drawn trams or trolleys) that served as transportation for the citizenry. In 1905, Las Vegas was one of the first small cities to get an electric streetcar, owned by Las Vegas & Hot Springs Electric Railway Light & Power Company. In 1913, the trolley was used in the burgeoning film industry in Las Vegas, with filmmaker Romaine Fielding and actor/producer Tom Mix. In 1928, the streetcars were discontinued.

Recently, Las Vegas reclaimed a historic jewel: A 1998 Chance Trolley bus that had been in local parades, used for film tours and private pub crawls, has returned to the city from Eureka Springs, Arkansas, where it had been parked and abandoned for several years until three visionary entrepreneurs—Margo Segura, Virginia Marrujo and Georgina Ortega-Angel—decided to purchase it and turn it into a viable tour business, No.11 Trolley Tours, LLC.

“Our focus is to bring historical, cultural, film and eco-tourism to our town and to attract tourists who want to visit a well-preserved, historical city,” said Segura. “Once visitors take the one-hour, 22-mile educational tour around the five historic districts in Old Town and East Las Vegas, they will want to walk the town, visit locations, dine at the local eateries, shop and stay the night. These visits help support local businesses.”

The small trolley tour company has already had a dynamic impact on Las Vegas, re-igniting excitement in a town that has suffered devastation from COVID-19, historic wildfires, floods and personal losses.

An advertising campaign, “Tour & Explore,” has been reaching out locally, statewide and nationally. People from around New Mexico, as well as Arizona, California, Colorado and beyond, have been booking tours. The

trolley has also had a presence at the Fiesta Parade, New Mexico Highlands University Parade, West Las Vegas High School Homecoming Parade, a scavenger hunt for the Girl Scouts, a grand opening, a Rotary tour, a private



birthday party and a specialty tour of West Las Vegas for the Old Santa Fe Association. In October, it offered Haunted Halloween tours. ■

*Tickets and Trolley Tour merchandise can be found at [WWW.NUMBER11TROLLEYTOURS.COM](http://WWW.NUMBER11TROLLEYTOURS.COM), or call 505-485-7366.*

*Photos: Trolley on the plaza; inside the trolley; Girl Scouts scavenger hunt; Las Vegas Fiestas Parade*

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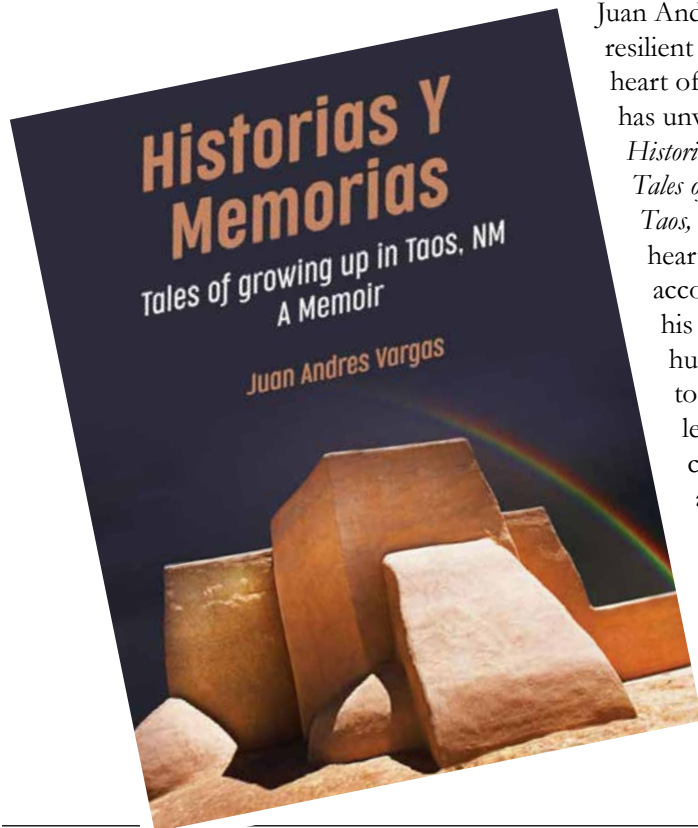
## BOOK PROFILES

### HISTORIAS Y MEMORIAS

#### TALES OF GROWING UP IN TAOS, NM

BY JUAN ANDRÉS VARGAS

JUAN ANDRÉS VARGAS CHRONICLES A REMARKABLE JOURNEY



Juan Andrés Vargas, a resilient spirit born in the heart of Taos in 1940, has unveiled a memoir. *Historias y Memorias: Tales of Growing Up in Taos, New Mexico* is a heartfelt and inspiring account, tracing his journey from humble beginnings to becoming a legal professional, community leader and custodian of cherished family tales. Vargas' upbringing in picturesque landscapes of the Sangre de Cristo

Mountains shaped his character and instilled values that have guided his life. From running barefoot through fields to savoring the taste of home-cooked summer harvests, his early experiences fostered an enduring appreciation for preserving traditions and making the most of life's simple pleasures.

Vargas' path took an unexpected turn when he was drafted into the army. This eventually led him to the University of New Mexico, where he pursued a dual major in English and Spanish, his native tongue. His thirst for knowledge and unwavering determination drove him to the Thurgood Marshall College of Law, where he earned his juris doctorate. Returning to his beloved Taos, Vargas embarked on a multi-faceted career. He practiced general law, contributed as a special assistant attorney general for the state of New Mexico, secured two terms as the elected probate judge of Taos County and raised two daughters. Today, in his 80s, Vargas continues to practice law.

At the heart of *Historias y Memorias* are Vargas' experiences as a Hispanic individual, shaped by the ebb and flow of life in a culturally rich community. His memoir presents a captivating tapestry of tales, including folklore, encounters with notable



figures such as wood carver Patrociño Barela and stories of triumph over adversity. The book is a poignant tribute to his parents, who navigated poverty and racism while raising seven children. "It stands as a testament to their resilience and love," Vargas said. "It is intended as a celebration of the human spirit's capacity to rise above challenges and embrace life's myriad adventures."

*Historias y Memorias: Tales of Growing up in Taos, New Mexico* is available for purchase from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Apple Books, Google Books and other distributors.

### NEW MEXICO POETRY ANTHOLOGY

EDITED BY LEVI ROMERO AND MICHELLE OTERO  
MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO PRESS, SEPT. 2023

*Like the voices filling post office lobbies and general stores, and in the resolanas of our childhood homes of Dixon and Deming, the voices gathered here form a community. No one voice is more important than another. In these pages you will find published poets alongside your neighbors, census workers, poets laureate, teachers, senators, high school students, professors, healthcare workers, doctors and spoken-word artists, all revealing something of themselves that can only be felt through poetry.* – Levi Romero (New Mexico Inaugural Poet Laureate) and Michelle Otero (Emerita Albuquerque Poet Laureate)



Michelle Otero

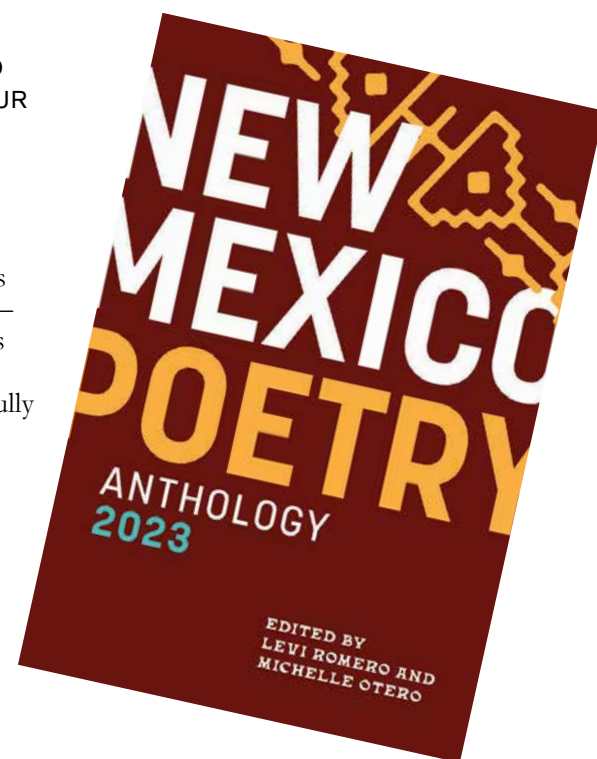


Levi Romero

POETS AMONG US:  
AN ODE AND HOMAGE TO  
NUESTRA QUERENCIA, OUR  
BELOVED HOMELAND

BY NEW MEXICO'S  
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In their introduction, lauded New Mexico poets Levi Romero and Michelle Otero write: "These voices rise as a canto, singing the joys, sorrows and praises of individual experiences to form a poetry collective that encompasses the poetic-cultural landscape that is New Mexico."

Including poignant, unique, even humorous perspectives on life in New Mexico influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, this anthology serves as a welcome *remedio* to all aspects of post-pandemic life, for ears aching for words of beauty, strength and solace as we emerge from the cocoon of survivability.



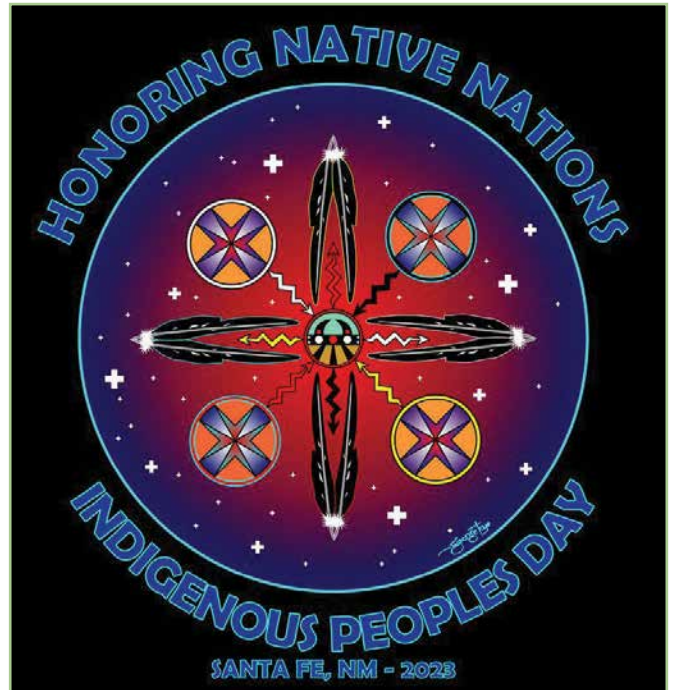
# HONORING NATIVE NATIONS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY ON THE SANTA FE PLAZA

The first-ever powwow on the Santa Fe Plaza in celebration of Indigenous People's Day took place on Oct. 9. It was a beautiful and emotional experience to witness Native cultures on brilliant display. "We wanted to bring Indigenous culture back to the plaza," said Caren Gala (Laguna/Taos/Nambé), director of the Santa Fe Indigenous Center, which sponsored the event. "It's about bringing people together—our Indigenous community, our Spanish community, our Anglo community and all other people—to celebrate," said John Cannon (Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho), a member of the powwow planning committee.

In the morning, Tesuque Pueblo dancers opened the event. A grand entry of Native nations from throughout New Mexico and across the country was followed by gourd and other powwow dancing. A who's-who of individuals active in the powwow scene across Indian Country participated. The head woman dancer was Jhane Myers (Comanche), the head man dancer was Terry Pecos (Jemez Pueblo), and James Edwards (Pawnee/Northern Cheyenne/Comanche) was master of ceremonies. Head gourd dancer was Cody Ayon (Cheyenne). Black Eagle (Jemez Pueblo) was the northern drum group and ShieldChief (Pawnee) was the southern drum group.







Photos © Seth Roffman  
Indigenous Peoples Day logo by George Toya (Jemez Pueblo)



## ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS CONDEMNS VIOLENCE AT PRAYERFUL CELEBRATION

APCG PRESS RELEASE: OCTOBER 6, 2023

On Sept. 28, during a peaceful, prayerful event, an individual agitator shot an Indigenous man in front of the Río Arriba County Commission office in Española, N.M. Indigenous demonstrators and allies from surrounding communities were opposing the reinstallation of a bronze statue depicting Spanish conquistador Juan de Oñate. The commissioners decided to delay the reinstallation. The act of violence immediately led to questions and criticism about the decision to pull the statue out of storage and have it placed in full display in front of the office. The decision was made without public input or tribal consultation.

All Pueblo Council of Governors' (APCG) Vice Chairman Jerome Lucero, former governor of Zia Pueblo, stated, "It's unfortunate that during a prayer-filled ceremony, an individual was seriously harmed over this issue. This shows that the historical trauma and pain inflicted on our Pueblo people by Oñate is still here. As tribal leaders, we are very concerned about the possibility of continued violence against Native people who vehemently disagree with this decision."

Oñate is remembered by the Pueblos for his inhumane acts of cruelty against Indigenous people and Spanish settlers. One of the most painful historic accounts is the attack on Acoma in January 1599, when Spanish soldiers under the command of Oñate decimated the Pueblo and killed 800 Acoma men, women and children. The attack was in retribution for the killing of his nephew and a dozen Spanish soldiers who had demanded food and supplies, assaulted an Acoma woman and forced allegiance to the Spanish crown. Later, Oñate ordered the right foot of surviving Acoma men to be cut off. The men had fought to protect Pueblo families from the European invaders. Sixty Acoma children were removed from their families and taken to México, never to return. After being accused of violating Spanish law, Oñate was tried, exiled and banned from the region because of his inhumane acts and atrocities.

Acoma Gov. Randall Vicente offered this perspective: "Acoma people are resilient. We survived some of the most violent acts committed at the hands of a historic figure who should not be idolized. I am afraid the decision to put up the Oñate statue will only polarize our communities. We have come a long way since the battle at Acoma. Today we need to stop seeing each other as enemies. We need to talk and listen to one another and work together for the safety and common good of all."

APCG Chairman Mark Mitchell, former governor of Tesuque, said, "Pueblo governors uphold the core values of love and respect. Violence threatens the core values of peace and our collective wellbeing. We condemn all actions promoting increased violence. Unequivocally, the health and safety of Native people is on the hearts and minds of Pueblo governors as we seek justice and reconciliation. Pueblos should always have a seat at the table to be consulted about these decisions."

The question remains—should the Río Arriba County Commission use a public space to reinstall the Oñate statue? APCG recommends that the commission reflect on efforts during a similar controversy surrounding the Santa Fe Entrada. APCG led a series of diplomatic sessions among the stakeholders—sessions that were grounded in shared core values as well as drawing attention to the state's complex history and engaging in meaningful discourse, addressing the legacy of colonialism in New Mexico. The outcome was a negotiated agreement to cease reenactment of the Entrada and instead work toward reconciliation and an acceptance of our diverse histories, culture and languages, as well as reaffirming those familiar bonds of friendship, respect and understanding. APCG calls for a similar engagement and stands ready to work with the commission to arrive at meaningful outcomes and resolve this issue.

## FIVE TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN NEW MEXICO TO RECEIVE \$98 MILLION TO HELP BRING HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TO 3- AND 4-YEAR-OLDS

BY KIM BACA

In September, there was a historic moment for New Mexico that reflected big strides in tribal relations and pre-kindergarten expansion. Parents in five tribal communities are celebrating more options in early childhood education (ECE). The state has awarded \$98 million to the Mescalero Apache Tribe, the Pueblo of Nambé, the Navajo Nation and the To'Hajilee Chapter of the Navajo Nation. The Pueblo of Tesuque, which was part of a pilot project, will continue and expand its pre-K program. Celebratory events emphasized the importance of recognizing tribal sovereignty and the unique needs of tribal language, culture and traditions-infused programs.

Cotillion Sneddy, assistant secretary for Native American Early Education and Care, said the funding is part of the state's goal of providing universal, free pre-K throughout New Mexico. "This is the first phase of trying to meet our goal that every 3- and 4-year-old have access to high-quality ECE, no matter where they live, their background or geographical location. Three- and 4-year-olds need to be socialized in an environment that supports their early-learning development," Sneddy said.

In 2022, voters approved a constitutional amendment to guarantee the right to an ECE and increased the Permanent School Fund to finance the initiative to fulfill Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's campaign promise to provide free, statewide pre-K. A state legislative finance committee estimated that more than \$110 million in funding has been made available since voter approval. Pre-K teacher pay and the number of instructional hours has increased as part of the governor's initiative.

In April, the state estimated that nearly 22,000 children would be enrolled in pre-K. Many sites statewide began to offer free pre-K this fall. The program, which focuses on academic progression, has no income requirements.

The multiyear funding for tribes has helped expand classroom attendance, fund new and existing positions, and, in one case, create a new pre-K program. Through a state-tribal intergovernmental agreement that respects tribes' rights to govern themselves as nations, tribes had an opportunity to apply for funding and utilize it in ways they determined best fit their communities. "Of course, there are certain requirements for a regular early childhood program, but the specifics of what curriculum they can use and what assessment that they can use were all up to the communities," Sneddy said.

Educators with the Mescalero Apache Tribe in southern New Mexico planned a Montessori school, which incorporates the self-directed activity, hands-on learning and collaborative play with the Apache language and culture. Mescalero Montessori opened on Sept. 20 with eight students whose parents secured spots after entering a lottery. Rosario Dick, Mescalero's Early Childhood director who is also the Montessori teacher, said she plans on phasing in teachers to grow the program annually by having assistants in the classroom who will have their own classroom the following year.

