Amigos Bravos: Because Water Matters

Annual Report 2011

Protecting Rivers,
Sustaining Communities

Since 1988
Dear Friends of New Mexico’s Wild Rivers,

Amigos Bravos exists because water matters. At birth, the human body is primarily water – nearly 80%. 70% of the earth is covered with water. Amigos Bravos is dedicated to protecting the first by protecting and restoring the second. We restore watershed health, we hold polluters accountable, and we provide assistance and training to groups who are addressing those issues. We also love wild creatures. Over the past several years Amigos Bravos has managed, with our partners, to reintroduce thirty-three river otters into the Rio Grande and its tributaries. We are delighted to report that those otter and their progeny have been sighted as far north as Ute Mountain and as far south as Cochiti Lake.

The future of all of our communities, including the wildlife community, depends on clean, abundant, and accessible water. Ensuring that our future includes those waters involves complex issues. Water is over-appropriated in New Mexico. This means that there is more demand than there is supply. The state has been unwilling to make a strong commitment to water conservation planning, and implementation of conservation planning lags even further behind. Current law and practice views water as a commodity that can be bought by the highest bidder. This foretells a future of inequitable distribution of water resources and the drying up our rural wildlife and human communities. Water is also used as a way to transport and discharge contaminated waste, in our toilets as well as in the tailing pipes at mine sites.

Amigos Bravos works with a diverse range of partners to address legacy pollution from uranium, copper, and molybdenum mining throughout the state. In addition, Amigos Bravos continues to work with stakeholders to stop the biggest threat to New Mexico’s water – nuclear waste from the Los Alamos National Lab.

In our monthly E-Currents, a bulletin delivered to you by email, we offer practical advice about personal water conservation practices, while we train our organizational eyes on predicted future impacts from climate change. We are working to envision the best possible pathways for resilience in the face of those impacts.

You can read about our many accomplishments over the past two decades by going to www.amigosbravos.org. Our accomplishments signify Amigos Bravos’ commitment, resourcefulness, and staying power in dealing with the critical issues facing us all. Thanks to the support we receive from our members and foundations – along with the talent, integrity, sense of humor, and dedication of our staff and board of directors – we get the job done (and have fun while we are at it!).

This organization is your organization. Amigos Bravos and the work we are able to accomplish could not be done without you. As we face new challenges, we invite you to continue to increase your participation. We welcome your volunteer involvement and we need your financial investment to protect and restore New Mexico’s waters. As a dedicated member of Amigos Bravos, you are truly making a difference.

For the Río –

Peggy Nelson, President and
Brian Shields, Executive Director
THE RIVER TELLS A STORY — THE YEAR IN REVIEW
October 2010 - September 2011

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Historic Citizen Lawsuit Against Los Alamos National Lab Mandates Cleanup

In one of the most significant victories in our 23-years, Amigos Bravos settled a Clean Water Act (CWA) citizen lawsuit against Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) that requires LANL to stop toxic stormwater runoff from reaching the Rio Grande. The settlement mandates cleanup of over 400 legacy waste dumps within five years, and provides resources for us and our partners to monitor LANL’s implementation of new safeguards and their compliance with the court-ordered CWA settlement. Legal counsel for Amigos Bravos and our partners was provided by the Western Environmental Law Center.

New Mexico Supreme Court Recognizes Amigos Bravos’ Right to Defend the State’s Waters

In January 2011, the New Mexico Supreme Court gave Amigos Bravos an important victory in our efforts to hold Governor Martinez’s administration accountable to the rule of law. Within hours of taking office, the Martinez administration illegally blocked new safeguards that protect the air we breath and the water we drink. In quick and dynamic response, Amigos Bravos and a coalition of groups represented by the New Mexico Environmental Law Center petitioned the Supreme Court to intervene. In the Amigos Bravos vs. Martinez decision, the Court determined that the Martinez Administration had abused basic separation of powers principals and mandated that the new greenhouse gas and dairy rules be published in the state register immediately so that they could start to take effect.

In two additional precedent-setting cases, the New Mexico Supreme Court ruled that Amigos Bravos has a right to defend public interests in clean water, thus guaranteeing that right to all citizens and citizen organizations. In response to industry attacks on the environment, the Supreme Court decision gave us the right to intervene in court proceedings to defend attacks on new rules approved at the end of 2010. One of those rules sets greenhouse gas emission limits (which the Martinez Administration hopes to overturn), and the other rule designates rivers, streams, and wetlands as “Outstanding National Resource Waters” (ONRWs). Legal counsel for these two cases was provided by the Western Environmental Law Center and EarthJustice.

