

## Waiting Not an Option for Valle Vidal. Senator Domenici, New Mexico Needs Your Help Today

*Brian Shields*

As the Valle Vidal Protection Act passed the United States House of Representatives last week, the Coalition for the Valle Vidal submitted a letter to the Forest Service asking the agency to reconsider its decision that would ignore the public's overwhelming opposition to coalbed methane drilling in the Valle Vidal.

The Forest Service's refusal to consider public opinion on the Valle Vidal highlights the need for Senator Pete Domenici to join the rest of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation and pass a bill through the Senate that will permanently protect the Valle Vidal.

The Valle Vidal was donated to the American public in 1982 for the enjoyment of its watershed, wildlife, and recreational values. Despite a couple of attempts in the late 1980s and early 90s, the Forest Service did not complete a Management Plan for the area. In 2002, El Paso Corporation asked the Forest Service to open the Valle Vidal to oil and gas leasing. In response, the Forest Service decided that it must first complete the requisite Management Plan. For this process the Forest Service collected "scoping" comments from the public. Prior to collecting public comments, however, the Forest Service announced that the Management Plan would ignore the issue of coalbed methane leasing. Instead, the Forest Service committed to the preparation of a subsequent Leasing Analysis. Despite the fact that they received over 54,000 comments urging them to deal with the oil and gas leasing issue up front, the Forest Service has chosen to plow ahead with its original plan, people of northern New Mexico be damned.

Ironically, by ignoring coalbed methane leasing in the Management Plan, the Forest Service is actually making the Valle Vidal available for leasing by triggering existing Forest-Wide Plan decisions opening all Carson National Forest lands that are not specifically closed. The Valle Vidal Forest Plan Amendment, by not retaining the authority to say 'no' to leasing, is actually saying 'yes' to leasing by default because the Valle Vidal has not been 'specifically withdrawn.'

This move by the Forest Service is troubling to say the least and clearly demonstrates the need for Congressional intervention.

The Forest Service has created an illusion of democracy on the Valle Vidal issue – but the public is not blind to cynical moves. You can't have an effective resource Management Plan that ignores the biggest resource issue the Valle Vidal will ever face—and that's why the public wants a Management Plan that addresses a no drilling option. Moreover, the public knows that for a mere 1-2 days of energy, the Valle Vidal, New Mexico's Yellowstone, will be lost for ever, as will downstream communities' long-term economic health.

We can't help but wonder why the Forest Service should expend such massive time and taxpayer resources to prepare a Leasing EIS when the Forest Service already has the information and authority, at the Forest Plan stage, to simply say

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## LANL Water Watch Statement of Shared Values

LANL Water Watch seeks to build a powerful coalition of grassroots organizations and citizens to demand that Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) be held accountable for more than 60 years of contamination. Our State and Federal regulators must enforce existing laws and regulations and implement the most stringent practices to protect public health, safety and the environment.

On May 23, 2006, LANL Water Watch sent an initial 60-Day Notice of Intent to Sue the Department of Energy and the Regents of the University of California for violations of the Clean Water Act at LANL. The organizations within LANL Water Watch that signed on to the Notice of Intent are Amigos Bravos, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety, Embudo Valley Environmental Monitoring Group, Partnership for Earth Spirituality, Rio Grande Restoration and Tewa Women United. The 60-Day Notice is available at [www.nuclearactive.org](http://www.nuclearactive.org).

LANL Water Watch will resend the Notice of Intent a second time addressed to the new management at LANL, which is called Los Alamos National Security (LANS) and is made up of Bechtel, BWXT, Washington Group International, and the University of California.

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## Forest Rule Makes Way for Reform

*Chris Kassar, Wildlife Biologist  
Center for Biological Diversity,  
Tucson*

Few species or habitats are immune to the effects of off-road vehicles (ORVs). ORVs cause disturbance to vegetation, soil, air, water and other recreational users of our public lands. The actual environmental effects are cumulative and synergistic because seemingly small, individual impacts may result in large-scale changes, thereby altering the entire ecology of an area. In other words, ORVs are responsible for widespread and severe environmental damage.

Of particular concern in the Southwest is damage to aquatic areas, water quality and riparian corridors. Motorized travel through or adjacent to rivers, streams, lakes or meadows decreases water quality, increases sedimentation and cloudiness, and alters water flow patterns, thereby damaging critical habitat for endangered species such as the southwestern willow fly-catcher.