Though there are two Head Start programs on the reservation, families are limited by federal income guidelines and the teacher-student ratio. There also aren't enough teachers to fill a classroom, and many families are on a wait-list. Mescalero is also between two school districts that are about 20 miles away. Some parents, like Christina Byers-Hoahwah, didn't want her son, who recently turned three, to be bused that far. "I really like the Montessori approach, and the classroom size is smaller than Head Start," Byers-Hoahwah said. "He was in a classroom with 12 children, and it was too much for him at this developmental stage."

Dick said the new school gives parents in the rural community another option, as well as strengthening Mescalero's sovereign ability to continue to plan for the future of their youth. "It's enriching their culture at such a young age, and hopefully they'll take Apache classes in elementary all the way up to high school," she said. "This is starting early to preserve the culture and language before it dissipates and disappears."

*Kim Baca (Navajo/Santa Clara Pueblo) is an award-winning writer and owner of KB Consulting, an Albuquerque-based company specializing in public relations and content marketing. She has also been a marketing and communication director in the higher education and nonprofit sectors.*



# Children and Families Embrace Food Sovereignty

## Zuni Youth Enrichment Program

*“We Grow, We Share, We Eat, We Save.”*

BY BRITTON SEOWTEWA

The Zuni Youth Enrichment Project (ZYEP), founded in 2009, strives to provide every child with the encouragement and opportunities they need to reach their full potential. The nonprofit project is dedicated to promoting resilience among Zuni youth so they will grow into strong, healthy adults who are connected with Zuni traditions. ZYEP fulfills its mission by providing positive role models, enriching programs and nurturing spaces.

Summer is a critical time of year for the ZTEP’s Food Sovereignty Initiative. Not only is it the active growing season; it’s also the season for sharing knowledge and gaining experience through ZYEP’s summer camp, community workshops, family gardens and agriculture grants program. During the 15<sup>th</sup>-annual summer camp in 2023, ZYEP’s food sovereignty team and 21 counselors guided 120 campers ages 6-12 through a four-week journey that combined agriculture and art. Each week was dedicated to an element of the project’s motto: “We Grow, We Share, We Eat, We Save.”



Campers planted onions in pots that they could take home, they journaled and drew their dream gardens, and they visited other gardens in the Zuni community. They tried different types of produce, explored the differences between GMO and non-GMO seeds, and learned about the importance of seed-saving and conserving water. They also decorated the ZYEP greenhouse with sidewalk chalk, painted rocks, origami butterflies and drawings. “Some of our kids haven’t had an opportunity to be in a garden, so decorating our garden space with their art makes it feel like it belongs to them,” said Zachary James, food sovereignty team member. “It makes it feel like home.”

Zuni youth also had opportunities to take nutrition classes with team members Kenzi Bowekaty and Khassia Hattie and Brittny Seowtewa. During the first week, they made salad with homemade dressing and fruit; the second week, they learned about sugary drinks. We brought in store-bought drinks and measured how many teaspoons of sugar were in each drink. They were shocked. In the third week, the campers made mango salsa with blue corn chips, and in the fourth week, they made corn quesadillas with fresh pico de gallo. The team handed out heirloom seeds, and each child went home with a cutting board, plastic knife and apron they decorated.


ZYEP also held free monthly food sovereignty workshops for community members of all ages. The water conservation workshop in June drew about 50 families to learning stations that involved games, educational activities and the sharing of important cultural knowledge. All of the families went home with shade cloths for their gardens.

It was Kenzi’s idea, with support from our Agriculture Committee, to have a table dedicated to cultural knowledge-sharing. It was wonderful to have this open dialogue, so this table will now be a feature at all of our community workshops. It’s cool to see friendships develop as people help and support each other.



Approximately 40 families attended the pest management workshop in July. They learned about fencing, do-and-don’ts, and beneficial insects versus pests. They played games including “Pin the Tail on the Prairie Dog”; they designed seed-saving boxes and pots and took home bottles of ZYEP’s homemade organic pest-control formula. The August workshop focused on healthy recipes from the garden. In September and October, the staff hosted a two-part series dedicated to seed-saving. We also did our ‘Proud to Be a Shiwi Farmer’ family visits. Eighty families registered to re-

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*Community-led initiatives that guide our people back to traditional ways of health*



*Photos courtesy Zuni Youth Enrichment Project*

ceive garden kits and rain barrels for their home-gardening and water-conservation efforts.

The summer heat was a major topic of discussion. “We talked about watering only at certain times of the day, conserving water, using only what you need and moisture retention,” James explained. “Ground cover and shade cloths are also important tools.”

The youth project is in the second year of an exciting two-year program: ZYEP Agriculture Grants. The grants have allowed the project to invest in local Zuni farmers and gardeners. Eight grant recipients used the funds for essentials such as garden tools, seeds, starter plants, fencing materials, pest control, shade cloths, wood for raised garden beds, cultivation/tilling equipment and more. Rainwater harvesting was also a priority.

According to Executive Director Tahlia Natachu, this has been an important exercise for the project’s food sovereignty efforts—and systems change—in the Pueblo of Zuni. It has allowed the organization to explore the world of grant-making and to assist in making funds more accessible for agricultural projects. “Not only do the grants provide Zuni farmers and gardeners access to resources; they help Zuni enter the conversation around community informed- and led initiatives that guide our people back to traditional ways of health,” Natachu said. “This is a worldwide conversation in which Indigenous farmers are highly qualified to contribute. Agriculture is an important part of our traditional lifeways. By strengthening connections to our culture and each other, we will have a lasting, positive impact on the health of our



Zuni youth and families. And these stories and impacts can benefit other communities as well.”

The ZYEP Food Sovereignty Initiative is made possible with support from the Center for Science in the Public Interest, Native American Agriculture Fund, Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance, 7<sup>th</sup> Generation Fund, New Mexico Department of Health, and Newman’s Own Foundation. To learn more, visit [zyep.org](http://zyep.org). ■



*Brittny Seowtewa (Zuni Pueblo) is the Food Sovereignty coordinator for the ZYEP. She has planned and implemented nutrition sessions for Zuni youth and families, impacting more than 700 youth.*

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# INTERIOR DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES FIRST INDIAN YOUTH SERVICE CORPS GRANT AWARDS

The Department of the Interior has announced nearly \$3.5 million in 2023 Indian Youth Service Corps (IYSC) grants to eight projects involving more than 20 tribes and tribal organizations. These are the first awards for the IYSC, established by Secretary Deb Haaland as a partner-based program designed to provide Indigenous youth with meaningful, tribally led public service opportunities to support the conservation and protection of natural and cultural resources through construction, restoration or rehabilitation of natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational or scenic resources. Participants will receive a mix of work experience, basic and life-skills, education, training and mentoring.

2023 Indian Youth Service Corps grants in the Southwest were awarded to:

- **Wood for Life** (New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Colorado)—\$1 million awarded to expand the Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps’ Wood for Life Program, engaging youth from the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, Pueblo of Acoma, Pueblo of Zuni and Pueblo of Isleta in reforestation efforts, wildland fire mitigation and forestry, while also supporting local tribal fuel and firewood needs. Additional program coordination support will be provided by the U.S. Forest Service.
- **Traditional Farm Corps** (New Mexico)—\$480,223 to fund new Native youth corps in collaboration with the Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps, Pueblo of Acoma, Pueblo of Isleta and Pueblo of Zuni. Youth will work to restore local Indigenous food systems through agriculture, seed saving, and intergenerational knowledge-

sharing. The project will revitalize traditional food sovereignty and promote access to fresh, locally sourced foods for the communities served.

- **Hopi Youth Service Corps Program** (Arizona)—\$300,000 to fund a Native Youth corps comprised of Hopi Youth in collaboration with the Hopi Tribe and Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps to restore, protect and preserve the cultural landscape on the Hopi Reservation.
- **Connecting System Impacted Native Youth to Careers in Natural Resources** (New Mexico)—\$250,000 awarded to the Urban Native Barrio Corps (Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps and La Plazita Institute) to engage Native youth and young adults from the greater Albuquerque area to provide restorative justice programming and technical training in environmental conservation and natural resource management. Additional program coordination support will be provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- **Intergenerational Natural Resources Summer Youth Camp at Coronado National Forest** (Arizona)—\$48,400 to benefit Native youth from tribal communities surrounding Coronado National Forest, including 12 federally recognized tribes with ancestral ties to the forest (Ak-Chin Indian Community, Fort Sill Apache, Gila River Indian Community, Hopi Tribe, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Pueblo of Zuni, Salt River Maricopa Indian Community, San Carlos Apache Tribe, Tohono O’odham Nation, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Yavapai Apache Tribe). Additional program coordination support will be provided by the U.S. Forest Service.

Program activities can include research projects, oral histories, habitat surveys, climate mitigation, trail restoration, invasive species removal, fire fuels reduction, watershed restoration, recreational expansion and the development of educational, informational or communication materials for the public. IYSC projects will promote self-determination and economic development and can take place on tribal or federal lands where tribes have ancestral connections. All projects on tribal lands will be designed and managed in a collaborative fashion, including nation-to-nation consultation prior to the start of any project.



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OP-ED: CHARLES CURTIN, PH.D.

## FIRE, POWER AND PRIVILEGE IN THE PYROCENE

*Old inequities, new threats and unparalleled opportunities*

In 1967, Chicano activist and leader Reies López Tijerina led the famous raid on the Río Arriba Courthouse in Tierra Amarilla, New Mexico, to free compatriots from Alianza Federal de Mercedes—the larger goal was to restore land grants to Spanish colonial heirs. Now, decades later, the need to restore Spanish, and indeed all lands formerly held by Native peoples is greater than ever. However, I'm not referring to land tenure and ownership boundaries, but the recovery of the land back to a sustainable state that supports human and natural communities in the face of a warmer and drier climate and increasing wildfires.



*Pencil drawing of Mora by Joseph Heger, 1859, from Campaigns in the West, 1856-1861, by John Van Deusen Du Bois and Heger, courtesy Palace of the Governors Photo Archives (NMHM/DCA).*

*This shows the sort of pastoral landscape that dominated the region prior to extensive European settlement and the sorts of landscape mosaics we could strive to have again that would promote rural livelihoods and reduce fire threats.*

As one looks across the American West, most rural communities that have experienced wildfires have gone into decline. The point is no amount of rural revitalization, or federal recovery dollars, will make a long-term difference in the face of repeated burns. And that is what current climate and fire behavior models predict unless radical changes in land stewardship occur. It's arguably the greatest threat facing rural communities in the mountains of New Mexico and across the Southwest. The pyrocene, the age of fire, means that conventional economic planning and land management are nearly impossible under the old stable, sustainable-resource use assumptions.

Wildfire amplifies inequalities and old wounds, and we need to have an honest conversation about what's at stake, who the winners and losers are, and what kind of a future we want for our lands and communities. Do we accept an accelerated pattern of rural decline—or do we embrace the new reality of recurrent fire and craft proactive solutions? The Alianza Federal de Mercedes slogan “justice is our creed and the land is our heritage” is as valid as ever; the question remains—what will we do about it?

*Re-creating conditions closer to those which existed could provide more land-based opportunities for local people.*

### **Inequity in the Age of Fire**

The Southwest has passed a climatic threshold where recurrent wildfire is not just a possibility—it's a near certainty. The evidence from northern New Mexico is overwhelming. In the Jémez Mountains, the 2012 Cerro Pelado Fire burned over areas of the 2011 Las Conchas burn, which, in turn, burned over parts of the 2000

*The Southwest has passed a climatic threshold where recurrent wildfire is not just a possibility—it's a near certainty.*



*Federal guidelines indicate that one to three inches of mulch is optimal to reduce soil erosion and encourage vegetation recovery. The left image is typical of what is seen across the Hermit's Peak-Calf Canyon burn scar. The right is typical of what's required. As of mid-summer 2023, Forest Service officials told me they stopped mulching—even though it is arguably the most effective restoration technique—and only focused on reseedling.*

Cerro Grande conflagration. In the Sangre de Cristos, the 2022 Calf Canyon fire immediately burned over elements of the Hermit's Peak fire. Last spring, more homes and livelihoods were lost to the Las Tusas fire inside the Hermit's Peak-Calf Canyon burn perimeter.

Unsurprisingly, the biggest fire in New Mexico's history, the

Hermit's Peak-Calf Canyon burn, occurred in some of its poorest communities, with a disproportionate number of Hispano and Indigenous people. Nature abhors a vacuum; here, there are relatively few resources for coordinated forest stewardship. It remains a region ringed by fire preparedness and planning in more affluent communities such as Santa Fe, Taos and Angel Fire. At the same time, a history of

*We've got an unparalleled opportunity to repair old wounds while remaking a system that is future responsive.*

trauma leads to a situation where clans and family ties frequently trump collective governance—making it harder to coordinate planning. The land tenure system of thousands of private holdings further complicates the issue.

In the wake of recent fires, we've got an unparalleled opportunity to repair old wounds while remaking a system that is future-responsive, not one that recreates the situation that led to the fires in the first place. Yet, so far, the opportunity seems to have been largely squandered. Agencies and influential organizations have filled their coffers with fire relief funds, but little seems to have translated into substantive on-the-ground action to address long-term environmental challenges. For example, according to Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) protocols, mulching is the most effective technique to hold soils and promote regrowth following fire, and yet in over 1,000 randomized sampling plots on private lands across the Hermit's Peak-Calf Canyon burn, almost none of NRCS-supported aerial treatments met federal guidelines—while seeded mixes composed primarily of exotic grasses displace natives and create additional fire hazards. Such corner-cutting at the cost of millions undermines the recovery potential for fire-ravaged communities.

### **Reconceptualizing the Challenge**

Nassim Taleb, in his influential book *Antifragile*, coined the phrase the



## *We need to think differently about fire mitigation and environmental and social recovery.*

forest restoration ecologist in the Southwest, he pointed out that a significant contributor to the wildfire crisis is a lack of long-term strategic thinking. This occurs because most federal agency staff have short-term appointments, while leadership in state and federal agencies tend to be accountable to elected officials who, in turn, primarily work on short time frames. This means it is critical to have place-based, community-led efforts at the table that are relatively insulated from politics and can take the long view. As it is, millions go to quick fixes when—even in the words of regional leadership at the Forest Service—there is no coordinated long-term recovery strategy.

To address the need for a coordinated strategy, my organization and partners are assembling a panel of regionally and nationally recognized experts in climate change, fire, forestry and social change to assess potential and desired future conditions based on a warming and drying climate and altered fire regimes. A number of leading scientists and practitioners have agreed to engage in our process, and we are inviting others to participate in this effort.



*Reseeding with mixes composed primarily of barley was successful in restoring vegetation cover. However, these exotic species can displace natives, reduce tree seedling success and may even create additional fire threats. Seeding typically has little impact on reducing soil erosion.*

Coupled with documenting the environmental dimensions of the challenge is engaging leading practitioners in economic development who can help assess the amount of housing and workforce development needed to sustain rural communities and our landscapes and watersheds based on what is required to attain and maintain desired future landscape conditions. We have worked with development- and community-renewal experts like Elmo Baca and Mark Lautman and community leaders in Mora and San Miguel counties to begin assessing housing and workforce needs. We also need to understand what forestry and ecological restoration capacity exists—and how much is required to sustain our forests in the face of a changing climate. What carbon-negative technologies, such as biochar, can fill the gap between existing capacity and future needs, and how do we develop the markets and attract the investment capital required?

Again, these efforts are not just ecological or economic—they are a social-justice issue where centuries of *Indo-Hispano* culture are on the line, as well as that of urban centers downslope and downstream. It's intensely political because the long-term needs of disenfranchised local people frequently don't align with the short-term interests of agencies or political elites, so we are also engaging with local and nationally based community rights organizations to provide additional resources and political support.

### **Reimagining Landscape Composition**

In 2000, I had the opportunity to tour Los Alamos in the wake of the Cerro Grande fire, and what I saw was striking. In every instance, the fires roared through the tree crowns until they hit a thinned area—then, they would drop to the ground and snake along the forest floor, only to jump back into the crowns after the thinned area had passed. The impact of thinning on wildfire spread has been the conventional wisdom for decades, and forest thinning is the logical response to wildfire mitigation needs. And yet, in the immortal words of Bob Dylan—“*the times they are a-changin*.” I've walked nearly 20,000 acres in the last year, helping landowners in Mora and San Miguel counties with fire recovery, and in that time, I've seen dozens of thinned forests, and under last year's weather conditions—not one of them stopped a crown fire. Yes, the thinned areas fared much better and had less erosion and other ecological damage, but in most cases, almost all the trees died. As we saw last year during the Hermit's Peak–Calf Canyon fires, under dry and windy conditions, when embers can carry more than a mile—traditional approaches to fire mitigation, such as fuel breaks, frequently don't work. The point is—the rules of the game have changed. We need to think differently about fire mitigation and environmental and social recovery.



*Few communities that have been impacted by wildfire recover. Cycles of fire can lead to dramatic social and ecological upheaval and community and landscape decline.*

## *These efforts are not just ecological or economic—they are a social justice issue.*

Lucretius Problem after Roman poet and philosopher Lucretius Carus, who, in his work *De rerum natura* (On the Nature of Things), makes the point that a crucial failing of human cognition is that we usually can only imagine what we've already experienced. What Nobel Laureate Herbert Simon called “*bounded rationality*,” in which we pick not the best option but the most plausible one based on a limited frame of reference—a fundamental challenge of the pyrocene that agencies and political leaders can't adapt to what they haven't seen. Yet, most scientific evidence points to the same conclusion—future fires will differ significantly from those in the past in greater size and intensity. By some estimates, all the forests in the West will be altered by fire within the next 50 years. Based on these projections, we must radically rethink our approach to land stewardship, or fire-related tragedies will repeat themselves, and the divide between the haves and have-nots will likely deepen.