Additional Achievements

The Amigos Bravos Strategic Plan consists of three goals:
Restore Watershed Health, Hold Polluters Accountable, and Build a River Protection Movement.

RESTORING WATERSHED HEALTH

• Dairy Regulations – Amigos Bravos and our partners successfully ensured that NM’s first dairy industry-specific rules aimed at protecting groundwater include the two most important protections: monitoring wells and synthetic liners for manure waste lagoons. The new rules were developed through intense negotiations between the dairy industry, the Martinez Administration, and a coalition of citizen groups
• Albuquerque Stormwater – Amigos Bravos was appointed to Albuquerque’s Citizen’s Blue Ribbon Committee – as the environmental representative on the Committee – to help develop recommendations for controlling stormwater runoff. The City’s stormwater program is hopelessly underfunded and understaffed (it has 1.5 full-time staff while comparable cities have 8-15 full-time staff) and polluted runoff from the city is currently being illegally dumped into the Rio Grande
• Pharmaceuticals in the Middle Río Grande – We recommended changes to NM’s Solid Waste rule to make it easier for local jurisdictions to administer “take-back” and pharmaceutical disposal programs; we continue to inform the public and public officials about the environmental and public health impacts of pharmaceuticals and endocrine disrupting compounds
• **Water Quality Monitoring in the Taos Area** – Together with Water Sentinels of Taos, Amigos Bravos continues to gather water quality data in three Taos rivers – the Rio Fernando, Rio Pueblo, and the Rio Hondo – all of which are showing evidence of E-coli contamination. The New Mexico Environment Department approved our data and will be devoting resources to cleaning up the impaired waters.

• **Rio Pueblo de Taos Watershed Restoration Plan** – With a grant from the New Mexico Environment Department, Amigos Bravos is working with numerous volunteer community members and experts to develop a plan aimed at reducing water temperature and controlling sediment runoff on the Rio Pueblo de Taos.

• **New Mexico Water Policy** – Amigos Bravos provided comments, proposed changes, and presented testimony on numerous state water regulatory and planning documents, including the new state Hydrology Protocol, the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan, and regulations governing section 401 state certification of Clean Water Act permits. Many of our proposed policy changes were incorporated into the final documents.

**HOLDING POLLUTERS ACCOUNTABLE**

• **Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)** – Since settling our citizen lawsuit, Amigos Bravos and its partners continue to watchdog LANL operations and have hired experts to ensure LANL’s compliance with its new discharge permit. In addition, we gathered information on impacts to the Rio Grande after the “Las Conchas” fire.

• **Molycorp/Chevron Mining** – In December 2010, EPA released a Superfund-mandated cleanup plan that will cost an estimated $400-800 million, far more than the financial assurance bond the mine originally posted. We continue to watchdog activities at the mine and fight to stop unauthorized discharges and seepage from the tailings facility that is polluting the Red River.

• **Mt Taylor Mine** – Working with MASE and the NM Environmental Law Center, Amigos Bravos successfully petitioned for a public hearing on a Standby Permit request for the Mt Taylor uranium mine, but the state’s hearing officer blocked all of our expert testimony at the request of the mine operator’s lawyers; we are appealing the resulting decision, which seriously undercuts citizen participation.

• **Public Lands** – Every year Amigos Bravos reviews and comments on plans and projects proposed for public lands administered by BLM and the Forest Service. In 2011, we advocated for protecting water resources from off-road vehicles and logging in the upper Red River watershed, provided recommendations for BLM’s Resource Management Plan and appealed two Carson National Forest Travel Management Plans (ie. ATV routes).

**BUILDING A RIVERS MOVEMENT FOR THE FUTURE**

• **Youth Water Quality Monitoring** – In 2009 and 2010, Amigos Bravos coordinated a water quality monitoring project with two high schools in the South Valley of Albuquerque. Rio Grande HS incorporated the project into its curriculum across multiple subject areas and in Fall 2011 we provided water quality workshops to 500 students.

• **Southwest Rural Policy Network (SWRPN)** – Amigos Bravos has worked with the SWRPN for four years to develop water-related policies that sustain rural communities. In addition, Amigos Bravos is organizing Clean Water Act and water quality monitoring training in rural community organizations in New Mexico and Arizona.