Recognizing the environmental damage caused by ORVs, the US Forest Service recently released a new "Travel Management Rule" in November 2005 to govern ORV use in national forests and grasslands. The final rule directs each national forest to work with the public to identify and designate routes, trails, and areas that are suitable for motor vehicle use. Once this designation process is complete, ORV use will be permitted only on designated routes identified on an agency "travel use map."

The Forest Service schedule for implementation of the Travel Management Rule will guide local efforts over the next four years to designate those roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicle use through a travel planning process emphasizing public involvement and coordination

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## Volunteer-Powered Restoration Projects

Amigos Bravos has organized and hosted two restoration work weekends in the Upper Red River Watershed this summer. A third weekend is scheduled for the weekend of September 22-24th.

The first two have been a huge success with over 40 volunteer participants. Our first work weekend, held at the end of June, focused on installing a large cattle/ATV riparian enclosure to protect the riparian and water resources of the headwaters of Bitter Creek, a tributary of the Red River. Twenty volunteers came together to build 1/2 mile of fence, install steps for fishermen and women to climb over the fence, and install signs about riparian protection and watershed health. At 10,000 feet the weekends are always exciting. The June weekend started with a sudden snowstorm and ended with warm, tank-top and short-wearing weather!

The second work weekend in August, which brought out 24 volunteers, was another success. Volunteers built wing fences to a new gate purchased by Amigos Bravos and installed by the Forest Service at Sawmill Pass in the Upper Red River. The gate and fences will be used to seasonally close off a large area – over 15 square miles– of the Upper Red River watershed for elk habitat and calving. This closure will also give the watershed a chance to recover for a longer period each year. Previously, because of the lack of adequate fencing and a gate, the Forest Service had been unable to close off the area to protect the elk population. The volunteers also closed and obscured four separate illegal ATV routes/spurs.

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*Volunteers installing cattle/ATV riparian enclosure to protect the riparian and water resources of the headwaters of Bitter Creek*

Amigos Bravos thanks all our volunteers for donating their time and sweat towards protecting the upper Red River. Amigos Bravos also thanks the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance for their help.



*The new gate at Sawmill Pass*

### ***Upper Red River Project***

These work weekends are the restoration component of Amigos Bravos' three-pronged approach to addressing impacts to water quality in the Upper Red River Project from Off Road Vehicles (ORVs). The other two components of the project are Education and Enforcement:

**Education:** Meetings, fact sheets, maps and word-of-mouth are being used to get information out about where it is legal and where it is prohibited to drive ORVs in the Upper Red River Watershed and why it is important for the health of the ecosystem and the community to follow ORV regulations. In addition, a large sign about the importance of responsible motorized recreation to protecting water resources will soon be installed at the bottom of Mallette Canyon. Amigos Bravos has also been participating in the Forest Service's Travel Management Planning process. *(Please see article on page 2*

**Enforcement:** A full-time enforcement officer, based out of the Questa Ranger District of the Carson National Forest, was hired with funds from Amigos Bravos'

ORV grant. The enforcement officer, a Forest Service employee, is patrolling and enforcing responsible, legal ORV use in the Upper Red River Watershed. The officer has been distributing educational materials and maps of open and closed areas, issuing citations for illegal off-road use, and monitoring impacts from recreational use of the Upper Red River.



*Newly closed and obscured illegal ATV route/spur*

*As you can see, these weekends are both productive and fun! Please consider joining the September 22-24 Volunteer Work Weekend in the Upper Red River. For more information, please call Rachel Conn at 505- 758-3874 or [rconn@amigosbravos.org](mailto:rconn@amigosbravos.org). ★*

## OTTERS FOREVER!

Olivia Otter looks on as children attending the concert performance of Joanne Forman's musical, **OTTERS FOREVER!** at the Taos Public Library, draw their versions of the story. 65 listened to cellist Rebecca Caron and marimbist Tim Long play the music, with Olivia narrating. A great time was had by all.

*OTTERS FOREVER!* is available for schools and community groups to perform: contact Forman at [jofo@laplaza.org](mailto:jofo@laplaza.org).