One of the barriers to creative problem-solving of the wildfire crisis is a disconnect between opportunities and incentives—the scale at which decision-making is made and that of the system it seeks to

address. When massive influxes of public dollars fund agencies and institutions, it's hard for them to admit the approaches undertaken are insufficient. This situation is compounded by a FEMA-driven recovery process in some burned areas that, almost by definition, is short-term and narrow in scope.

The disconnect is baked into the system. In a recent conversation with Dr. Wally Covington, arguably the premier



*Without restoration, soon, trees will begin falling and the landscape will become impassible. Grazing, hunting, wood cutting and other activities key to Hispano and Indigenous culture will become hazardous.*



For example, harnessing what Rene Romero, Fire Management Officer at Taos Pueblo, calls rejuvenating the “*warrior spirit*,” where young people realize that one of the greatest threats facing their people is fire and land health, and they need to be on essentially a war footing where they aggressively address the challenge. It also means taking an approach that Rene described as not fearing fire—but actively engaging in prescribed burns and other strategies that can be risky – but with the profound knowledge that inaction, procrastination and obfuscation only lead to worse outcomes. This requires political courage and, again, the ability to take the long view to think not about what restoration means in five years—but decades ahead...

Solutions also lie in carbon-negative technologies, creating markets and well-paying local jobs to help remove the small-diameter wood that often comprises over 80 percent of our forests. With the support of the U.S. Department of Energy, we’ve documented that strategies such as biomass energy can pencil out. We need regional strategies and private, state, and federal investment—coupled with forward-thinking landscape restoration that ensures the ecological integrity of our mountains is sustained.

Justice is not just social or environmental—but generational. What legacy will we leave our children and grandchildren? Will we leave them with a deteriorated landscape and fewer options—or will we choose a different path? Equity means not promoting management that leads to cycles of fire but thinking strategically about attaining desired future conditions. And there are considerable opportunities! Already, post-fire, more water is coming off the mountains; this is key because even with similar annual precipitation, there is the functional equivalent of drought in a warming and drying climate with longer growing seasons. Fewer trees mean more water, and our forests are fire-prone in part because, in many places, they have 100 times historical stand densities.

The system was and is seriously out of whack from natural processes due to shifting climate, a century of fire suppression and declining rural populations to tend the land. Historical records indicate very different landscapes from

today’s—more open areas, grazing and farming. Indigenous people managed fire to create healthier and more open landscapes because they knew they needed them to survive. Re-creating conditions closer to those which existed in the past could reduce fire impacts while providing more land-based opportunities for local people. But this means engaging them in strategic decision-making and considering alternatives to the status quo through creatively thinking long-term and large-scale about our collective future. ■

*Dr. Charles Curtin is a former burn boss and wildland firefighter with decades of experience working with rural communities on climate change adaptation and fire mitigation. He is the author of The Science of Open Spaces (2015), Complex Ecology (2018), and Beyond Resilience (forthcoming). He holds a master’s in Restoration Ecology and a doctorate in Landscape Ecology and has founded programs in Adaptive Management and Climate Change Mitigation at MIT and taught at MIT, Harvard and elsewhere. He lives in the Mora Valley of New Mexico, where he directs the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Initiative. [WWW.CHARLESCURTIN.COM](http://WWW.CHARLESCURTIN.COM).*



*Under a warming and drying climate, wildfire is projected to become increasingly common in New Mexico and across the West.*

*Photos © Charles Curtin*



*In May 2023, during the Hermit’s Peak-Calf Canyon fires, embers crossed the Mora Valley to cause ignitions more than a mile away. The valley is much wider than typical human-built fuel breaks—suggesting that fire mitigation efforts such as thinning and fuel breaks are less effective under current climatic conditions.*

## CLIMATE CHANGE’S IMPACT ON PRESCRIBED BURNING

NM POLITICAL REPORT

New research indicates that climate change will cut the number of days when prescribed burning can safely occur by 17 percent on average in the western United States, though winter months may see a 4 percent increase in favorable weather for these burns. The peer-reviewed journal *Nature* published the study on Oct. 3. Prescribed burning is a key tool to reducing risks of wildfire, but the reduction in days that these controlled fires can safely be used will impact that ability.

New Mexico has seen the consequences of prescribed burning in dry, windy conditions. The Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon fire and the Cerro Pelado fire were caused by prescribed burning. This has led to backlash against prescribed burning. The Hermit’s Peak fire is referenced in the new study. “Extreme meteorological events, especially severe to historically unprecedented drought conditions, have been contributing factors to several prescribed fires that ‘escaped’ and became disastrous wildfires,” the study states.

The Four Corners region will have one of the more significant decreases in prescribed burn days, with 29 percent fewer days when those fires can safely be lit. “The narrowing of prescribed fire windows, as well as increases in extreme wildfire burning conditions at other times, will further challenge fire and land management agencies and entities already constrained by limited budgets and growing administrative burdens. This may be especially true across the Pacific Southwest (including California) and Four Corners regions—which are likely to see the largest declines in [prescription burn days],” the authors wrote.



## NORTHERN NM UTILITIES RECEIVE FUNDS TO MITIGATE WILDFIRE RISKS

BY HANNAH GROVER  
NM POLITICAL REPORT

Two electric cooperatives that serve rural areas of northern New Mexico have received a combined \$26.7 million in federal funding to invest in grid infrastructure and help prevent wildfires. The funding is part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships, or GRIP, program.

The DOE announced a total of \$34.6 billion in GRIP funding for 58 projects across 44 states in October. These dozens of projects are intended to improve grid reliability in the face of climate change.

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative received \$15.4 million. It plans to deploy battery-storage systems as well as microgrid capabilities at three locations that will allow its customers to access reliable solar power. Kit Carson also hopes to prevent utility-ignited fires while avoiding impacts such as power outages to vulnerable communities. The cooperative serves an area that is prone to high wind events and faces increasing threats of wildfire and extreme drought. The company's resiliency projects include Picuris Pueblo, Taos Ski Valley and Northern New Mexico College/El Rito.

The Mora-San Miguel Electric Cooperative, which has been impacted by recent fires, most notably the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire, received \$11.3 million. The utility is in a part of the state with the highest risk of wildfires. In addition to helping Mora-San Miguel recover from the recent fires, the funding will also reduce the likelihood of future fires through efforts like vegetation management.

"New Mexicans have seen how vulnerable our power systems are to wildfires and other natural disasters," U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich said in a statement. "These historic federal investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will help our rural electric coops harden their grid infrastructure against extreme weather disruptions and ensure our communities keep their lights on during wildfires and other emergencies."

## MINING CLAIMS IN THE UPPER PECOS WATERSHED

OP-ED: RALPH VIGIL

## ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER FOR AGRICULTURE AND COMMUNITIES IS A HUMAN RIGHT



*An area of the Upper Pecos Watershed*

*This has far-reaching implications for our water quality and ability to sustain our communities.*

In the spring of 2019, Comexico, LLC, a Colorado-based subsidiary of Australian mining

company New World Resources Limited, acquired 20 mining claims in the Jones Hill area near Tererro, New Mexico. Comexico applied for permits to conduct exploratory drilling for gold, copper, zinc, lead and silver. This initial drilling would adversely impact more than 400 acres, five tributaries of the Pecos and the river's mainstem. When I saw the legal notice for this proposed exploration, I immediately contacted Garrett Veneklasen of NM Wild to assist me with forming a coalition to stop this from happening. A few days later, the Stop Tererro Mine Coalition, consisting of environmental and conservation organizations, acequias, land grants and Pueblo tribes had its first meeting and began to work together to protect this unique and sacred place that sustains many species of flora and fauna.

During the Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF) planning process, Comexico objected to the Thompson Peak Recommended Wilderness Area and revealed that since 2019, the company had gained ownership of over 236 mining claims throughout the Pecos headwaters. The SFNF agreed to their objections and removed over 2,000 acres from the recommended wilderness area.

Destructive hardrock mining is possible beyond the original exploratory drilling sites. The area now claimed by Comexico covers 4,300 acres and, if developed, would impact the entire Pecos watershed and possibly Santa Fe's municipal watershed. The Stop Tererro Mine Coalition has been working tirelessly to ensure protections are in place to protect the Upper Pecos Watershed from mining operations that could destroy our ability to irrigate our crops with clean water. The coalition has initiated an administrative withdrawal of the minerals in the Upper Pecos and is working with the SFNF and the U.S. Department of Interior to make this happen. Senators Heinrich and Luján have introduced S. 3033 to withdraw certain federal land in the Pecos Watershed from mineral entry and to enact designation of the Thompson Peak Wilderness Area.





Access to clean water flowing through our acequias for agriculture, aquifer recharge and habitat is necessary for national security. It cannot be compromised under any circumstances, as it has the potential to severely impact food production, local markets and the overall socio-economic stability of our communities. We must take immediate and assertive measures to protect our water resources and promote sustainable agricultural practices to meet the ever-increasing demands of our population. Ensuring access to clean water for agriculture is crucial to national security.

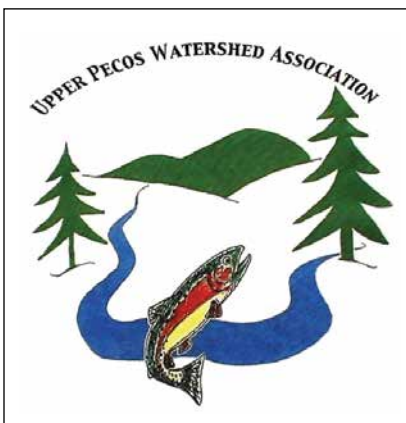


*The Upper Pecos Watershed Association is dedicated to the health of the watershed and local economy. Through a restorative action strategy and volunteer projects, UPWA balances recreation, history and ecology. Supported by grants and donations, UPWA works with national services, state agencies and local communities.* [HTTPS://PECOSWATERSHED.ORG](https://pecoswatershed.org)

Any compromise in this regard could have far-reaching implications on our water quality and ability to sustain our communities. We must proactively safeguard our water resources and ensure that future generations can access clean and potable water.

For more information and to take action in support of our efforts to protect this pristine area and water from total destruction, please visit

[HTTPS://STOPTERROMINE.ORG](https://stopterromine.org) . ■



*Ralph A. Vigil owns Molino de la Isla Organics, a small acequia-irrigated farm in East Pecos. He is also the chairman of the NM Acequia Commission and the Northern organizer for NM Wild.*



**OP-ED: RACHEL CONN**

## PROTECTING WATER QUALITY IN THE UPPER PECOS WATERSHED

*The Outstanding Waters Designation*

Starting in late 2019, a diverse group of entities and individuals, including tribal leaders and governments, community members, local governments, farmers, acequia members, conservation groups and outdoor recreationists, came together to protect the Upper Pecos watershed by advocating for Outstanding National Resource Waters (“ONRWs” or “Outstanding Waters”) protections.

*Watershed functionality and clean water availability are the bedrock of social stability, economic and cultural sustainability.*



On July 12, 2022, after three years of work and a lengthy hearing, the New Mexico Water Quality Commission voted to designate 179 miles of streams and rivers, and 42 acres of wetlands of the Upper Pecos River Watershed, as Outstanding Waters. This designation covers the mainstem and all tributaries from Dalton Canyon upstream to the Wilderness Boundary.

Outstanding Waters protections are the highest form of federal and state water-quality protections. Once a stream is designated as an Outstanding Water, any new or increased pollution is prohibited. This means that no new industry or development can discharge pollution into the Pecos.

It took many people and organizations coming together to get these protections passed. The petitioners included the Upper Pecos Watershed Association, San Miguel County, the Village of Pecos, the New Mexico Acequia Association and Molino de la Isla Organics. The petitioners were represented by Western Environment Law Center, and technical support was provided by Amigos Bravos. Many other individuals, including local landowners and local and statewide organizations also provided support.

Pecos Pueblo, which translates to “the place above the water,” is an ancestral pueblo whose descendants currently live at the Pueblo of Jemez. Jemez Pueblo was a key partner in the effort and provided letters and testimony in support.



*Inevitable massive fish kills, contamination of irrigation systems and loss of an already compromised culture are real threats from mining operations.*

The cold, clean waters of the Pecos are diverted into numerous acequias to water fields, livestock and sustain the local agricultural community. The upper Pecos watershed is a refuge for the Río Grande cutthroat trout and is the second most popular place to fish in the state. New pollution threats from mining and development and the desire to preserve the Pecos for future generations led to many members of the acequia and the outdoor recreation communities to speak out in support of the designation.

### Current Water Quality and Sampling Efforts

The Upper Pecos River generally has good water quality, with only a couple of impairments (places where standards are not being met) for parameters such as temperature and conductivity. Unfortunately, the state only collects water-quality data in New Mexico streams once every nine to 10 years, which means that we often don't have an accurate picture of current water quality. Many believe that as a state we must allocate more resources to sampling our waters so we can better understand water-quality threats and opportunities for restoration. In the meantime, several organizations are working to collect data in the Pecos to create a strong baseline for water quality and to aid in enforcing the new Outstanding Waters protections.



Any New Mexico waterway with outstanding ecological or recreational significance or high water quality can be nominated as an Outstanding Water. For more information visit: [OURNMWATERS.ORG](http://OURNMWATERS.ORG) . ■

*Rachel Conn is the deputy director of Amigos Bravos, a statewide organization that works to protect and restore the waters of New Mexico. [WWW.AMIGOSBRAVOS.ORG](http://WWW.AMIGOSBRAVOS.ORG)*

OP-ED: MAX TRUJILLO

## SACRIFICED: A RECURRING NIGHTMARE FOR THE PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

For over 50 years I have been enjoying the Pecos River in northern New Mexico. From the headwaters at nearly 11,000 feet above sea level to the meanders through the cholla in lower elevations of its path, the Pecos River has served as a vital waterway for the people of New Mexico. The place of the river's birth is an alpine basin, with hundreds of natural springs flowing into the Río Mora, Valdez Creek and the river itself. After these streams converge, it becomes the Pecos River.

Rich with fish and wildlife, this watershed is home to hundreds of species. It is integral to agriculture and has a rich history of sustaining farms from its origin to the southeast corner of our state. My memories of fishing and hunting along the Pecos are many—from hunting elk and mule deer in the upper reaches of the watershed—to catching catfish at lower elevations.

Communities along the Pecos are no strangers to the detrimental impacts that come with mining. People remember the contamination from tailings that resulted from mining operations in Terrero, a community in the upper Pecos watershed. That tailings pond is past its useful life and is a massive threat to the waterway if it is compromised.

With an active exploratory mining application being considered, one can't help but wonder if anyone understands what we would be sacrificing if mining is revived in the area. For as long as I have been alive, the Pecos Wilderness has been a destination for so many people, not just seeking recreation, but seeking to experience northern New Mexican culture. Recreation seekers will surely pick another place to enjoy if mining starts up again. Inevitable massive fish kills, contamination of irrigation systems and loss of an already compromised culture are real threats from mining operations in such a fragile place. This is not a "sky is falling" reaction to the threats. We need not look any further than the Chevron mine in Questa or the Gold King incident. Mines kill rivers, rivers that can't afford imminent contamination.

I guess it would be a different story if extraction companies were genuine in their promises to clean up after themselves, but until the mining laws are drastically changed, this will be our recurring nightmare. As the mining companies pack up and leave, there's no looking back, there is no remorse for what they leave behind; they just move on to the next project. They take their jobs with them and leave us with irreparable damage and a future full of uncertainty. Our beautiful fishing and hunting spots will be forever changed, as will our culture. I hope that those who are considering allowing mining operations to begin again in this area will realize what will ensue. ■



*Max Trujillo is the New Mexico senior field coordinator with HECHO (Hispanics Enjoying Camping Hunting and the Outdoors). He has decades of experience in conservation and has participated in the permanent protection of over a million acres of public land. [MAX@HECHOONLINE.ORG](mailto:MAX@HECHOONLINE.ORG)*

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## NATIONAL SECURITY

A public meeting was held in Pecos this summer to get a sense of how the town's residents felt about the threat of a hardrock mine being developed in the headwaters of its precious watershed. Everyone was fervently opposed to the idea of a mine or even exploratory drilling happening anywhere in the Pecos area. Many Pecos residents were and still are victims of the legacy Tererro hardrock mine that polluted the river and still impacts people's water wells in and around the mill site.

*The mining is short-term gain for a few and long-term ruin for those impacted throughout the watershed.*



One local gentleman at the meeting was in favor of the mine. He stood up and declared that increased mining is a matter of national security. This is a falsehood that has been spread by the extractive industry for decades in order to loosen regulations and open up new country to all sorts of mining and drilling activities. A commonsense counter-argument to this is one simple truth: There is nothing more crucial to the foundation of local, county, state and national security than clean air and water. This is especially true in the arid Southwest, which is in the bullseye of

climate change. Watershed functionality and clean-water availability are the bedrock of social stability, economic and cultural sustainability. Without these things, there can simply be no long-term security for anyone. By the time the meeting ended, the gentleman who made the pro-mining comments had changed his tune.



Hardrock mining is a direct and ominous threat to this truth. There is no such thing as "safe" mineral extraction in a fragile watershed that supplies the literal lifeblood to communities from Pecos, N.M. to Pecos, Texas, and therefore this mine and any others like it must be stopped at all cost.