• **Environmental Alliance of New Mexico (EANM)** – Working with the EANM, Amigos Bravos helped block all efforts at environmental and public health rollback in the 2011 Legislature. We also worked with allies and the media to expose efforts to eliminate protections for the public’s health and the health of New Mexico’s watersheds.

• **Clean Water Circuit Rider** – Amigos Bravos’ long-running program continues to provide valuable technical and organizational assistance to individuals and communities.
**Fiscal Year 2011 (October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2011)** – Amigos Bravos ended its fiscal year September 30, 2011 with a slight increase in net assets, even though revenues were slightly down. Amigos Bravos is protecting its long-term financial viability through rebuilding its Capital Reserve Fund and the *Amigos Bravos Friends of the Wild Rivers* Endowment Fund and planned giving campaign, which is housed at the New Mexico Community Foundation and the Taos Community Foundation.

### Support & Revenue

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<td>Interest &amp; Other Income</td>
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### Expenses

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### Assets

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<td>Net Assets, end of year</td>
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<td>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</td>
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### Ways to Financially Support Amigos Bravos

- **Annual Memberships and General Donations.** Amigos Bravos is a membership-supported organization. We depend on membership dues and donations to carry out our mission. Unrestricted membership donations provide us with the flexibility to take action on emerging issues.
- **Project-Specific Donations.** Many individuals and foundations prefer to donate to specific causes and campaigns. Amigos Bravos welcomes project-specific donations.
- **Bequests and Planned Giving.** Individuals can support future protection of New Mexico’s rivers by providing a gift through their will or living trust.
- **Capital Reserve Fund.** The Capital Reserve Fund is money set aside to ensure that Amigos Bravos can survive cash flow shortages in the annual operating budget. It can be accessed only following strict guidelines on when and how funds can be used, such as for payroll or emergency capital outlays.
- **Amigos Bravos Friends of the Wild Rivers Fund.** Amigos Bravos established endowment funds at the New Mexico Community Foundation and the Taos Community Foundation, both of which administer the endowment. Once funded at an appropriate level, interest from both endowments will provide supplementary, flexible funding across Amigos Bravos’ programs and activities.

For information on making a special contribution to Amigos Bravos, please contact our office at (575) 758-3874 or at PO Box 238 • Taos NM 87571
MEMBERSHIP

We at Amigos Bravos deeply appreciate everyone who has contributed to support our efforts and sustain our organization, whether it was through a new or renewed membership, a family fund or foundation grant, a special contribution, or volunteer effort. (Categories are determined by donation amounts within a given fiscal year.)

Board of Directors, FY2011

Peggy Nelson, President
Michael Coca, Vice President
Jon Klingen, Treasurer
Rudy Chambers
Mary Humphrey
Sally Wisely

$50,000+

Gods & Goddesses
New Mexico Community Foundation
Turner Foundation, Inc.

$10,000-$50,000

Water Legacy
The Dienne Initiative
Avalon Trust
McCune Charitable Foundation
New Land Foundation
Rural Supporting Organization
Santa Fe Community Foundation

$5000-$9999

Water Matrons
A Charitable Trust
American Rivers
Mr. Fred Fair
New Cycle Foundation
Victoria L. Seale

$2500-$4999

Water Benefactors
Earthshine Foundation
Dave Grusin and Nan Newton
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Sulika Fund
Herbert O. Wolfe Foundation
John M. Wood, III

$1000-$2499

Water Angels
Josh and Cristy Carswell
L. Rupert Chambers and Suzanne Covington
Ms. Linda Kemper Fair
Lea Harris
Kerry and Mt-Lai Heubeck
Melinda Moffitt and Ann Dunlap
Ms. Peggy Nelson
Lewis M. Rosenthal and Diane Rushing
Patricia L. Sheehan
Dolores Spontak and Betsy Pfiel
Stone Forest, Inc.
Tides Foundation
Ross and Kristin Ulbrich
Nita and Henk Van der Wef
Dorothy Wells and Gary Grief
Barbara Zaring and Stephen Rose