Puppet otter Olivia recently acquired a puppet mate, Oscar, and they have a baby, Orlando. They cavorted in the display case at the Taos Public Library all through the month of August. There will be a special otter feature included in the December newsletter: the music for the otter anthem, entitled (what else?) **OTTERS FOREVER**, and an Olivia Otter paper doll puppet for children to color, cut out and create their own otter plays and musicals. ★



## Waiting Not an Option

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“no” to leasing. Exercising such authority does not require an onerous analysis. In fact the analysis has already been done in a very thorough and conclusive 1992 study undertaken in cooperation with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. That study unequivocally demonstrated the devastating impacts mineral extraction would have on the Valle Vidal’s unique wildlife. All that is required at this time is for the Forest Service to rationally explain that management of the Valle Vidal’s wildlife, water, recreational, cultural, and other non-mineral values is incompatible with minerals development.

By ignoring its own prior analysis and the wishes of the broader community, the Forest Service is being disingenuous.

That is why it is so important for Senator Domenici to stand with the people of northern New Mexico, Senator Jeff Bingaman, and the rest of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation, and work to swiftly pass the Valle Vidal Protection Act. By looking at the over 54,000 public comments and consulting the 1992 analysis, Senator Domenici has all the information he needs to make the right decision, now. The rest of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation already has. ★

## Our Most Successful Raffle for the Río

*Brian Shields  
Executive Director*

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Amigos Bravos, I wish to extend our gratitude to our many wonderful new and old members who so enthusiastically and generously support the work that we do to protect the rivers of New Mexico and the communities they sustain. This year’s ‘**Raffle for the Río**’, our biggest fundraiser of the year, was a huge success, our most successful raffle to date -- thanks in no small part to the way KTAO turned over the airwaves to our efforts on July 20th. A very special thanks goes to Brad Hockmeyer, Patty Mack, and everyone at KTAO for providing a priceless service – kudos to the great work they do.

Amigos Bravos takes pride in the privilege of working for our community, and we are tremendously grateful to our over 1600 members who make the work possible. This year, thanks to the generous donation of an acre of land by **Fred Fair**, we were especially pleased to be able to offer the land as our raffle prize. The lucky winners are **Curt and Barbara Vickers** – thanks to them and to all of our members. ★

## Remembering Coalition for the Valle Vidal Volunteers John and Denise Kunesh

One of our star volunteers and best informed spokespeople, John Kunesh of Red River, was killed in a car wreck Saturday afternoon, July 29. His wife Denise, also a volunteer, died as a result of the accident.

John was a huge help to the Coalition for the Valle Vidal. He helped set up three public presentations in Red River over the course of 2005, made posters with his own money, and was responsible for the large turnouts at those events. He and Denise also traveled for the Coalition in Red River and Questa during the scoping comment period last summer. He was key in getting the resolution out of the Red River village council and helped just a few weeks ago to

John was also a volunteer for Amigos Bravos and New Mexico Wilderness Alliance. ★

## Calendar of Events:

- September 16 (Sat.)** **Santa Fe River Clean-Up**, Recycled Art Making and Community Swap Day, Pick up Trash and Make Art, Love the River—Love Art, co- sponsored by The Santa Fe Watershed Association, RecycleSanta Fe, The City of Santa Fe, and La Montañita Co-op. For more information, to volunteer and/or make art/or swap call Robyn at La Montañita Co-op, 877-775-2667
- Sept. 22-24 (Fri.-Sun.)** **Volunteer Work Weekend in the Upper Red River**. For more information, please call Rachel Conn at 505-758-3874 or rconn@amigosbravos.org. See article on page 2.
- September 23 (Sat.)** **Little Costilla Climb. Sponsored by the Coalition for the Valle Vidal**. For more information, call Jim O'Donnell at 505-758-3874
- October 16 (Monday)** Drop off Entries for **Abundant Life Juried Art Exhibition** at the Taos Country Club, Country Club Road 110, Taos, 4:00-6:00 pm. Jury process takes place on Tuesday, Oct. 17.
- October 20 (Friday)** **Abundant Life Exhibition, Reception, and Sale**, Taos Country Club, Country Club Road 110, 4:00 - 6:00pm. Admission free to artists; \$25 for the public to attend the exhibition reception; \$10 discount for Bioneers Conference attendees.
- Oct. 20-22 (Fri.-Sun.)** **New Mexico Bioneers Conference**. Early registration by Sept. 22. See www.sustaintaos.org.