If Comexico, LLC gets its way, a mine could be built that covers nearly five miles of ridge top between Thompson Peak and Jones Hill. The astounding richness of flora and fauna in this area would not just be impacted but destroyed altogether in perpetuity. The value of the area as a cultural resource is incalculable. Threatened and endangered species



*There is no such thing as "safe" mineral extraction in a fragile watershed.*

such as the spotted owl, goshawk and the native Río Grande cutthroat trout all stand the chance of permanently losing habitat here.

Instead of mining, which is short-term gain for a few and long-term ruin for those impacted throughout the watershed, we must continue our long-term commitment to permanent conservation of landscapes (through administrative designation and/or legislative action), watershed restoration/functionality and elevated water-quality standards that will ensure our children's children will have the clean water they need to continue their cultural land-use practices, thrive in a sustainable economic framework, and enjoy the local and national security the gentleman referred to in this summer's Pecos public meeting. ■



*Garrett Veneklasen is the Northern Conservation director for NM Wild and resident of the Taos Canyon. Veneklasen has been a tireless champion for the conservation and protection of public lands and native wildlife.*



## BIDEN ANNOUNCES CREATION OF AMERICAN CLIMATE CORPS

BY HANNAH GROVER, NM POLITICAL REPORT

In September, President Biden announced the creation of a climate corps that will train workers in clean energy and climate resilience industries. “The American Climate Corps will mobilize a new, diverse generation of more than 20,000 Americans—putting them to work conserving and restoring our lands and waters, bolstering community resilience, deploying clean energy, implementing energy-efficient technologies and advancing environmental justice, all while creating pathways to high-quality, good-paying jobs in the public and private sectors after they complete their paid training program,” a White House fact sheet states.

*Biden is using his executive authority to create a major green jobs training program.*

The climate corps’ environmental justice focus will prioritize communities that are traditionally disadvantaged, including those that have relied on fossil fuel extraction as an economic base. No prior experience is needed to join the corps.

In a statement, Manish Bapna, president and CEO of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), said, “In every great challenge this country has faced, it has turned to the essential strength of its people, united around a common goal. This combines national service with workforce training to rally a new generation around the need to confront the existential challenge of our time. This will build a versatile corps of workers with the skills to help conserve and restore waters and lands, make our communities more resilient, speed the shift to clean energy and advance environmental justice. That’s a sound investment in the next generation. It’s a visionary bet on the country’s future.”

The announcement came on the 30th anniversary of AmeriCorps, a federal agency for national service that will oversee the American Climate Corps in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Departments of Labor, Interior, Agriculture and Energy. AmeriCorps CEO Michael Smith described the American Climate Corps as “a bold and necessary response to the concerns of young people across America. From record heat and extreme flooding to devastating wildfires, climate change is an existential threat to life as we know it.”

In Fiscal Year 2022, AmeriCorps service programs invested more than \$117 million in climate resilience, environmental conservation and disaster response, a 20 percent increase compared to the previous year. Already, AmeriCorps has partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to establish the new AmeriCorps NCCC Forest Corps, a five-year agreement funded at \$15 million that will involve 80 corps members deployed across national forests and grasslands (including New Mexico) starting in the summer of 2024. These corps members will work to mitigate risk of wildfires and to support reforestation efforts.

People interested in joining the American Climate Corps or supporting the new program can learn more at [WWW.WHITEHOUSE.GOV/CLIMATECORPS/](http://WWW.WHITEHOUSE.GOV/CLIMATECORPS/).

## REPORT EVALUATING NEW MEXICO'S PROGRESS ON CRITICAL CLIMATE TARGETS

A new analysis finds that New Mexico will achieve less than one-third of the 45 percent reduction in climate pollution by 2030 that was committed to by the governor via a 2019 executive order. Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has made bold, science-based climate commitments, and both the Legislature and regulators have adopted a number of important policies, but the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) finds that the state is currently projected to fall well short of achieving its 2025 and 2030 climate goals unless it takes bold climate policy action as soon as possible.

### Key Findings

New Mexico is projected to reduce emissions approximately 1 percent by 2025 and 13 percent by 2030 from 2005 levels, compared to its goals of a 26 percent reduction by 2025 and a 45 percent reduction by 2030, without additional action. That means the state is projected to make essentially no progress toward its 2025 emission reduction target and is projected to lower emissions by less than one-third of what is necessary to meet the governor’s 2030 commitments.

EDF’s analysis also finds that New Mexico is projected to generate 21 percent more cumulative emissions—the total amount of heat-trapping pollution added to the atmosphere this decade—than if it were steadily reducing emissions in line with the latest science.

### How New Mexico can meet its commitments

While New Mexico is projected to face a glaring “emissions gap”—the distance between projected emissions and its targets—the opportunity to correct course with bold action has never been greater. With historic federal investments lowering the cost of clean energy, New Mexico can leverage this momentum to put in place strong limits on pollution that secure a safer, climate future and grow a prosperous, clean economy:

#### 1. Act now using existing authority to reduce pollution

The New Mexico Environment Department has broad authority to regulate pollutants under the Air Quality Control Act. It could put that existing authority to work to pursue new regulations on the state’s major sources of emissions.

#### 2. Increase capacity at relevant state agencies

Most notably, the New Mexico Environment Department and the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department need more capacity to support a robust regulatory program designed to cut climate pollution.

#### 3. Pass comprehensive climate change legislation capable of delivering concrete reductions in climate pollution consistent with the state’s climate goals

Comprehensive legislation—that both makes targets mandatory and gives agencies the direction they need to slash climate pollution—is critical to ensure that climate progress in New Mexico continues beyond the governor’s current term. Without mandatory targets, climate action over the next three years could be stalled or rolled back by a future governor, imperiling the state’s progress.

#### 4. Establish a clear vision and resources to support a just transition for the state’s workers and communities

Any climate bill must prioritize driving benefits from the transition to a clean-energy economy to disproportionately impacted communities. This means that climate policies must include both guardrails to ensure protections for communities overburdened by air pollution and communities dependent on fossil fuel jobs, and investments in those communities that help create good-paying jobs.



# EXPERTS DISCUSS REPORT THAT LOOKS AT WAYS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

BY HANNAH GROVER  
NM POLITICAL REPORT

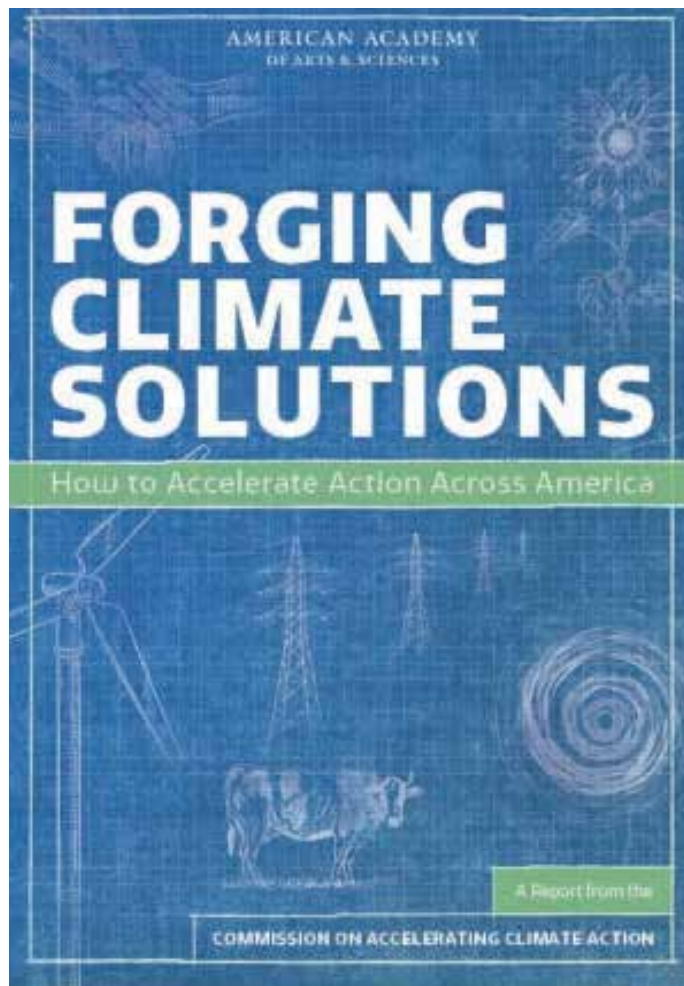
The CEO of New Mexico's largest electric utility described the closure of the coal-fired San Juan Generating Station as an example of the concept of a fair bargain. Pat Vincent-Collawn said the Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) worked with the Navajo Nation as well as the state prior to the closure of the power plant to reduce the impacts it would have on the community.

"We shuttered some coal plants, but we have long worked with the Navajo Nation before that and have given them scholarships and educated them for jobs outside of the coal mine and the coal plants because we knew that this energy transition was coming," she said during a panel discussion on Oct. 24. "And then we worked with the state to bring economic development, job training and other monies that would be invested in that community because if you're Navajo, you don't want to leave your native land."

*Despite all the progress  
being made in controlling  
emissions globally,  
we're still in for a lot  
of climate change.*

The concept of a fair bargain is a central focus of a new report released by the American Academy of Arts & Sciences' Commission on Accelerating Climate Action. Vincent-Collawn is one of the four co-chairs of the commission. The report includes five strategies for how the country can address and respond to climate change. Those strategies are prioritizing equity, fairness and justice; engaging and educating; mobilizing investment, and deploying strategic mitigation and adapting everywhere.

The report also includes examples of what these strategies could look like. New Mexico's Energy Transition Act and the closure of the San Juan Generating Station are highlighted as examples. The ETA provided \$40 million in funding to state agencies for economic development, displaced workers and community projects on the Navajo Nation. American Academy of Arts & Sciences President David Oxtoby described the new report



as a blueprint. "The report tries to do something unique by identifying recommendations that are politically feasible and creating an accessible report that can be widely understood," he said.

Taking action to address the climate crisis is essential to protecting human health, commission co-chair Mustafa Santiago Ali stressed. He is the executive vice president of the National Wildlife Federation. "We know that we've got millions of people who are dying prematurely from air pollution every year," Santiago Ali said. He further highlighted the 24 million people who have asthma, including seven million children, and he said those are disproportionately people from minority communities.

David Victor, a professor at the University of California at San Diego and author of the books *Fixing the Climate Crisis* and *Global Warming Gridlock*, said that it is not enough to just curb pollution. Victor is another one of the commission's co-chairs. He said actions are also needed to mitigate the impacts of the changing climate, including improving water infrastructure.

"There's a lot of emphasis on projects that control emissions and a lot of that revolves around electric power... The other half of the report is also about the infrastructure and strategy

for dealing with the physical impacts of climate change," he said. "Because despite all the progress that is being made in controlling emissions globally, we're still in for a lot of climate change. So we need to be ready for that. We need a strategy." He said currently there are local and state level strategies but a federal strategy is also needed.

In developing the report, the commission focused on bringing together a diverse set of voices. "The fundamental problem we're trying to solve is that the table has been too small," Christopher Field, a Stanford University professor and the director of the Woods Institute for the Environment, said. Field is also a co-chair on the commission. He said important perspectives and experiences have been left out of past discussions on climate change.

They also focused on producing a report that is easy to understand. "Words are on-ramps," Santiago Ali said. "So you can create words that stop folks from entering into a process or you can make sure that folks see themselves reflected in the language."

When discussing the concept of a fair bargain, the co-chairs emphasized the need for multiple solutions and said that there is not a single, silver-bullet technology to address the climate crisis.

Field said that environmental justice and environmental concerns need to be integrated into energy development and adaptation investments, but he also said that environmental justice communities need to be more open about the types of technologies.

*Five strategies: prioritizing equity, fairness and justice;  
engaging and educating; mobilizing investment;  
deploying strategic mitigation and adapting everywhere.*

Santiago Ali returned to the language aspect while talking about environmental justice. "There are certain communities where the words 'environmental justice' resonate because they breathe it and they taste it and they see the other impacts that are going on," he said. "There are other communities for whom maybe the words 'environmental justice' are not the right words." He spoke about communities where coal mines and power plants are closing. Ali is from a coal community and his grandfather worked in a coal mine.



*The report tries to identify recommendations that are politically feasible and can be widely understood.*

“You want to make sure that they know that they’re being seen,” he said. “Along with the communities that are in cancer alley or the Manchester community in Houston, Texas or the diesel death zone in California. So all of this is about making sure that people are honored and valued and that they’re being seen.” Cancer alley refers to an 85-mile stretch of land in Louisiana that contains more than 200 petrochemical plants and refineries.

The Harrisburg/Manchester community in Houston has refineries, chemical plants, hazardous waste sites and sewage treatment plants in close proximity to homes where 98 percent of the residents are Hispanic. Diesel death zones refer to areas where communities are exposed to disproportionately high volumes of diesel pollution. In California, one of these diesel death zones is associated with the Port of Los Angeles.

The report focused a lot on electric utilities in part because, as Victor pointed out, in many cases decarbonization means electrification.

Vincent-Collawn said new clean energy infrastructure, including transmission lines, must be built. One recommendation in the report for achieving that is speeding up the permitting process. Vincent-Collawn said the permitting process is necessary but that it should be reconfigured in a way that allows projects to move faster without eliminating protections for communities and the environment. “The whole report is about starting a discussion,” she said. ■



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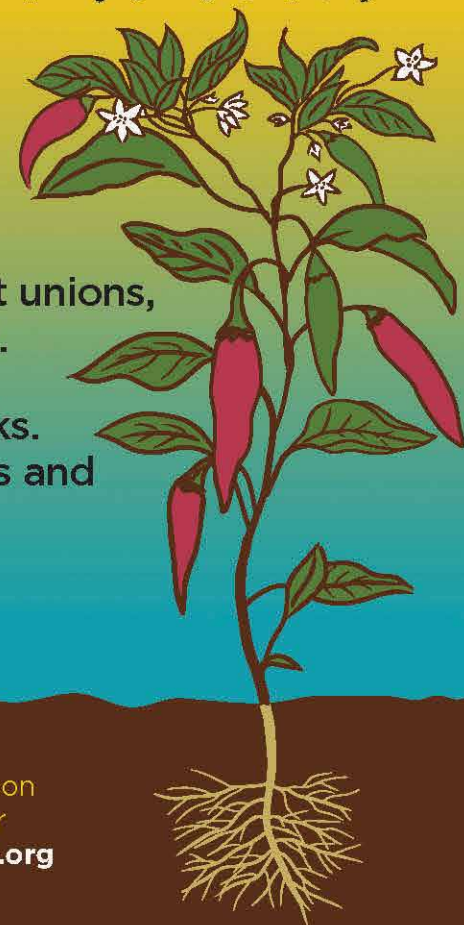
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# COMMITTEE FINALIZES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENERGY TRANSITION EXPENDITURES

## *New Mexico's Energy Transition*

BY HANNAH GROVER, NM POLITICAL REPORT

New Mexico's Energy Transition Act Committee passed a resolution in October that details recommendations for how to distribute energy transition funds that are available because of the closure of the San Juan Generating Station. The most controversial aspect was how to distribute \$6 million set aside for economic development.

The committee voted 5-2 for four projects: two involving hydrogen energy, a pumped hydro storage proposal, and one that would use coal ash to create things like cement and to recover rare earth minerals. Two members of the committee representing the cities of Aztec and Farmington abstained from voting. Those four projects faced vocal opposition from environmental and Indigenous activists who supported smaller, community-led proposals.

Convenor Jason Sandel acknowledged that the hydrogen projects may not fit within the guidelines for economic development funding made available through the Energy Transition Act. That is because the law prohibits spending the funds on fossil fuels. "After learning that, I think that a number of developers modified their proposals to utilize water rather than natural gas as the source of the hydrogen. There are different interpretations about if there's a ban or if hydrogen is fossil fuel development or use, especially if we're looking at green hydrogen versus blue. But that is part of the law," Sandel said.

Green refers to hydrogen created through electrolysis by splitting apart a water molecule. Blue hydrogen, on the other hand, requires natural gas and uses carbon capture technology to sequester the carbon underground. But, in a water-scarce state, many opponents say that water should not be used to produce hydrogen.

Glenn Wikle, an electrical engineer and environmentalist, described the hydrogen projects as high risk and said the two proposals consisted of "largely promotional fluff." "While green hydrogen would not directly lead to fossil fuel extraction, its development is intimately linked with the hydrogen economy concept. The hydrogen economy is largely a pipe dream,

## *Hydrogen projects may not fit within the guidelines for economic development funding.*

according to Wikle. "It's a distraction cooked up by the oil and gas industry to extend the number of years corporations can profit until they have to shut down their oil and gas wells," Wikle said. He went on to argue that it is unlikely a hydrogen economy will ever take hold in San Juan County and that any investment into such projects would ultimately result in zero job creation.

Those projects would likely rely on Colorado River Basin water from the San Juan or Animas rivers in northwest New Mexico. The states that rely on the Colorado River watershed have been looking for ways to address water shortages in the overallocated basin. The pumped hydro storage project would also use Colorado River system water, but it would be a one-time large withdrawal followed by smaller amounts to account for evaporative loss. That project is also controversial, and committee member Joseph Hernandez said people who live in the Navajo Nation chapters where it would be located have concerns. Hernandez was one of the two members who voted against the four projects. He expressed support for projects like one that would expand solar access to parts of Navajo Nation that don't have access to electricity.

## *Environmental and Indigenous activists supported smaller, community-led proposals.*

The selected projects will not necessarily receive funding. The committee will send the recommendations to three state agencies that will distribute the funds. Those agencies must go through a procurement process involving a request for proposals prior to issuing the awards. That could bring additional proposals into play, but the recommendations from the committee may provide an advantage.