$500-$999

Water Guardians
William and Mary Buccher
Ms. Sally B. Boucher
Roni Belkove
Frederick and Daryl Black
Bolme Charitable Trust
Sanford and Jane Brickner
Advised Fund
James Brown and Astrid Kordic-Brown
Mr. William T. Burgin
Robert Chopell
Camille Coates
Ms. Vivian A. Compton
Dr. Sarah Conn
Gus Foster Studio
Ms. Alyce K. Frank
Kathleen X. Gallagher
Mr. Walter Gerale
Robert Gannon
Ann Griffith Ash
Jana D. Gunnell
Sheila and Michael Hannah
Merrill G. and
Emilia E. Hastings Foundation
Ms. Sara Hiner
Linda Hodapp
de Homans
Douglas Jones
La Montanita Co-op Food Market
Los Rios River Runners, Inc.
Emma and Pauline Marx
Ms. Annette McClure
Caitlin McGuire
Patricia Munoz
Bruce Norman
Grace Parr
Charles G. Paulsen
Bonnie Payne and Roger Tobin
V.B. and Rini Price
Red River Restoration Group
Jean Richards
Thom Roberts and Leah Albers
Hugh S. Rychnovsky
Al and Mary Anne Sanborn
Pat and Larry Sargent
Jai Saul and Jon Cross
Erich Unzicker

$250-$499

Water Stewards
William and Mary Bacchus
Mr. Michael Bleakley
Ms. Candace M. Bouley
Joy Bush and Peggy Rubin
Gil’s Food Market
Melissa Earle
Lisa Evans
Ms. Arifa B. Goodman
Elizabeth L. Greinkee
John and Margaret Hamilton
Merrill G. and
Emilia E. Hastings Foundation
Ms. Sara Hiner
John Kosarovich
Virginia Macalviva
Solly Mayer and Art Clark
Susan Moller
Virginia Mudd and Clifford Burke
Patricia Munoz
Dennis and Gertrude O’Toole
William and Kit Owen
West Patterson and Stacy Quinn
John Pittenger and Karen Yori
Ms. Martha Quintana
Ms. Carol Raymond
Robert E. Reinke
Mr. Mark and Jocelyn Rendleman
Mr. Richard and
Nancy Mayo-Smith
Mark Rudd and Michaela Painter
Santa Fe Garden Club
Jai Saul and Jon Cross
Wendy Lassen and Jeanie Scanlan
Laurie M. Sherwood
Eric Unzicker
Punyoo Upadhyaya
Jerry and Jeanie Wilson