**Amigos Bravos' Capital Reserve Fund** is our insurance against hard times. The Capital Reserve Fund is money set aside to ensure that the organization can survive cash flow shortages in the annual operating budget. It can only be accessed for certain purposes, such as meeting payroll or for emergency capital outlay. There are strict guidelines on when and how money from the fund can be used. Any use of money from the Fund requires approval from the Board of Directors. This Fund is a hedge against hard times, ensuring that Amigos Bravos will stay healthy and able to pursue its mission.

Our Capital Reserve account was opened in March 1998 with a \$15,000 grant from the Ruth Mott Fund. Thanks to the many generous contributions of our members, including a recent one from Allen and Mary Anne Sanborn, the interest-bearing account now has a balance of \$68,766. Our goal is to have \$150,000 in the account by the end of 2007. Please consider making a contribution to the Capital Reserve Fund. \*

### Where There's a Will, There's a Way



*By including Amigos Bravos in your will...  
...you could protect a river for years*

#### CONFIDENTIAL REPLY

To explore a bequest to Amigos Bravos, please complete this form and return it, marked confidential, to Brian Shields, Executive Director, Amigos Bravos.

- I have included Amigos Bravos in my will.  
 Please send information on how to include Amigos Bravos in my will.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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### Help us save the Río Grande Join Amigos Bravos!

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 River Defender     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 River Guardian  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 River Advocate     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 River Angel     |
- I want to make a donation to the **Amigos Bravos Capital Reserve Fund**

Amigos Bravos is a 501 (c)(3) organization.  
Your membership donation is fully tax-deductible.

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Mail to: **Amigos Bravos, P.O. Box 238, Taos, NM 87571**  
 505-758-3874 • Fax 505-758-7345  
 email: bravos@amigosbravos.org • www.amigosbravos.org

# Forest Rule Makes Way for Reform

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with state, local, and tribal governments.

Depending on how it is implemented and enforced on National Forest lands in New Mexico, the rule has the potential to curb further damage and rejuvenate lands that have already been degraded. While the rule makes a positive step toward better management of ORVs, it alone can not provide the total protection needed for resources and people on public lands. Only strong participation from conservation-minded activists will ensure that the rule is successfully implemented and our forests are preserved.

Our major concerns regarding implementation of the rule include the following:

- Planning focused only on motorized use will not achieve balance and reduce conflicts between motorized recreation and hikers, hunters, horsemen and other quiet users
- The new rule does not prevent the continued creation and use of unauthorized, “renegade” routes on national forests. In fact, the Forest Service may actually reward damaging behavior by including “renegade” routes in the designated system
- The Forest Service already has limited ability to maintain its current system of roads and trails. Now the agency is being asked to consider designating thousands more miles of user-created motorized routes

that will require similar

maintenance and more enforcement to prevent off-route driving and riding

Forests are in different stages of this process; however each of them needs input from citizens who are concerned about protecting our public lands. To help you get involved directly on your local forest, we have provided the following brief update of opportunities for involvement:

## **Gila, Carson & Lincoln National Forests**

- Accepting recommendations from individuals for closing/opening specific routes;
- *Action:* In the next 2 months talk with district rangers to make your site-specific recommendations; contact Chris Kassar or Rachel Conn

## **Cibola National Forest**

- Beginning a collaborative process
- *Action:* Call Mary Bean, Recreation Staff (505-281-3304; [mebean@fs.fed.us](mailto:mebean@fs.fed.us)) to express interest in participating

## **Santa Fe National Forest**

- First round of public meetings just completed; will be forming working groups to work on creating the proposed route system
- *Action:* Contact Rob Potts, Forest Planner (505-438-7829; [robertpotts@fs.fed.us](mailto:robertpotts@fs.fed.us)) to help shape this process and to express your concerns about ORVs on public lands

You can support the campaign to protect special places from further damage by joining our team of Off-road Vehicle Reform Advocates to represent conservation interests for each forest in the Southwest. We will continue educating and training volunteers to make them more effective participants in the planning process. We are also planning field trips and restoration projects with organizations like Amigos Bravos so that volunteers can learn about the impacts of ORVs while directly contributing to mitigating those impacts. We will also continue working with agencies and concerned citizens to positively influence the planning process. We are working to create enforceable and sustainable recreational opportunities that afford protection to wildlife and habitat, and to those who want to experience and preserve wild places without motors.