Mona Blaber of the Río Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club criticized the decision regarding economic development funding. She pointed out that all four projects are water intensive. Blaber said that the two hydrogen projects—Libertad and Big Navajo Energy—switched the entire nature of their proposals when they learned fossil fuels could not be funded. "That doesn't demonstrate to me that their motive in seeking these funds is to support the community. It seems to me that they see an opportunity for profit," she said.

Instead, Blaber voiced support for smaller, community-driven projects such as Diné Building Designs, which hoped to use economic development money to employ members of the Navajo Nation and develop educational courses and training about sustainable building practices, or Diné Centered Research and Evaluation, which proposed using economic development money to strengthen food security including through a food cooperative. Blaber said those proposals "come from within the community and seek to directly support Four Corners and tribal residents."

In contrast, she said the four projects that the committee is recommending are from companies located outside of San Juan County. She further argued that those four projects would not necessarily bring a lot of jobs. SonoAsh is based out of Canada and seeks to use the coal ash to create products. A representative from SonoAsh acknowledged that at first there would be limited employment—about six individuals. But SonoAsh plans on building additional modules and bringing on additional staff.

Big Navajo Energy, which has proposed a hydrogen project, is based out of Utah and would employ 10 to 20 individuals. Blaber said that, based on what is available online, Libertad's hydrogen project would employ around 40 people. Kinetic Power, which has proposed the pumped hydro project, states that it would create 50 long-term jobs. Blaber said the four projects would not create "appreciably more jobs than could be created by investment in already existing community projects. These funds would make a much bigger impact on these [community] projects than for the large companies that are currently proposed. And these projects are led by people living in the impacted area, many for all their lives."

Shiprock farmer Duane "Chili" Yazzie spoke out against the four projects as well and talked about how extractive industry has led to climate change. He told the committee members to look into the eyes of their grandchildren and "tell that child what you're doing, where you're helping destroy their future?"

### **Indian Affairs funding**

The draft resolution that was available prior to the meeting included recommendations that the funding for Indian Affairs be spent to "assist the Navajo Nation in development and implementation of a scalable and sustainable food security program which supports



*The recommendations go to three state agencies and must go through a procurement process that could bring additional proposals into play.*

traditional and farm-to-table agricultural methodologies along with farm commercialization and energy transition opportunities to promote long-term employment opportunities.” It further recommended looking at the proposal that the Navajo Nation and Navajo Agricultural Products Industries put forward for the Western Interstate Hydrogen Hub proposal as an example for how various entities could cooperate.



However, the Indian Affairs Department had already erroneously sent out project award letters to five entities for the energy transition dollars. Indian Affairs Department Secretary Designate James Mountain explained that he had not known a state procurement process was still needed. The final resolution removed the language about the hydrogen hub and recommended that the money be given to the five projects that already received award letters.

Mountain said that the meeting on Thursday was the first time it was made clear that a request for proposals process must be followed. He had previously told an interim legislative committee that he was looking into whether that procurement process was necessary. Mountain apologized for the confusion that the award letters created.

#### **Displaced workers fund**

Following a meeting last year, the Displaced Worker Assistance Fund created by the Energy Transition Act was used to provide direct payments to workers who had lost their jobs. These payments were intended to help pay health insurance costs. The Legislature also allocated additional money to the Displaced Worker Assistance Fund.

The resolution the committee approved recommends that up to \$12.4 million—the amount that the Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) funded as part of the Energy Transition Act—should be allocated to workers who lost their jobs, with a priority placed on people who have not found new employment or who are making at least 25 percent less than when they were at the mine or power plant. The remainder of the money, the resolution states, should be used to support career development opportunities such as training and apprenticeship programs offered through local colleges and universities including San Juan College, Navajo Technical University and Diné College. ■

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## GOV. LUJAN GRISHAM ANNOUNCES NEW CLIMATE INVESTMENT CENTER

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham announced the creation of the New Mexico Climate Investment Center on Oct. 13. The center is a “green bank,” which is different from a regular bank. “While it’s termed a green bank, it’s important to know it is not a bank. It does not take deposits and does not compete in any way with commercial banks. It operates as an investment fund, focusing on clean energy and equity focused investments,” said Beth Beloff, interim chair of the new center.

Beloff is also the founder and CEO of the Coalition of Sustainable Communities, which worked to establish the center. “We have long prioritized finding a way to finance a clean-energy transition that will benefit most low-income disadvantaged and tribal communities,” Beloff said. The New Mexico Climate Center was incorporated in June and recently attained nonprofit status. “Its core mission is to act as a catalyst, leveraging funds in a public-private partnership to mainly bridge financing gaps for equity focused clean energy projects that might not otherwise have access to adequate financing.”



New Mexico ranks as one of the poorest states, with many energy-burdened households. More than 150,000 households in the state spend more than 5 percent of

their income on energy. The national average is about 2 percent. The Climate Investment Center’s aim is to relieve those burdens through increasing access to energy efficiency, rooftop solar ownership, solar lease programs and community solar financing. For small businesses, the center will provide financing for energy efficiency, solarization and electrification. “It is expected to channel about \$16 million from the National Clean Investment Fund,” Beloff said. The nonprofit’s board will oversee the fund and will begin a national search for a CEO with financial, investment, renewable energy- and climate knowledge.

“We hope this center will advance true climate solutions that foster energy efficiency, renewables and regenerative economic development,” said Sofia Jenkins-Nieto, environmental justice coordinator for Earth Care. “The Lujan-Grisham administration is feeding into the climate finance movement to cover her involvement in propping up the hydrogen economy in New Mexico,” said Alejandria Lyons, coordinator of the No False Solutions coalition. “We need more responsive climate action that challenges the status quo and addresses the root cause of the climate crisis.”

Despite the recent denial of New Mexico’s Western Interstate Hydrogen Hub application, the governor reiterated her support for hydrogen technology. On Oct. 25, Star Scientific Ltd. announced that the Australia-based green hydrogen research and development company has chosen New Mexico as the location for its first North American operation.

## CONNECTING TO ELECTRIC GRID MAY PROVE A CHALLENGE TO COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECTS

BY HANNAH GROVER, NM POLITICAL REPORT

As developers who were awarded slots in New Mexico’s community solar program work to get agreements to hook their future solar arrays into the grid, some of them may find that the process to connect to the existing electrical grid is too expensive.

Kevin Cray, the Mountain West senior director for the Coalition for Community Solar Access, told the interim Water and Natural Resources Committee that those costs, particularly to connect to Public Service Company of New Mexico’s system, may cause some developers to back out.

Last month, the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission issued guidance to the investor-owned utilities regarding interconnection. PRC Chief of Staff Cholla Khoury said developers must pay for the upgrades needed to connect to the utility grid. “So, if it takes new transformers, they’re supposed to pay for new transformers,” she said.

Those costs on the PNM system for the upgrades needed for projects to connect to the grid range from \$350,000 to \$12 million, Khoury said. “That’s the next hurdle that these projects have to figure out how to deal with,” she said. “How to safely interconnect to make sure that the power that they produce can get to the customers who are subscribing to their projects.”

But that does not mean community solar will not be built. There are plenty of waitlisted projects that could move up to fill those slots. “There is going to be an opportunity where we may see some churn, with some projects coming up from the waitlist and having an opportunity to move through,” Cray said.

Community solar allows people who don’t have the ability to access rooftop solar, such as renters and people living in apartments, to receive solar power through a subscription. Cray said the arrays tend to have 90 to 100 percent subscription rates. The community solar program includes requirements that a certain percentage of subscribers be low-income households or organizations that support low-income households.

The arrays can also help with economies in rural areas, he said. “Community solar and [distributed generation] in general helps diversify and grow rural as well as urban economies. But a lot of these projects are going to be in more rural parts of the state, providing new opportunities for them to participate in the energy transition and grow their economy,” he said. “It also is basically creating an entirely new industry in New Mexico that is creating in-demand jobs that will help keep the kids of New Mexico in New Mexico to work there. These are jobs a lot of people would potentially move states to work on, and so growing this organic industry in New Mexico will allow opportunities for folks to find jobs in the state. It does lead to increased property tax and permitting revenue from the local jurisdictions.”

Most of the community solar projects will come online in 2025, but Cray said some could come online next year.

The PRC must provide a report to the Legislature about community solar by November 2024.

Khoury said the commission will begin to collect information from projects and utilities about the lessons learned in getting the program off the ground. The PRC will also be able to reevaluate the current 200-megawatt program cap next year. That could allow for additional community solar projects to be built.



## MAXEON SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES COMING TO ALBUQUERQUE

*\$1 billion manufacturing investment and  
1,800 new jobs*

New Mexico's first large-scale solar manufacturing plant is coming. It's part of a \$1 billion manufacturing investment, and 1,800 new jobs is part of the more than \$270 billion clean-energy investments the U.S. has seen since the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act.

Spurred by President Biden's landmark climate change law that incentivizes homegrown renewable energy companies to compete with China, Singapore-based Maxeon Solar will build a solar cell and panel facility on a 160-acre site in Albuquerque's Mesa del Sol. The company is planning a 3-gigawatt (GW) facility that may expand to a 4.5-GW facility. The project is being financed through a U.S. Department of Energy loan guarantee program for clean-energy projects. Maxeon is requesting \$20 million in Local Economic Development Act funding.

Maxeon was spun off from U.S. residential solar supplier SunPower in 2020. The New Mexico facility will be the company's first in the U.S. Maxeon currently produces panels in México, Malaysia and the Philippines. In a statement, Chief Executive Bill Mulligan said, "Our new facility in New Mexico is an ambitious and concrete response to the need to decarbonize the U.S. economy while creating permanent, highly skilled local manufacturing and engineering jobs." The company expects to have about 1,500 workers by year five of operations and about 1,800 by year 10. Hiring has already started for infrastructure development. Construction is expected to finish in 2025.

Maxeon officials said that they chose New Mexico because of the existing engineering workforce in the city and state, and the infrastructure at Mesa del Sol. The company said it took the city, state and company leaders to come to an agreement within 60 days. The company claims it will be able to produce around 8 million solar panels in Albuquerque each year when fully operational. The city is expected to receive an estimated \$4 billion in economic impact within the next decade.



*Illustration of Maxeon's N.M. manufacturing plant*

## CHASING THE ELUSIVE

### EXPLORATIONS IN ACHIEVING SUSTAINABILITY

## COMMUNITY PLANNERS AND SUSTAINABILITY PROFESSIONALS WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

BY **KATHERINE MORTIMER**

The New Mexico Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-NM) recently held its annual conference in Roswell with a theme of "New Mexico's Response to a Changing Climate." The interdisciplinary gathering included landscape architects, engineers, architects, conservation professionals, nonprofits, economic development organizations and universities, as well as public health, local, tribal, state and federal government officials.

Professional community planners from across the state explored various facets of how to incorporate sustainability into their work, including how to work more effectively with their sustainability professional colleagues. I have worked both as a professional community planner and as a sustainability professional and can see the tremendous potential of creating a productive bridging of these two complementary professional skill sets.

This focus on achieving sustainability at the conference was the brainchild of Merideth Hildreth, Planning and Zoning director for the City of Roswell. As a former sustainability officer for the City of Las Cruces, Hildreth integrated her training and experience in community planning with sustainability, conservation and energy-management goals. "The APA has long advocated for community planning to integrate the principles of sustainability and equity," she said. "Many of New Mexico's state government departments include sustainability, equity and interdepartmental collaboration as strategies to advance the state's response to climate change. The APA-NM conference showcased the State of New Mexico's leadership and brought local, tribal, state and federal governmental entities, consultants and others to the table to forge strong collaborations."

The national APA recently updated its "Ethical Principles in Planning" to include sustainability and resiliency as part of its primary professional obligations:

"Planners' primary obligation is to serve the public interest. Planners aspire to have special concern for the long-range consequences of past and present actions, endeavor to conserve and preserve the integrity and heritage of the natural and built environment, and use principles of sustainability and resilience as guiding influences in our work." (APA 2021)

Guidance on how to achieve these goals is emerging, but sustainability professionals have been advancing those principles and can be resources to achieve that goal now.

Working across silos and departmental divides is not always easy in large institutions (like many local governments), even when there is a sustainability professional on staff. Silos allow for groups of people with specific expertise to focus in isolation from other distractions. However, that leads to a reluctance to bring in professionals from other parts of an organization, even when doing so would make it possible to better achieve the organization's principal goals.

*APA-NM's annual conference theme was  
'New Mexico's Response to a Changing Climate.'*

Smaller organizations typically rely on staff wearing multiple hats, even when they don't have the training to do all of that well. A lack of understanding of how a sustainability professional could assist them, or even how to write a scope of work to hire a consulting professional to help, is a barrier to achieving collaboration. This phenomenon is happening across the country and the world. It is also true for other local government departments such as building permitting and





2023 CONFERENCE  
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# NEW MEXICO'S RESPONSE TO A CHANGING CLIMATE

OCTOBER 17-20



inspection, emergency response, public works, public utilities, and within newer positions being added to local governments such as equity offices.

The APA-NM Chapter wants to reach out to sustainability professionals, both within government and, with consultants, to develop productive working relationships where people from both professions understand what the other brings to the work, and develop best practices for working together. Sarah Cottrell Propst, the New Mexico Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, presented the keynote speech at the conference and expressed support for advancing a spirit of cooperation between those two professions in governmental organizations in New Mexico.

I have a vision of New Mexico leading the country in cross-collaborative work focused on achieving the principal goals of local and state government, businesses and individual community members. The question is, how do we set up an environment in which reaching across silos is not just encouraged but is measured in our job performance? How do we track and report on project and program successes that include measurements of those cross-silo work efforts? Answering those questions and creating a collaborative environment in New Mexico could be a model for other states. I hope that by working with APA-NM, I can help make that vision a reality. ■



*Katherine Mortimer is the founder and principal of Pax Consulting, LLC, a New Mexico business providing government and businesses with tools they need to be resilient and sustainable by addressing environmental stewardship, economic vitality and, most importantly, social justice.*

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## LEGISLATION SUPPORTS AGRICULTURE IN ARID ENVIRONMENTS

BY HANNAH GROVER, NM POLITICAL REPORT

U.S. Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández (D-NM) has joined two colleagues in introducing legislation aimed at supporting agricultural practices in arid climates of the western United States. The other sponsors are U.S. Rep. David Valadao (R-Calif.) and U.S. Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-Maine).

The Support Water-Efficient Strategies and Technologies Act, or Support the WEST Act, would allow the secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to increase the cost shares to 85 percent for practices under the Environmental Quality Incentives Programs that support water conservation and drought resiliency. Additionally, it aims to improve soil health through outreach programs and payments for soil testing. The legislation would also make perennial production systems eligible for supplemental payments within the Conservation Stewardship Program. The lawmakers hope that the Support the WEST Act will be included in the larger Farm Bill.

“For generations, farmers and ranchers in New Mexico have been conserving water and growing drought-resilient crops in arid climates. Their crops feed our families and are distributed across America’s tables,” Rep. Leger Fernández said in a press release. “However, we learned during our ‘Farm-to-Congress’ conversations that USDA conservation programs are sometimes targeted for wetter conditions found in the East and Midwest. This bill will help these essential programs work better for Western farmers and ranchers.”

New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau President Larry Reagan said in a statement that the legislation “highlights the importance of supporting and deploying water conservation programs on our working lands and expands that opportunity for producers.”

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## SGP BIOENERGY AND LATINO FARMERS & RANCHERS INTERNATIONAL SIGN HEMP AGREEMENT

On Sept. 21, at a roundtable during the 78<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly, and the NGO on Private Sector Development at the U.N., SGP BioEnergy and Latino Farmers & Ranchers International (LFRI) signed a landmark agreement to develop and supply industrial hemp to fuel SGP’s \$7.7 million biorefinery being developed in Panama, and to supply localized manufacturing operations that want to transition to more sustainable products.

Industrial hemp is a carbon-neutral, non-narcotic crop, which naturally enhances soil for food production and requires little water to grow, among other attributes. LFRI was instrumental in the legalization of industrial hemp in the U.S. Its members possess decades of know-how and hands-on expertise in growing and optimizing the crop.

According to a press release, SGP and LFRI are committed to never displacing food production as part of their bioenergy growth strategy. The release says that SGP Bioenergy’s Zero-Waste Ecosystem is built upon five key pillars: industrial, economic, humanitarian, accountability and ownership. The platform is aligned with all 17 Sustainable Development Goals prescribed by the U.N. and the 2030 Agenda, and the integrated system provides a comprehensive guide to implementing industrial-scale bioenergy projects with a low- to net-zero carbon footprint.

SGP says that its advanced biorefinery will be the largest in the world, with access to over 1,900 global ports. The company touts the refinery as “a beacon for industrial-scale renewable energy infrastructure, promising over 3 million living-wage jobs, the rejuvenation of global agriculture and the communities it supports.” SGP’s READY.GROW Feedstock Development Program, the release says, will “deliver low-carbon-intensity feedstocks with end-to-end traceability, sustainable certification and other best practices.” SGP intends to use the feedstocks to produce advanced biofuels, green hydrogen and products manufactured for global markets.

Rudy Arredondo, president/CEO of LFRI, said, “SGP’s READY.GROW program is not just another agricultural project; it’s a movement. It lays the foundation for fair, just and equitable agriculture.”



LFRI President Rudy Arredondo signed an agreement with SGP Bioenergy officials.



## THE BIOREGIONAL MOVEMENT TODAY

Long before humans began chopping up the Earth into parcels that became political entities that needed to be defended from those seeking to appropriate these parcels for themselves, Mother Earth had evolved into an interacting system of 185 biologically distinct regions where common environmental traits could thrive within ecosystems.