$100-$249

Water Advocates
Marylynn J. Abenhoch and
Barry C. Lawson
Rudolph and Patricia Anaya
Libeth J. and Craig B. Anderson
Karina Arrieta
Col and Betty Backer
Amanada Bailey
Michael Barbin
Edward and Susan Barvosa
Joy S. and Patty Barcus Gregory
Tamara Bates
Mr. Paul Bauer
Usurde and Barney Berkowitz
Black Mesa Winery, LLC
Bob and Sara Blair
Thommas and Annie Blog
Tara Bloyd
Bob and Judy Blundell
Nancy and James Bourg
Juliana Brenner
Catherine Crourk Brown
William M. and Liza Brown, III
Susan Bucklin
Mary Burke and Ralph Estes
Jane P. Burstein
Art Burton and Barbara L. Turner
Sally Butler
Kate Cusickman
Tyler Cusickman
Clara Castiglione and Lawrence Shore
Franklin Chamberlain
GlowWorks Gallery
Frederick and Elizabeth Clam
Cathy Cockrell and Joanne Connelly
A.T. and Linda Cole
Bonnie Cooper
Dennis Cooper and Adelaide M. Collins
Cattos’s Rio Grande River Trips
Walter B. Cox
Robert and Lici Crouch
Robert C. and Carol D. Cudd
DWN Architects, Inc.
Lil and Eudice Daily
Charles and Helen Davis
Edwin and Sue Ellen Debeers
Mr. Jerome de Bertin
Stephanie Decker
Roy and Joan Dehart-Baze
Holly Dilten
Bob and Isabella Droger
Dr. James and Julie Drennan
Mr. Fred C. Durham
Lauren Erles
George Edwards
Martha Edgar
Embudo Dental Care
Dr. Del A. Endres
Ken Eskebach and Molly Nieman
Dick and Susan Evans
Dr. Janet J. Evans
Jorge Johnson Ferras
David and Carol Farmer
Jane Farmer
Linda Federico-DeGeest
Ms. Sidney L. Fee
Donald R. Ferrera
Kate and Chris Ferlo/Stanic
Darin Finney
Richard and Noomi Fiske
Martha Flood
Mike Flood
Christina Floyd
Ross Frank and Carina Chiang
Kristen Fraser and Andrew Heitl
Amanda Aler Fries
Ms. Vickie Gabin
Mr. James Gale
Michael Gallagher and Elizabeth Stevens
Ken Gallardo Photographics
Stephen Gates and Perihan Sheard
Robin J. Grouf
Diana M. Gifford
Nancy and John Glasgow
Michael Gold and Margaret Liebermann
Joel Goldblatt
William and Connie Green
Peter and Melissa Greenberg
Group 3 Development, LLC
Ms. Leigh Gusterson
John Hall
Dr. Charles and Luis Hamner
Jack W. and Martha Hanley
Mr. D. Eric Hanum
Ms. Joan Harvey
Mr. David Hedrick
Marrett R. Heilpern
Dr. David S. Henkel
Henry Architects
Lori Herrman
James and Carol Higman
Ams Rockmeyer
Dave Holland
Anne Holtz
John C. Horning
Joyce Hospaeder
Todd Hotchkiss and Kathy Araki
Madeleine Hurst
JP Professional Services, Inc.
Doug Jeffords
Sarah and Scott Jenkins
Kristen Johnson and James Jabloski
Marial Margery Johnson
Kurt Jorgensen
Thomas and Suzy Kane
Kauffman Construction, Inc.
Ann P. Kaufman
Stephen and Alice Keil
Diana Kelleher
Fridolf and Linda Kellnerup
Donald and Diane Kelly
Steven and Joan Kerin
Kerry and Martin Kernew
Charlies and Catherine Kinney
Robert D. Kitman
Jon and Marlene Klingle
Louise Mck and Dean Gullason
Storma Knight
Peter and Alice Klasson
Beth and Tom Krieger-Fritsch
Patrick Larkin
Robin Laughlin
Stephen Layner and Joan O’Connell
Robert and Margaret G. Leeson, Jr.
Ben and Melinda Levine
Eellen J. Levy and Bill Claybaugh
Virginia Levy
Brian and Yvonne Lewis
Wendy Lewis and James Gould
Carie Lines
Harry and Elizabeth Linnenman
Ms. Judith Lockwood
John G. Loges and Lori Remediou-Loges
Michael and Joan Logan
Robert L. Lucoro
Alton C. Lundgren
Mr. Crawford MacCallum
Vinh and Nancy Luepheimr Magne
Molly Magnussen and Curtis Thompson
Steve and Jackie Mahan
Terrie Mangat
Kenneth Margolis and Rosalie Brandon
Dan Marnier
Ms. Elizabeth Martinez
Robyn McCullough
Ms. Susan McGreavy
Doug Mekelberg
Meric Motor
Stephen and Carrie Miller
Lucy Moore

Volunteers & Interns

Nancy and John Glasgow
Michael Gold and Margaret Liebermann
Joel Goldblatt
William and Connie Green
Peter and Melissa Greenberg
Group 3 Development, LLC
Ms. Leigh Gusterson
John Hall
Dr. Charles and Luis Hamner
Jack W. and Martha Hanley
Mr. D. Eric Hanum
Ms. Joan Harvey
Mr. David Hedrick
Marrett R. Heilpern
Dr. David S. Henkel
Henry Architects
Lori Herrman
James and Carol Higman
Ams Rockmeyer
Dave Holland
Anne Holtz
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Robyn McCullough
Ms. Susan McGreavy
Doug Mekelberg
Meric Motor
Stephen and Carrie Miller
Lucy Moore
VISION
We have a vision of New Mexico’s rivers and streams running so clear and clean that you can bend a knee to the water, cup your hands and drink without fear. Realizing this vision – which was a reality in northern New Mexico only one lifetime ago – requires the wisdom, knowledge and participation of all New Mexicans in the effort to address social and political pressures poisoning our waters.

MISSION
It is Amigos Bravos’ mission to return New Mexico’s rivers and the Río Grande watershed to drinkable quality wherever possible and to contact quality everywhere else; to see that natural flows are maintained and where those flows have been disrupted by human intervention to see that they are regulated to protect and to reclaim the river ecosystem by approximating natural flows; to preserve and restore the native riparian and riverine biodiversity; to support the environmentally sound and sustainable traditional ways of life of indigenous cultures; and to ensure that environmental justice and social justice go hand-in-hand.