We encourage all concerned citizens to join in this effort to reduce damages associated with ORVs, protect public trust resources, and create appropriate recreational opportunities. We each have the right to use our public lands, but no one has the right to abuse them. For more information, contact Chris Kassar ([ckassar@biologicaldiversity.org](mailto:ckassar@biologicaldiversity.org); [www.endangeredearth.org/orv](http://www.endangeredearth.org/orv)) or Rachel Conn

### ***Amigos Bravos Mourns Passing of Member & Activist, Larry Frank***

Long time Amigos Bravos member and community activist Larry Frank died peacefully on August 7 at the age of eighty during a late afternoon nap at his home on a bluff a few hundred yards above the Rio Hondo. His fierce spirit will be deeply missed by the environmental community of Taos County. Larry had no tolerance for prevarication or obfuscation from our government officials. When it came to the protection of rivers, he expected straight answers. As a principal member of the Committee to Save the Rio Hondo, Larry had been working to protect the river in his own backyard decades before Amigos Bravos came into being, yet he instantly welcomed the participation of the fledgling organization at a time when some didn't. He also understood early on that expansion of the Taos Airport is a bad idea, and regularly organized meetings in his home for the purpose of thwarting the powers that be – an effort that has so far remained successful. Larry recognized the need for people to assume divergent roles in order to create an effective and ultimately united force. Contrary to his sometimes ferocious public persona, in private he expressed profound respect for diplomacy and the negotiating abilities of the Amigos leadership. His role, as he rightly conceived of it, was to be the element in the room that gave no quarter, to insist upon the best possible outcome for clean and free-flowing water, and so he did. The Amigos Bravos board and staff extend their most profound condolences to his wife, the artist Alyce Frank, their daughter Melissa, and two sons, Ross and Chad. Our hearts go out to you all.

## Middle Río Grande Water Issues

Amigos Bravos re-committed itself to addressing issues along the Middle Río Grande in 1994, bringing on a new Albuquerque Projects Director, Lucy Sanchez, who grew up in the South Valley. Starting in Summer 2005, she began working with activists and residents in the South Valley to revive the acequia associations that had fallen out of use after the Middle Río Grande Conservancy District was established. Following is an update on the results of Amigos Bravos' efforts.

*Acequias* – Two *acequia* associations have been formed, the Don Gavino and the Don Telesfor. Two other associations are in the process of finalizing their bylaws and choosing a commission and *mayordomo*. Amigos Bravos has received assistance from the New Mexico Acequia Association to complete this work.

*Water Rights* – At least 130 people have declared their senior water rights with assistance from Amigos Bravos. Declaring water rights is critical now that serious efforts are underway – by both public and private entities – to claim all “unused” water for urban, industrial, and development use.

*South Valley Partners* – Amigos Bravos has been working with South Valley Partners on a couple of issues. One involves a survey of all water declarations in the South Valley; this project is being done with assistance from an intern at UNM. The other project involves testing the water quality of *acequias* in the South Valley. This project is also receiving assistance from UNM. Test results are not complete, but it is already clear that there are high concentrations of nitrates and *E. coli* in the water. Further testing – preferably twice a year – needs to be done to determine how prevalent this problem is and get a reliable benchmark for *acequia* waters in the South Valley.

*Pajarito Mesa* – The *colonia* on Pajarito Mesa has long been seeking water rights that it could buy or lease in order to pump water to residents. Through conversations with two brothers in the South Valley who had senior water rights, a tentative arrangement was made for Pajarito to lease the necessary rights. However, finalizing all the legal requirements (such as documenting the senior status of the water rights) was taking time and the USDA, unwilling to allow the process the time needed for completion, allowed its proposed grant funding the project to expire.

*Double-dipping* – Several residents of the South Valley approached Amigos Bravos with concerns that some people in the Middle Río Grande were selling their senior water rights to water brokers and then turning to the Conservancy District to lease “unused” water banked through the District. Amigos Bravos questioned the Conservancy District, which told us that they had not approved any such transactions, in large part because they had no policy on the matter. However, a recent story in the *New Mexican* seems to contradict those statements. In a case that could impact development all along the Middle Río Grande, a farmer in Tomé wants to sell his senior water rights and lease water back from the District. The Conservancy District's lawyer declared that the District was ready to accommodate him. The State Engineer's Office said firmly that such an action would be “double-dipping” and is illegal; the farmer would first have to get a permit for new water use from the State Engineer, something that is increasingly difficult to do under the State's strict guidelines for approval of new uses. ★

## Otter Restoration Closer

On August 24th, the State Game Commission unanimously approved the Department of Game & Fish Feasibility Study: Potential for Restoration of River Otters in New Mexico. This clears the way for the reintroduction of river otters to New Mexico as early as Fall 2007.