Of course, Earth's bioregions not only preceded humans planting flags in the topsoil to say, "This is mine"; they paid no attention to human-made political boundaries, and still don't. However, human behavior has wielded great mechanical, political and materialistic power over our planet, resulting in the looming existential threat of ecosystem collapse we live with today.

Up until the mid- or late 19th century, these human behaviors might be forgiven as having resulted from ignorance of the science of biology and Earth systems. Since then, however, as knowledge of the sciences improved dramatically, we not only continued these practices but doubled down on them, responding to a fear-based greed potential inherent in all of us—a destructive force, if not managed.

In this dire moment, Earth's bioregions, if regenerated into the lifegiving powerhouses they once were, could save us from ourselves. Since ancient times, we have led each other astray from this essential life-supporting knowledge and have attempted to live in any other possible manner. Many organized religions have asserted that humans should have power over nature. There is a thought-provoking reflection on this ecologically destructive trend in a 1967 paper by historian Lynn White, *The Historical Roots of our Ecological Crisis*: "When the first cannons were fired in the early 14th century, they affected ecology by sending workers scrambling to the forest and mountains in search of more potash, sulfur, iron ore and charcoal, with some resulting erosion and deforestation."

A more elemental description of subordinating nature to the technological and political acquisition of power would be difficult to find. Humans fighting over control of land instead of wisely collaborating to nurture and share land for mutual benefits continues apace today, and with much more environmentally destructive technology.

While thousands of NGOs, businesses and individuals have brought forth highly effective climate-repair practices, proposals and projects, it appears nearly impossible to redirect the ecologically oppressive nation-state political structure toward long-term human survival.

### Resurgence of the Bioregion

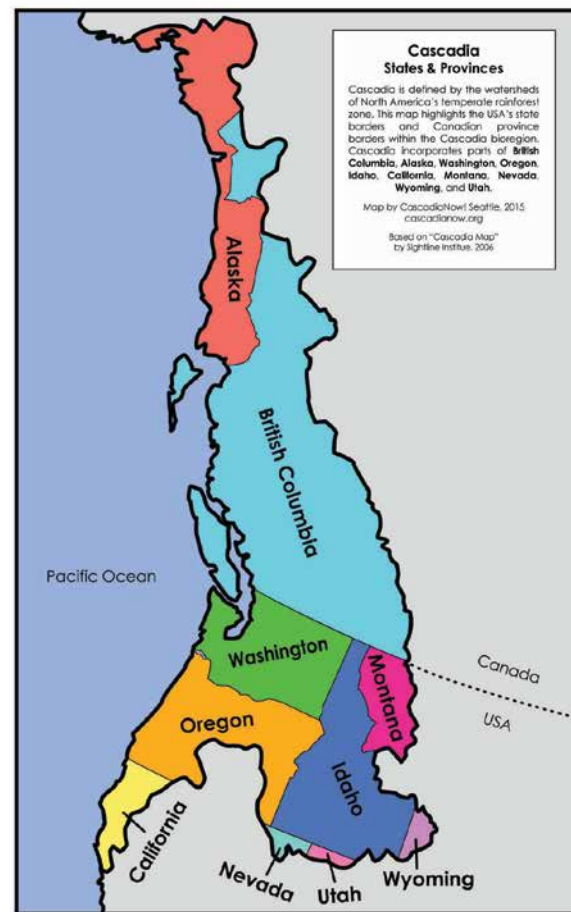
With the growing existential threat of global ecosystem collapse, numerous groups of change activists have turned to the task of constructing new social networks within their bioregion, in order to form alliances among like-minded Earth regenerators who share key values, including values that were shredded in the quest for power and wealth throughout history.

This effort is sometimes called Bioregionalism, or more appropriately, Bioregional Living. By coordinating ecological regeneration projects, exchanging information on solutions to common challenges and building a resilient in-person and online community, given enough time before collapse, resources and knowledge could be assembled to support survival.



*Cascadia Bioregion flag*

In 2020, the science-based nonprofit organization [ONEEARTH.ORG](https://www.oneearth.org) boosted this movement by pulling together a group of scientists and Earth-regeneration experts to develop an up-to-date definition of what exactly defines bioregions. It identified 185 such entities, with a total of 844 ecoregions nested within them, stating: "The Bioregions 2023 framework is organized by the world's major biogeographical realms, the broadest divisions of Earth's land surface in which ecosystems and groupings of organisms share a common evolutionary history... One Earth uses these bioregions and ecoregions as a framework to better understand the natural world."



graphical realms, the broadest divisions of Earth's land surface in which ecosystems and groupings of organisms share a common evolutionary history... One Earth uses these bioregions and ecoregions as a framework to better understand the natural world." All species, including our conflicted one, live within a bioregion. Raising awareness of that, and developing systems and networks for bio-regeneration of degraded landscapes is a vital movement at this time on the planet, as is the recapturing and elevation of proactive human values. One of the longest-standing biore-

### CASCADIA BIOREGIONAL SUMMIT NOVEMBER 3–12, 2023

The Cascadia Bioregion – the most developed bioregional community in North America – provides a thought-provoking example of one way to begin organizing within your bioregion. The Cascadia Bioregional Summit—convening the creation of a bioregional blueprint for regenerating the Cascadia bioregion—is accessible online. It offers a statement of principles and a full range of programs that can serve as a primer.

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gional living projects is located in the northwest corner of the United States and the southwest corner of Canada, primarily encompassing Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. Launched in 1986, it is called Cascadia. Cascadia has evolved into a strong network of activists, landowners, businesses and social organizations that identify with their bioregion—and the name Cascadia—as much as with their conventional governments. Their mission is to provide resilience, self-governance and social organization along a bioregional pathway. There are numerous hubs of action or interest in regeneration of degraded landscapes as well as the social/political structures of "independence" emphasized by Cascadia in places like Eugene, Lost Valley, and Portland,

*A mission to provide resilience, self-governance and social organization along a bioregional pathway*



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Promote a waterwise holiday season  
by supporting these businesses!



## THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF LANDSCAPE REGENERATION PROJECTS. HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES:

- Impact systems of regenerative and climate solutions at scale – [WWW.REGENINTEL.EARTH/](http://WWW.REGENINTEL.EARTH/)
- A global collaborative of 15 bioregional networks – [WWW.REGENCOMMUNITIES.NET/ABOUT-US/](http://WWW.REGENCOMMUNITIES.NET/ABOUT-US/)
- The world's largest knowledge-led platform on sustainable landscapes – [WWW.GLOBALLANDSCAPESFORUM.ORG/](http://WWW.GLOBALLANDSCAPESFORUM.ORG/)
  - Two concentric rings: a social foundation to ensure life's essentials for all; and an ecological ceiling to ensure that humanity does not overshoot planetary boundaries – [WWW.DOUGHNUTECONOMICS.COM](http://WWW.DOUGHNUTECONOMICS.COM)
- Agroecology in Ethiopia – [WWW.ONEEARTH.ORG/PROJECTS/REVIVING-INDIGENOUS-FARMING-PRACTICES-TO-SUPPORT-TRADITIONAL-COMMUNITIES-IN-ETHIOPIA/](http://WWW.ONEEARTH.ORG/PROJECTS/REVIVING-INDIGENOUS-FARMING-PRACTICES-TO-SUPPORT-TRADITIONAL-COMMUNITIES-IN-ETHIOPIA/)
- Agriculture and Conservation, California – [HTTPS://WWW.ONEEARTH.ORG/PROJECTS/ALIGNING-AGRICULTURE-AND-CONSERVATION-AT-THE-JALAMA-CANYON-RANCH-CENTER-IN-CALIFORNIA/](https://WWW.ONEEARTH.ORG/PROJECTS/ALIGNING-AGRICULTURE-AND-CONSERVATION-AT-THE-JALAMA-CANYON-RANCH-CENTER-IN-CALIFORNIA/)
- East Jemez Restoration – [WWW.NPS.GOV/ARTICLES/000/UPLOAD/EAST-JEMEZ-RESTORATION-STRATEGY-AND-ADAPTATION-PLAN-FINAL\\_2021.PDF](http://WWW.NPS.GOV/ARTICLES/000/UPLOAD/EAST-JEMEZ-RESTORATION-STRATEGY-AND-ADAPTATION-PLAN-FINAL_2021.PDF)

*All species, including our conflicted one, live within a bioregion.*

Oregon, and heading north we find Seattle, Olympia, and Port Townsend, Washington, and Victoria on Vancouver Island, among many others.

A few excerpts from Cascadia's Shared Values Statement are important to review: “[Our]... philosophy requires a fundamental shift in how we relate to ourselves and our world; not as a citizen of one country or the other, but rather as citizens of our watersheds and of our home... bioregionalism provides a unifying set of principles and an organizing methodology, and is a powerful tool for connecting and breaking down large, urgent global issues to specific areas, and creating simple, accessible pathways for action and change... The colonial borders of the U.S. and Canada are arbitrary, built on gerrymandering and disenfranchisement, rather than cooperation and abundance, and will never be truly representative of people, place or inhabitant.”

Without spending time on the ground within this bioregional attempt to shift the social paradigm to living in concert with nature, it is very difficult to assess the degree to which incorporating the values expressed by Cascadia have succeeded. Fortunately, Cascadia is holding what should be a highly informative Bioregional Summit online from Nov. 3-12, with the stated goal of “...convening the creation of a bioregional blueprint for regenerating the Cascadia bioregion... [including] the start of watershed councils, regular bioregional congresses, informational commons and a governance body able to transparently administer a Cascadia impact fund. Outcomes of the summit will be shared with all registrants.”

*Earth's bioregions could save us from ourselves.*

This could be a watershed moment—in more ways than one—that provides a planning template for aspiring bioregional project advocates who need to know what level of organization and funding are required to turn their regenerative transformation dreams into reality. But can such ambitious projects succeed in the long run without consciously integrating, reinforcing and practicing the idealistic values that appear in mission statements?

Joe Brewer and Penny Heupel don't think so. Co-founders of the Design School for Regenerating Earth, in October they joined a month-long tour of the Cascadia bioregion, speaking at many regeneration locations about the challenge of how to open up our industrial era-damaged collective psyche to the gifts that accrue when sublimating the “I” to the “we” in the context of bioregionalism.

Their guidance comes from principles outlined by ProSocial World, an organization that fosters community-based cultural evolution, stressing cooperation and adaptability. ProSocial World states: “The science of ProSocial World is focused on understanding and fostering social contexts in which individual and group interests are aligned, such that cooperative behaviors are reinforced more than selfish behaviors. These prosocial groups act more like a single organism, rather than a collection of individuals.”

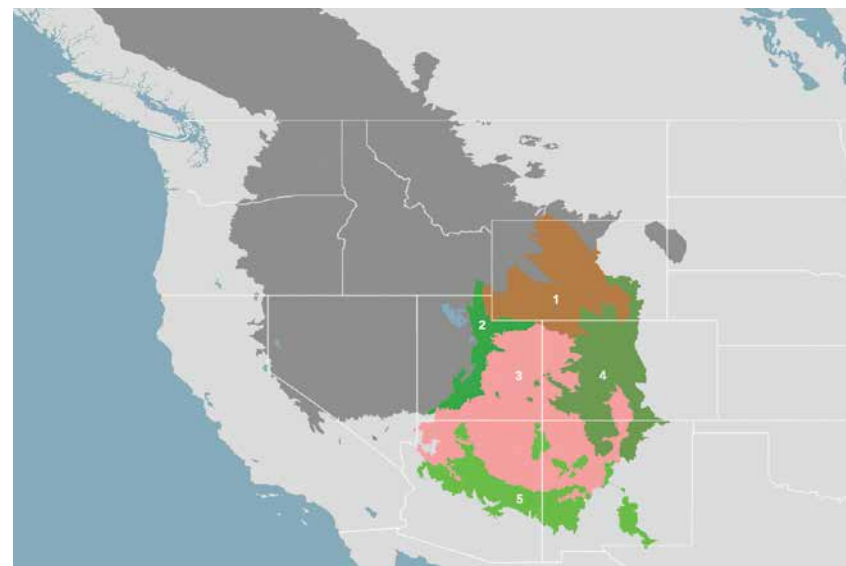
*Do we have the collective power and imagination to begin a multicultural conversation about this potential?*

Understanding the social science behind this statement and the processes of introducing it to communities an important goal of the Design School, as it offers orientation to the concept of regenerating Earth via bioregions, design labs to work out challenges in a participant's own bioregion, mutual learning-teaching opportunities with other Design School members, involvement in periodic bioregional activation tours like the October tour, which preceded Cascadia's Bioregional Summit. Key to the success of the school and the movement is restoring the human capacity to work collaboratively on community, bioregion and ultimately, global scales.

Brewer and Heupel's larger vision is to ultimately build a bioregional network, a global community of regenerators. It should be noted that there is a very large-scale eco-regeneration movement around the globe that has no connection to the bioregional movement but is doing great work on specific projects. While there are also valuable eco-regeneration support programs from the U.N. and various levels of government, NGOs and the business community, they are not networked in support of any social change goal.

### Bringing All of This Home

The bioregion map shows that most, but not all of northern New Mexico is within two ecoregions. Here is how One Earth introduces descriptions of these landscapes:



*Colorado Plateau and Mountain Forest Map: The Colorado Plateau and Mountain Forests bioregion is part of the American West subrealm. It is made up of five ecoregions: (1) Wyoming Basin Shrub Steppe (2) Wasatch and Uinta Montane Forests (3) Colorado Plateau Shrublands (4) Colorado Rockies Forests (5) Arizona Mountains Forests*

### The Colorado Plateau and Mountain Forests Bioregion

“Located in the American West of Northern America, this bioregion is encircled by mountains on all sides and consists primarily of desert shrublands and shrub steppe, spanning from the Arizona mountains in the south to northern Wyoming, where it abuts the Central Rockies. It contains five ecoregions—Arizona mountains forests, Colorado Plateau shrublands Wasatch and Uinta montane forests, Colorado Rockies forests, and the Wyoming Basin shrub steppe, and for over a thousand years has been home to many different Native American tribes. The total area of this bioregion is approximately 72 million hectares, or 180 million acres.”





*The Carson National Forest in northern New Mexico*

### Colorado Rockies Forests Ecoregion

“Stretching beyond Colorado, from the vicinity of Casper, Wyoming in the north, south to Santa Fe, New Mexico, with outliers in southeastern Utah (Abajo Mountain and the La Sal Mountains east of Moab), the Colorado Rockies forests ecoregion is massive and diverse in physical conditions and vegetation. This ecoregion encompasses approximately 15 million hectares, or 3.8 million acres.”

### Colorado Plateau Shrublands

“The Colorado Plateau Shrublands represent some of the most magnificent and iconic landscapes on Earth. A long peninsula... extends from around Santa Fe, northward up the San Luis Valley...”

These thumbnail sketches bring forth breathtaking visions of the Earth’s magnificence. Just imagine a collaborative Earth regeneration network spanning our ecoregion, and then growing out into the full bioregion, working to restore and celebrate the land and its heritage, providing educational resources and project funding, exchanging ideas on best methods to govern the bioregion, and many other services. That’s an image of people uniting to seize the direction of their lives from the pinnacles of power, down to the power of the soil.

The rich and varied cultures of northern New Mexico, if networked collaboratively, could reach out through these forests, mountain ranges and shrub lands to develop a very powerful ecoregion and bioregional community that could shift the socio-political focus of 180 million acres and toward a prosperous future. Do we have the collective power and imagination to begin a multicultural conversation about this potential? Or does our centuries-old history of cultural conflict force us to stay locked within the prison of distrust and rage that keeps us from retaking control over our lives?

### Connecting Land-based Bioregional Societies to Global Environmental Governance

At present, global governance as supplied through U.N. agencies and international law is terribly fractured, and too often blocked by the self-interest of individual nation-state members of the U.N. However, there is a new initiative afoot that, if enacted, would significantly strengthen governance of the global climate, and would provide initiatives like bioregional communities the legal leverage needed to prevent commercial developments that harm the climate. That proposed governance tool is being promoted by organizations such as the Common Home of Humanity. Their goal is for the U.N. to declare the global climate to be the Common Heritage of Humankind, thereby giving Earth’s climate legal standing and protection that it currently does not have. The target date for this declaration is September 2024, during the U.N.’s Summit of the Future.