Amigos Bravos greatly assisted in the feasibility study, with input from Rachel Conn, Clean Water Circuit Rider, and Jon Klingel, Board member. We also contributed to the study as a founding member of the New Mexico River Otter Working Group.

Viable populations of river otter currently exist in every state within its historic range except New Mexico. The study looked at six river reaches in the Río Grande and Gila Basins that met minimum criteria as restoration sites and concluded that the Upper Río Grande reach shows the most promise for an initial restoration project. Reasons cited include reliable perennial flows, suitable prey whose control by otters could benefit native fishes, suitable stream and riparian habitat, little conflict with human activities, adjacent public lands administered by BLM as part of its Río Grande Corridor Plan, and potential for otters to move into other suitable reaches of the Upper Río Grande (e.g., White Rock Canyon).

There is still a lot of work to do before otters come back to New Mexico: analysis of fish samples for toxicological threats; identification of sources and funding for otters; consultation with stakeholders; support services (including veterinary, radiotelemetry equipment, and monitoring); and contracting/in-kind support because of staff shortages at the NMDGF.

For more information on the river otter project, contact Rachel Conn at (505) 758-3874 or rconn@amigos-bravos.org. ★



*Friends of  
the Wild  
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***There Otta Be Otters and There Will Be Otters!***

At their August 24, 2006 meeting in Santa Fe, the members of the New Mexico Game Commission voted unanimously to reintroduce river otters to the Upper Río Grande and the Gila by the Fall of 2007 (*see article on page 7*). ★

## LANL Water Watch *Statement of Shared Values*

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LANL Water Watch has held two community meetings in Santa Fe, the first on March 13th and the second on July 5th. At the July meeting, those present crafted language for a document that people and organizations could sign onto and show support for the goals of LANL Water Watch. An Executive Committee was also formed at that meeting and finalized the document, known as the *Shared Statement of Values*.

Signing on to the *Shared Statement of Values* does not commit the individual or the organization to the Notice of Intent to Sue or any subsequent suit against LANL. There is a separate Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for that process, which outlines financial responsibility, media and spokespersons, negotiation process, conflict resolution, NGO interest and participation in LANL Water Watch.

Putting your name to the Statement lets LANL and our State and Federal regulators know that you do not believe that we need to sacrifice clean water and air for generations to come as a trade-off for national security and nuclear weapons production. ★

*If you or your organization would like to express support for the work of LANL Water Watch, please sign onto the Shared Statement of Values (see insert) and send it to Amigos Bravos, at PO Box 238 / Taos NM 87571 or fax it to Amigos Bravos at (505) 758-7345.*

**- LANL WATER WATCH -  
SHARED VALUES STATEMENT**

Our cultural, spiritual and ecological survival is intricately tied to the health of our rivers, acequias and other waters. Historical and on-going activities at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) threaten that survival. To ensure healthy rivers, safe drinking water, clean water for irrigation, and pure water for religious practices, now and into the future, we assert the following:

**All people that live downstream and downwind from LANL require and have a right to clean water for drinking, ranching, religious purposes, growing food, recreating, and overall wellbeing.**

**Traditional, indigenous cultures that live downstream and downwind from LANL require and have a right to clean water for sacred ceremony.**

**Wildlife and ecosystems living downstream and downwind from LANL need and depend upon clean water for their survival.**

**Healthy communities require clean rivers and groundwater to achieve a strong economy and sustainable future.**

**Our local, state, and federal government agencies have a duty to protect the public health and welfare by setting and enforcing laws and regulations that protect water resources on and downstream from LANL.**

**A focus on water as a human and earth right requires clean, innovative, and life-affirming science and technology that will benefit the economy, the future, and the health of all.**

**Adequate funding must be provided to clean up contamination at LANL and to achieve these shared values.**

**Based upon these values we call for LANL to stop manufacturing and discharging life-threatening pollutants. In addition, historic toxic waste at LANL must be cleaned up and kept from draining into the Río Grande and other water resources.**

***Endorsed by:***

*Amigos Bravos, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety, Embudo Valley Environmental Monitoring Group,  
Partnership for Earth Spirituality, Tewa Women United*

Join these organizations in holding LANL accountable and protecting New Mexico's water resources:

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Organization or Name of Individual

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Address

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City, State, Zip Code

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Authorizing Signature

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