A global network of strong bioregional communities dedicated to Earth regeneration would counter the corrupted power of the nation-states, just as bioregional boundaries ignore political boundaries. It’s a dream worth pursuing. ■



*Earl James has several decades of experience in environmental protection, historic preservation and global governance. In 1990, he organized a multi-county public-private coalition that launched the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area in southwest Pennsylvania. He currently serves on the board of Common Home of Humanity.*

## LAS VEGAS GRANDES CONT. FROM PG 5

on the eastern slopes of the Sierra Madres (southern Rockies), and the Llanero band’s encampments were set on top of mesas, in the Río Rojo valleys and in the Kiowa grasslands and plains. They hunted in the sierras and *vegas* and carried out ceremonies in both areas. They eventually traded with Pecos Pueblo and possibly camped on the remains of Tecolote and El Puertecito pueblos. Upon the arrival of other semi-nomadic tribes, they defended their territory. The Carlanas mixed with the Jicarilla Apache bands. (Veronica Velarde Tiller. *The Jicarilla Apache*. Albuquerque: UNM Press, 2006)

### Spanish Exploration, First Contact, Spanish Colonial Period

The Spanish arrived with the Coronado expedition of 1540-1542, fought with the Zuni and went on to Tiguex-area pueblos near today’s Albuquerque. A scouting party under Captain Hernando de Alvarado was sent to Cí’cu’yeh (Pecos) Pueblo. El Turco, a Plains Indian, was a captive at Pecos Pueblo. He eventually led Alvarado and his men to Quivira, hoping to lose them. They headed south along the Río Cí’cu’yeh (Pecos River) and built a bridge across it, possibly near Puerto de Luna. El Turco led them north along the river. The first contact between the Spanish and the Jicarilla Apachis was on the Río de las Gallinas. (George Parker Winship, Ed./Trans. *The Journey of Francisco Vasquez Coronado 1540-1542*, Washington D.C. Govt. Printing office, 1896) The Juan de Oñate expedition to Quivira in 1601 had contact with the Jicarilla Apachis in their northern mountain encampments. They had crossed the Sierra Madres at Taos and exited near Cimarron. (Marc Simmons, *The Last Conquistador: Juan de Oñate & the Settling of the Far Southwest*, University of Oklahoma Press, 1999)



*A Cibolero (Spanish colonial buffalo hunter in Nuevo México)*

### Los Comanchis

As soon as the Comanchis acquired horses, they posed a new threat to both Pueblo people and Spanish settlers arriving in La Provincia de Nuevo México. They initially moved into the eastern region in the early 1700s, and began a campaign of raids and wars against the Jicarilla Apachis at Las Vegas Grandes, Pecos Pueblo, and by the 1790s, the Spanish villages of San Miguel del Vado and other villages in northern Nuevo México. Trade was prohibited with them, and they remained far from the reach of the Spanish colonial government and its soldiers. After 1750, they spread into areas close to Santa Fe, Santa Cruz de la Cañada and Taos, with continued attacks. They also attacked groups like the Kiowa and Pawnee. The Comanchis increased their population and began raiding



throughout the northern province of Nuevo México. They pushed the Jicarilla Apachis into the mountains near Las Vegas Grandes.

### United Spanish and Tribal War Against the Comanchi

Eventually, the Spanish government brought in Juan Bautista de Anza as governor and he organized a large army of Spanish soldiers, Pueblo allies, Jicarilla Apachis, Yutas and Apachis, who were enemies of the Comanchis. They pursued the Comanchis under Cuerno Verde by taking a western route into the plains near the Río Napeste (Arkansas river) in 1779, defeated the Comanchis and killed their leader, Cuerno Verde. The smallpox epidemic of 1780-1781 caused heavy losses among the Comanchis, and by 1785, they sued for peace. The Spanish and Comanchis signed a peace treaty in 1786, which lasted into the next century. The Comanchis moved east to raid in the Río Rojo region of Tejas and San Antonio to the south. They would eventually come back to Nuevo México in the early 1800s. (SANM II #858 Caballero Croix, Chihuahua to Gov. Juan Bautista de Anza, 24 Feb. 1783 & SANM II Jacobo Ugarte y Loyola, Chihuahua #943 Oct. 6, 1786) and (Alfred Barnaby Thomas, *Forgotten Frontiers: A Study of the Spanish Indian Policy of Don Juan Bautista de Anza, Governor of New Mexico, 1777-1787*, Norman: Univ. of Oklahoma Press)

### Los Ciboleros

By the early 1700s, los Ciboleros, buffalo hunters from Santa Fe and Santa Cruz de la Cañada, were *mestizos* (mixed Spanish and Indigenous) and *genízaros*, along with interpreters who ventured out to Las Vegas Grandes and beyond. They hunted on horseback with *lanzas* (lances). They traded buffalo hides and meat at annual Pecos Pueblo trade fairs for corn, beans, squash and other items. They followed Jicarilla Apachi trails, as well as Kiowa, Apachi and Pawnee trails. They had good relations with the tribes in the Las Vegas Grandes and were able to share the area to some degree. Some illegally traded with the semi-nomadic tribes including the Comanchis. By the late 1700s, they were based in San Miguel del Bado and launched caravans from there. (John Kessell, *Kiva, Cross, and Crown: The Pecos Indians & New Mexico 1540-1840*. Washington, DC: U.S. Dept. of the Interior/National Park Service, 1979)

### San Miguel del Vado Land Grant

In the fall of 1794, Lorenzo Márquez, on behalf of 51 men and their families, petitioned the governor of La Provincia de Nuevo México. On the 25<sup>th</sup> day of November, Lt. Gov. Fernando Chacón approved the petition for the San Miguel del Bado Land Grant and ordered Antonio José Ortíz, Alcalde of Santa Fe, to execute the grant, and issued a decree of conditions. The land grant contained 315,300 acres, with boundaries such as: west to the Cerrito de Bernal, north to Pueblo of Pecos, east to El Paso de la Glorietta and south to Cañon Blanco. The town of San Miguel del Bado was immediately established, an acequia dug, and both Españoles Mexicanos and genízaros moved their families and began to build houses. This began the movement of settlers of La Provincia de Nuevo México to the east side of the Sierra Madres, as new land grants were petitioned by many groups from Santa Fe and Santa Cruz de la Cañada. (SANM II, # 125)

### Los Comancheros

The Comancheros were traders who were also based in San Miguel del Vado after the founding in 1794. They realized that they could keep the Comanchis away from these areas if they could bring trade goods to them—especially corn, squash, beans and mantas, pottery and metals for knives—in exchange for buffalo meat and robes. They were mestizos and genízaros who had tribal connections and interpreters who could act as diplomats in order to trade with the Comanchi. The Comancheros were given special licenses to trade with the Comanchi. (SANM II, Doc.#2455)

### French Intrusions and Traders Into La Provincia de Nuevo Mexico

With French Louisiana territory to the east, conflicts with the Spanish took place as early as 1720, when Pedro de Villasur, his troops and a large contingent of Pueblo fighting men, Jicarilla Apachis and Yutas under their own war captains, were defeated by the French and Pawnees at the junction of the Platte and Loop rivers in eastern Nebraska.

During this uneasy coexistence between the Spanish and the French, French traders from Louisiana began arriving in New Mexico illegally as early as 1739, but their goods were confiscated. French explorers working for the governor of La Provincia de Nuevo Mexico were seeking routes to San Antonio in Tejas to set up trade in Spanish Tejas. (Hilario Romero. “*Historia de Las Cajas del Río Santa Fe y El Río Grande: History of the Santa Fe and Rio Grande Box Canyons*” *Green Fire Times*. Vol 15 #2, Mar/Apr. 2023)

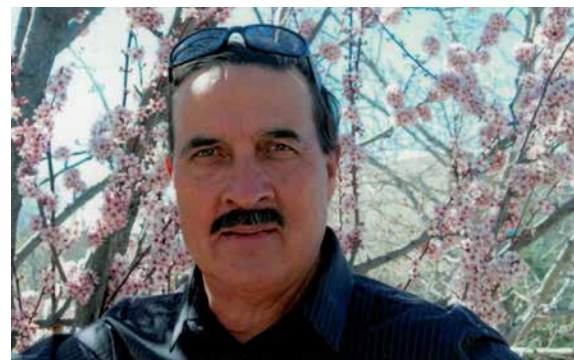
### French Invasion of España and Its Effect on México and New Mexico

In 1803, Napoleon Bonaparte sold Louisiana to the United States of North America and used the money for his military for his war in Europe. Spain, an ally of France, allowed Napoleon to pass through Spain in order to force Portugal to close her ports to Britain. In October and November of 1807, under the pretext of sending reinforcements to his army occupying Portugal, Napoleon sent 30,000 troops through Spain. He then proclaimed himself Emperor of France and brought back the French monarchy.

After they arrived in Madrid, Napoleon arranged a diplomatic encounter with Spanish King Charles IV and his son Fernando VII, imprisoned them at Bayonne, France, and installed Joseph Bonaparte as King of Spain. The Spanish Cortes escaped to Cadíz, where a regency was reestablished in 1810. In 1812, Pedro Bautista Pino, a delegate from Nuevo México, traveled to Spain, presented the current state of affairs in New Mexico before the Spanish Cortes at Cadíz, and asked for help. Wars broke out in New Spain (México, South America) while the Spanish Cortes was at Cadíz, a southern port in Spain. The Cortes could not provide assistance and Pedro Pino returned to Nuevo México.

This weakened Spain’s grip on its colonies, especially in México and South America. Padre Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla made his famous “Grito de Dolores” from his church in 1810, and he organized a large army of peasants and Indigenous tribes against the government of Spain in México. This was the beginning of the independence movement against Spain in the colonies. It did not affect Nuevo México initially, but it interfered with any assistance that might come from México. For 14 years, México would struggle to win independence, and finally did in 1824 with its first president and constitution. (Hilario Romero, *Green Fire Times*, 2023)

With the rest of the Spanish colonies in revolt, Spain slowly lost her hold on the provinces in the Americas including an isolated frontier of Nuevo México, an outlier forgotten for decades. The Españoles Mexicanos and pioneers carved out a living in this land so isolated and wild. Despite all these challenges, they pressed on collectively with what they could muster to develop a way of life that kept them in their homes and villages. ■



Hilario E. Romero is a former archivist and New Mexico state historian, a retired professor of History, Spanish and Bilingual Education, a historian, author and member of the Old Santa Fe Association board and Friends of the Moctezuma Hot Springs board.

Please note: Some of the tribal names in this article have been spelled phonetically.



# WHAT'S GOING ON

## ALBUQUERQUE / Online

**NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, DEC. 5; 12-1 PM**

### **WRITING 4 WELLNESS**

DCNW RM 1731 OR Online: [BIT.LY/3LNXLNY](https://bit.ly/3LNXLNY) (pw: WELLNESS)

Explore writing as a tool for personal wellness. Sponsored by UNM Health Sciences Office for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

**NOV. 7, 21, 7-8:30 PM**

### **FOOD JUSTICE READING CIRCLE**

Three Sisters Kitchen, 109 Gold Ave. SW

11/7: Mutual Aid with Marco Saavedra; 11/21: Indigenous Peoples' Food Sovereignty. Readings emailed in advance or may be picked up at TSK.

[WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/FOOD-JUSTICE-READING-CIRCLE-TICKETS-731314038977?AFF](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/food-justice-reading-circle-tickets-731314038977?aff)

**NOV. 8-9**

### **68<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NEW MEXICO WATER CONFERENCE**

Embassy Suites by Hilton Albuquerque/Online

The Colorado River's role in NM's past, present and future water. Hosted by the NM Water Resources Research Institute and NMSU. Admission: \$150/\$100 students. [HTTPS://WEB.CVENT.COM/EVENT/32D48012-67C3-42FC-B260-C179F5BE97B4/SUMMARY](https://web.cvent.com/event/32d48012-67c3-42fc-b260-c179f5be97b4/summary)

**NOV. 9, 11 AM-7 PM**

### **NM ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER FUNDRAISER**

Chello Grill, 5010 Cutler Ave. NE, Ste. A

**NOV. 11, 9 AM-4 PM**

### **CRANE FESTIVAL**

Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors NW

Musical artists include Pamyua (from Alaska) and 123 Andres. Storytelling, poetry, nature-themed carnival, hands-on activities. Free. [HTTPS://AMPCONCERTS.ORG/EVENT/421721/CRANE-FESTIVAL](https://ampconcerts.org/event/421721/crane-festival)

**NOV. 13, 9 AM-NOV. 15**

### **HEARING ON CLEAN CARS AND TRUCKS RULEMAKING**

State Bar Center, 5121 Masthead St. NE

NM Environmental Improvement Board joint public hearing with the ABQ-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board. [HTTPS://CONTENT.GOVDELIVERY.COM/ACCOUNTS/NMED/BULLETINS/36ED2ED](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NMED/bulletins/36ED2ED)

**NOV. 14-16**

### **HEAD TO TOE CONFERENCE**

Albuquerque Convention Center

Funded by the NM Dept. of Health, Office of School and Adolescent Health and the NMPED Safe and Healthy Schools Bureau, this conference attracts school health and behavior health professionals. [WWW.NMSTUDENTHEALTH.ORG/HEAD-TO-TOE-CONFERENCE/](http://www.nmstudenthealth.org/head-to-toe-conference/)

**DEC. 4-8**

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND EQUITY REGULATIONS**

Albuquerque Convention Center

City Council Bill No. 0-23-88 seeks to dissolve the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Air Control Board. The NM Environmental Law Center is representing the Mountain View Coalition.

### **THROUGH JAN. 10, 2024 CONVERSING WITH THE LAND: NATIVE NORTH AMERICAN BASKETS**

Maxwell Museum of Anthropology,  
UNM Campus, 500 University  
Blvd. NE

Baskets from the museum's collection.  
Free. [WWW.MAXWELLMUSEUM.UNM.EDU](http://www.maxwellmuseum.unm.edu)

**JAN. 11, 8 AM-4:30 PM**

### **NEW MEXICO WATER DIALOGUE**

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center

29<sup>th</sup> annual statewide meeting. How will NM adapt to water scarcity? Why the 2023 Water Security Planning Act will work. Presented by the NMWD and Water Advocates for NM and the Middle Río Grande. [HTTPS://NMWATERDIALOGUE.ORG/](https://nmwaterdialogue.org/)

**APRIL 17-21, 2024**

### **77<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS**

Albuquerque Convention Center

Architectural and art historians, architects, museum professionals, preservationists and those in allied fields will share research. Paper sessions, keynote talks, social reception, tours. [WWW.SAH.ORG](http://www.sah.org)

**INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER**

### **TUESDAY-SUNDAY, 9 AM-4 PM**

2401 12<sup>th</sup> St. NW

"Gateway to the 19 Pueblos of N.M." Museum galleries, exhibits and restaurant. Cultural dance program Sat., Sun. 11 am, 2 pm. Tickets \$10/\$8/\$7. 505-843-7270. [WWW.INDIANPUEBLO.ORG](http://www.indianpueblo.org)

**NM MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY**

1801 Mountain Rd. NW

505-841-2800. [WWW.NMNATURALHISTORY.ORG](http://www.nmnaturalhistory.org)

## SANTA FE / Online

**NOV. 1-3**

### **REGENERATE CONFERENCE: "MICROBES, MARKETS, CLIMATE"**

Santa Fe Community Convention Center

Regenerative agriculture can address complex issues of climate change, loss of wildlife habitat and biodiversity, food security and social equity. Agricultural producers, land owners, conservationists, scientists, students and concerned citizens will attend. Hosted by Quivira Coalition, American Grassfed Assoc. and Holistic Management Intl. [HTTPS://REGENERATECONFERENCE.COM](https://regenerateconference.com)

**NOV. 4, 8:30 AM-5 PM**

### **EDIBLE INSTITUTE 2023**

La Fonda Hotel, 100 E. San Francisco St.

Seminar focusing on the challenges and opportunities associated with food systems; narratives by individuals involved in the cultivation and distribution of food. \$75-\$125; [EDIBLEINSTITUTE2023.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://edibleinstitute2023.eventbrite.com)

**NOV. 4, 9 AM-12 PM**

### **REGENERATIVE SOILS**

Online class

From compost to climate repair. \$35. Registration: [WWW.AMPERSANDPROJECT.ORG](http://www.ampersandproject.org)

**NOV. 8-JAN. 12, 2024**

### **"WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ME"**

Poeh Cultural Center, 78 Cities of Gold Rd., Pueblo of Pojoaque  
Youth Push Pin Art Exhibit. Free admission. 505-455-3533, [DMCCOY@POJOAQUE.ORG](mailto:DMCCOY@POJOAQUE.ORG)

**NOV. 10-12**

### **CREATIVE EXPERIENCE SANTA FE**

Gathering for visionaries leading creative tech and community resilience, innovations in venture investing and the cultivation of inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystems. [HTTPS://WWW.CREATIVESTARTUPS.ORG/CXSF/?UTM\\_SOURCE=LINKEDIN&UTM\\_MEDIUM=SOCIAL&UTM\\_CAMPAIGN=CXSF23](https://www.creativestartups.org/cxsf/?utm_source=linkedin&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=cxsf23)

**NOV. 10-12**

### **RECYCLE SANTA FE ART FESTIVAL**

SF Convention Center, 201 W. Marcy St.

Recycled material art market, art exhibits, eco-holiday gifts, make & take art activities. Fri, 5-9 pm, trash fashion show 7 pm; Sat, 9 am-5 pm (free); Sun, 10 am-5 pm (free). [WWW.RECYCLESANTAFE.ORG](http://www.recyclesantafe.org)







**NOV. 11, 10 AM**

**TOUR OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY & SUSTAINABILITY DEPT.**

*Santa Fe Community College*

350 Santa Fe meeting. Prof. Stephen Gómez will explain algae cultivation, biofuels, aquaponics, greenhouse management and more. Registration:

[JDARLING@SANDWICH.NET](mailto:JDARLING@SANDWICH.NET), <https://350SANTAFE.ORG>

**NOV. 11, 5-10 PM**

**HUNGRY MOUTH FESTIVAL**

*Scottish Rite Center, 463 Paseo de Peralta*

Five noted chefs. Auction. Benefits St. Elizabeth's Shelter. \$175. Tickets:

[WWW.STESHELTER.ORG](http://WWW.STESHELTER.ORG)

**NOV. 16-18**

**SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION**

**2023 SW CONFERENCE**

*Drury Plaza Hotel*

Land managers, researchers and restorationists. Keynote by Eva Stricker, Carbon Ranch Dir., Quivira Coalition. [HTTPS://SERSW2019.WIXSITE.COM/CONFERENCE2023](https://SERSW2019.WIXSITE.COM/CONFERENCE2023)

**NOV. 18, 9 AM-12 PM**

**ARID LAND RESTORATION**

*Online class*

Natural history and stewardship techniques. \$35. Registration: [WWW.AMPERSANDPROJECT.ORG](http://WWW.AMPERSANDPROJECT.ORG)

**DEC. 9, 9 AM-12 PM**

**PERMACULTURE AT AMPERSAND**

*Online class*

A journey with solar, water, community and economy. \$35. Registration:

[WWW.AMPERSAND.ORG](http://WWW.AMPERSAND.ORG)

**JAN. 31-FEB. 2, 2024**

**NM MAINSTREET WINTER CONFERENCE**

*La Fonda Hotel*

Engage people, rebuild places, revitalize economies. NM Mainstreet is a program of the NM Economic Development Department. [WWW.NMMAINSTREET.ORG](http://WWW.NMMAINSTREET.ORG)

**SEPT. 13-15**

**EARTH USA**

12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Earthen Architecture. [www.earthusa.org/](http://www.earthusa.org/)

**MON.-FRI.**

**POEH CULTURAL CENTER AND MUSEUM**

*78 Cities of Gold Rd., Pueblo of Pojoaque*

Di Wae Powa: They Came Back: Historical Pueblo pottery. The Why, group show of Native artists. Nah Poeh Meng: core installation highlighting Pueblo artists and history. 505-455-5041

**MON.-SAT., 8 AM-4 PM**

**RANDALL DAVEY AUDUBON CENTER & SANCTUARY**

*1800 Upper Canyon Rd.*

Free walks to see birds, Sat., 8:30 am. RSVP for Randall Davey House tours.

[RANDALLDAVEY.AUDUBON.ORG](http://RANDALLDAVEY.AUDUBON.ORG)

**TUES., SAT., 8 AM-1 PM**

**SANTA FE FARMERS' MARKET**

*Market Pavilion, 1607 Paseo de Peralta*

505-983-4098, [SANTAFEFARMERSMARKET.COM](http://SANTAFEFARMERSMARKET.COM)

**WEDS-FRI. THROUGH AUGUST**

**MUSEUM OF SPANISH COLONIAL ART**

*710 Camino Lejo*

Trails, Rails and Highways: How trade transformed the Art of Spanish New Mexico.

[MUSEUM@SPANISHCOLONIAL.ORG](mailto:MUSEUM@SPANISHCOLONIAL.ORG)

**WEDS-SAT., 10 AM-6 PM; FRI.-SAT., 10 AM-6:30 PM**

**SANTA FE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**

Interactive exhibits, play areas, weekly programs. Masks required for ages 2 and older.

\$10/\$8/\$7/\$3/one & under free. 505-989-8359, [SANTAFECILDRENSMUSEUM.ORG](http://SANTAFECILDRENSMUSEUM.ORG)

**WEDS.-SUN.**

**EL RANCHO DE LAS GOLONDRINAS**

*334 Los Pinos Rd., La Ciénega*

Living History Museum dedicated to the heritage and culture of 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century New Mexico. 505-471-2261, [GOLONDRINAS.ORG](http://GOLONDRINAS.ORG)

**IAIA MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY NATIVE ARTS**

*108 Cathedral Place*

888-922-4242, [IAIA.EDU/MOCNA](http://IAIA.EDU/MOCNA). Closed Tuesdays.

**SANTA FE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Seeking land, donated or for sale, to build affordable housing. Low-income homeowners help build homes and make mortgage payments to the nonprofit HFH. Property owners can qualify for 50% Affordable Housing tax credit through the NM Mortgage Finance Authority.

505-986-5880, ext. 109

**STATE MUSEUMS**

Museum of International Folk Art (10 am-4 pm), Museum of Indian Arts and Culture (10 am-4 pm), N.M. History Museum (10 am-4:30 pm), N.M. Museum of Art (Tues.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm).

[NEWMEXICOCULTURE.ORG/VISIT](http://NEWMEXICOCULTURE.ORG/VISIT)

**WHEELWRIGHT MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN**

*704 Cam. Lejo, Museum Hill*

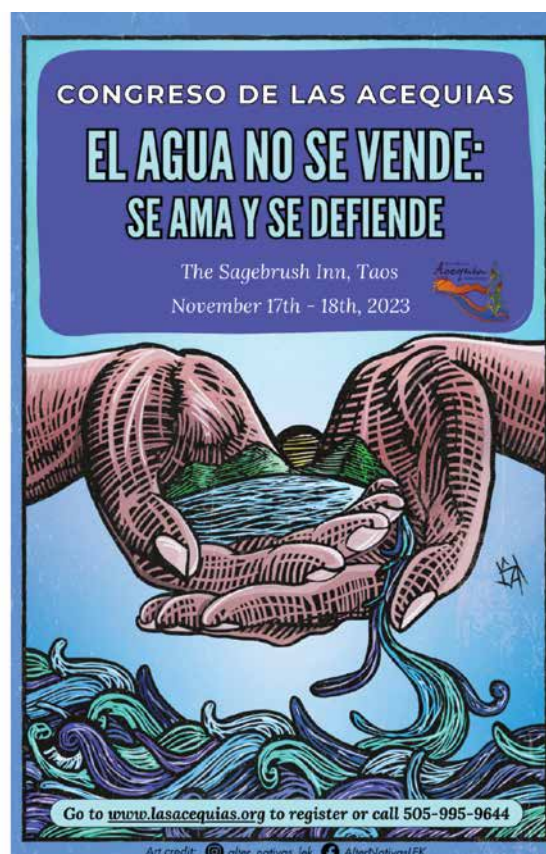
505-982-4636, [WHEELWRIGHT.ORG](http://WHEELWRIGHT.ORG). Closed Sundays and Mondays.

**YOUTHBUILD / YOUTHWORKS!**

Paid training for Youth 16-24. Construction, Culinary, GED. 505-989-1855,

[WWW.SANTAFEYOUTHWORKS.ORG/SANTA-FE-YOUTHBUILD/](http://WWW.SANTAFEYOUTHWORKS.ORG/SANTA-FE-YOUTHBUILD/)

**TAOS / Online**



**NOV. 2-3**

**NORTHERN NM WORKFORCE INTEGRATION NETWORK (WIN)**

*El Monte Sagrado*

Biannual convening of employers, support organizations, governmental agencies and other stakeholders to discuss workforce opportunities in the building trades and healthcare industries. WIN is a recipient of a \$6.4M grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. [HTTPS://WWW.NNM-WIN.COM](https://WWW.NNM-WIN.COM)

**NOV. 6, 5:30 PM**

**CROSSINGS: HOW ROAD ECOLOGY IS SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET**

*SOMOS, 108 Civic Plaza Dr.*

Book Presentation by award-winning author Ben Goldfarb. Sponsored by Friends of Mi Casita. Free. 575-758-0081

**NOV. 17-18**

**24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONGRESO DE LAS ACEQUIAS**

*The Sagebrush Inn*

El Agua No Se Vende" Se Ama y Se Defiende. Acequias from across NM

celebrate culture, share knowledge and work together to protect beloved acequias.

Registration: 505-955-9644, [WWW.LASACEQUIAS.ORG](http://WWW.LASACEQUIAS.ORG)



**WEDS–SUN., 11 AM–5 PM THROUGH JAN. 2024**

**HARWOOD MUSEUM OF ART CENTENNIAL**

238 Ledoux St.

Journey through the museum's (and the town's) rich history. 575-758-9826,

[HTTPS://HARWOODMUSEUM.ORG/CENTENNIAL/EXHIBITION-DETAILS/](https://harwoodmuseum.org/centennial/exhibition-details/)

**THROUGH MAY 30, 2024**

**ART OF TIMELESS BEAUTY: THE NAVAJO CHILD'S BLANKET**

Taos Art Museum, Fechin House, 227 Paseo del Pueblo Norte

26 examples follow the evolution. \$6–\$10, 575-758-2690, [TAOSARTMUSEUM.ORG](http://taosartmuseum.org)

**LA HACIENDA DE LOS MARTÍNEZ**

708 Hacienda Way

Northern NM-style Spanish colonial “great house” built in 1804 by Severino Martínez. Open

daily. [TAOSHISTORICMUSEUM.ORG](http://taohistoricmuseum.org)

**MILLICENT ROGERS MUSEUM**

1504 Millicent Rogers Rd.

Tuah-Tah/Taos Pueblo: Home, highlighting the pueblo's culture and artistic achievements. Pop

Chalee! Yippee Ki Yay! paintings. Open daily. [MILLIF4N65OY45E.ORG](http://millif4n65oy45e.org)

**HERE & THERE / Online**

**NOV. 11, 4 PM; NOV. 12, 2 PM: LEVEL 1**

**NOV. 18, 4 PM; NOV. 19, 2 PM: LEVEL 2**

**MOVING ARTS ESPAÑOLA STUDENT SHOWS**

368 Eagle Dr., Ohkay Owingeh, N.M.

Limited tickets available at the front desk after parents receive tickets. 505-577-6629,

[WWW.MOVINGARTSESPANOLA.ORG](http://www.movingartsespanola.org)

**NOV. 13 APPLICATION DEADLINE**

**HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING FUND**

Grants (\$20,000–\$100,000) support N.M. food retailers, processors, producers and distributors.

Eligible costs: predevelopment, brick & mortar facility development, consumer packaged goods, agriculture projects, other needs. N.M. Economic Development Dept. 505-819-8914,

[HTTPS://EDD.NEWMEXICO.GOV/BUSINESS-DEVELOPMENT/](https://edd.newmexico.gov/business-development/)

**NOV. 16, 5–6 PM**

**GEOGRAPHIES OF THE SACRED**

Online

The Archaeological Conservancy zoom lecture by Dr. Matthew J. Martinez (Ohkay Owingeh) of the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project. 505-266-1540, [TAC.CONNECT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TAC.CONNECT@GMAIL.COM). Free.

[WWW.ARCHAEOLOGICALCONSERVANCY.ORG/EVENT/GEOGRAPHIES-OF-THE-SACRED/?INSTANCE\\_ID=241](http://www.archaeologicalconservancy.org/event/geographies-of-the-sacred/?instance_id=241)

**NOV. 30–DEC. 12**

**2023 U.N. CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP28)**

Expo City, Dubai

An opportunity to rethink, reboot and refocus the climate agenda. [HTTPS://UNFCCC.INT/COP28](https://unfccc.int/cop28)

**DEC. 1 APPLICATION DEADLINE**

**NEW MEXICO DOCUMENTARY GRANTS**

\$10,000 grants for NM filmmakers' projects that tackle pressing urban and community issues.

Ages 30 or younger. For applications, email [GLPOLK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GLPOLK@GMAIL.COM)

**DEC. 6–9**

**FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES**

Bosque del Apache National Refuge (Socorro, N.M.)

Early-morning bird watching and lectures on migratory birds, endangered ecosystems they

inhabit, conservation efforts and tours. Registration: [FRIENDSOFBOSQUEDELPACHE.ORG/FESTIVAL](http://friendsofbosquedelapache.org/festival)

**DEC. 15 APPLICATION DEADLINE**

**QUIVIRA COALITION NEW AGRARIAN PROGRAM**

8-month, full-time, paid apprenticeships (March/April–Nov. 2024) on working ranches and farms

practicing regenerative agriculture in NM, CO and MT. Housing, education stipend. Kick-start a

career in regenerative ag. [www.quiviracoalition.org/newagrarian](http://www.quiviracoalition.org/newagrarian)

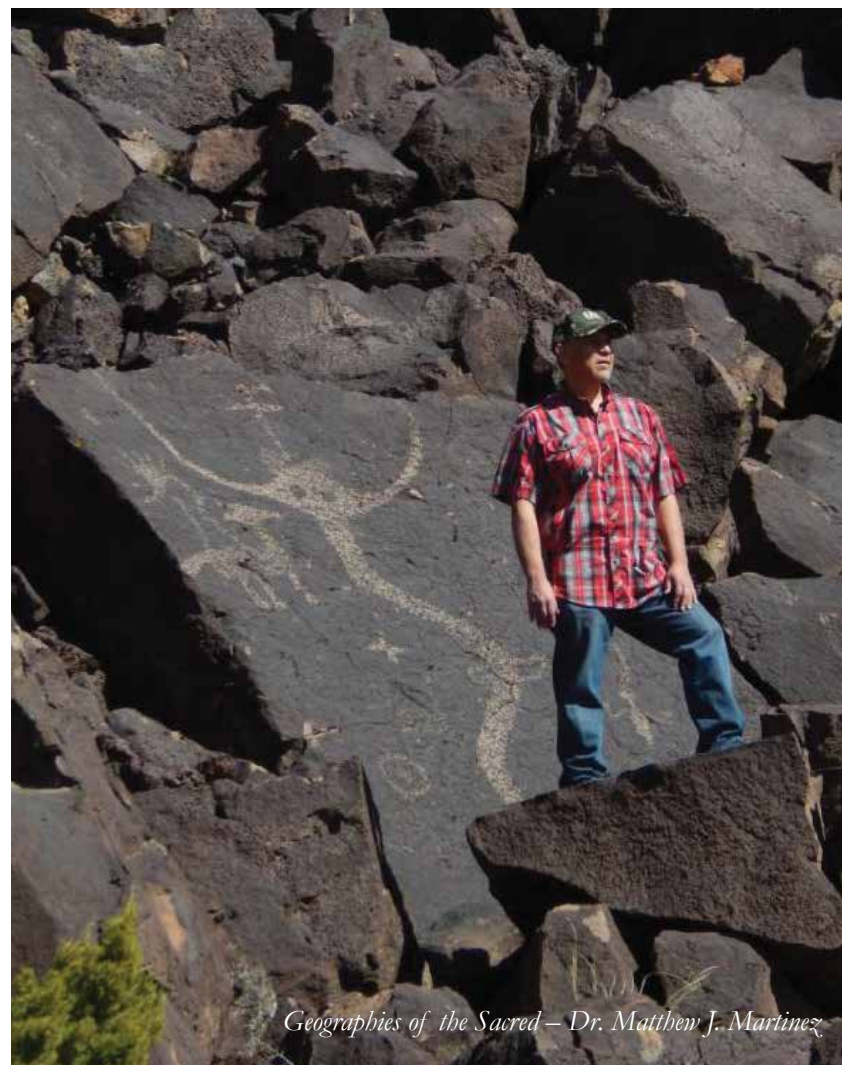
**DEC. 20 APPLICATION DEADLINE**

**FULCRUM FUND GRANTS**

Enables NM artists to expand existing work, create and showcase projects that inspire curiosity,

engagement and dialogue. Regional Regranting Program administered by 516 Arts. \$2,000–

\$10,000 grants offered. 505-242-1445, [KEVIN@516ARTS.ORG](mailto:KEVIN@516ARTS.ORG), [516ARTS.ORG/FULCRUMFUND](http://516ARTS.ORG/FULCRUMFUND)



*Geographies of the Sacred – Dr. Matthew J. Martinez*

**DEC. 31 APPLICATION DEADLINE**

**NM OUTDOOR EQUITY FUND**

Supports transformative outdoor experiences that foster stewardship and

respect for NM's lands, waters and cultural heritage. Applicants must engage

low-income youth in nature-based outdoor recreation and include some

climate/environment education. [WWW.NMOUTSIDE.COM](http://www.nmoutside.com)

**DEC. 31 APPLICATION DEADLINE**

**USDA GRANTS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND SAFE SEWER SYSTEMS**

Grants help rural communities manage waste sites, eliminate water pollution

and increase resilience to climate change. Eligible applicants include public

bodies, nonprofits, tribes and academic institutions. [WWW.RD.USDA.GOV](http://www.rd.usda.gov)

**FEB. 7–8, 2024**

**NATIONAL NATIVE SEED CONFERENCE 2024**

Online

Native seed production, seed-based restoration with an emphasis on Indigenous

knowledge and climate change. Presented by the Institute for Applied Ecology.

[HTTPS://APPLIEDECO.ORG/NNSC24/](https://appliedeco.org/nns24/)

**THROUGH SUMMER 2024**

**ARCHAEOLOGISTS IN GLEN CANYON (EXHIBIT)**

Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff

**THURS–SUN, 10 AM–4 PM**

**BOSQUE REDONDO MEMORIAL**

**FORT SUMNER HISTORIC SITE, FORT SUMNER, N.M.**

Exhibit, 30 years in the making, tells the story of “The Long Walk” and the

Bosque Redondo. \$7, children 16 and younger, free. N.M. residents with ID

free first Sun. each month. [NMHISTORICSITES.ORG/BOSQUE-REDONDO](http://nmhistoricsites.org/bosque-redondo)

**SUSTAINABLE BUILDING TAX CREDITS**

N.M. residents can apply for tax credits to make homes and businesses more

energy efficient. There are extra incentives for upgrades that reduce energy use

and lower utility costs in affordable housing or homes occupied by low-income

residents. [HTTPS://WWWAPPS.EMNRD.NM.GOV/ECMD/ECPSUBMISSIONS/](https://www.wapps.emnrd.nm.gov/ecmd/ecpsubmissions/)



POEH CULTURAL CENTER presents

# pathways WINTER MARKET

BUFFALO THUNDER RESORT & CASINO • SANTA FE, NM



**NOVEMBER 25 & 26, 2023 • 9AM-4PM**

**LARGEST TWO-DAY HOLIDAY ART MARKET IN N.M.  
FREE PARKING & ADMISSION • OVER 250 ARTISTS**

[WWW.POEHCENTER.ORG](http://WWW.POEHCENTER.ORG)



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PATHWAYS is organized by the Poeh Cultural Center,  
a tribally led value based entity of the Pueblo of Pojoaque.