

# Annual Report

A recap of our work in 2011 for our members



## To our members

**“New Mexicans strongly oppose repealing standards that protect the environment.”**



**Bernadette Del Chiaro**  
Regional Director

*The past year brought a new governor with a new agenda—one that poses challenges to our environment. We have experienced rollbacks on important issues like energy efficiency, and we face threats to clean air, clean water and other values we hold dear.*



**Sommer Batterson**  
Citizen Outreach  
Assistant Director

*Yet Environment New Mexico members have demonstrated an inspiring degree of resolve. I have seen a generous outpouring of support for our air, water and open spaces, and I know that our members and supporters will not sit idle in the face of opposition. No matter what happens in the Statehouse, New Mexicans strongly oppose repealing standards that protect the environment.*



**Rob Sargent**  
Energy Program  
Director

*And with your support, we've made some important progress: We helped gain strong protections for the Gila, Rio Chama and other vital New Mexico waterways; ensured reductions in mercury, soot, and smog pollution; and garnered widespread support to permanently protect Otero Mesa from drilling and mining.*

*Together, we will continue to stand up for New Mexico's environment, by working to protect the air we breathe, the water we drink and the places we love.*

Sincerely,

**Sanders Moore**  
Environmental Advocate



# A win for our water

Too often, pollution and irresponsible development put our precious water supply at risk. This past year, we took an important step toward preserving our water by winning the strongest level of protection for 700 miles of rivers and streams, including the Pecos and Gila rivers and the Rio Chama.

## Member support secured vital protections

When Environment New Mexico learned that the state's Water Quality Control Commission would designate a limited number of rivers, lakes and streams as "Outstanding National Resource Waters," we swung into action, mobilizing a broad base of support for the Pecos and Gila rivers, Rio Chama, and all other vital waterways in New Mexico. Our efforts paid off:

After hundreds of Environment New Mexico members and supporters wrote personal letters to the Commission, which we delivered in person during the public comment period, the commissioners agreed to designate 700 miles of rivers and streams, 29 lakes and 6,000 acres of wetlands in New Mexico as "Outstanding National Resource Waters." These waters now have the highest level of protection under law.



Our staff and members and helped earn the highest level of protection for more than 700 miles of rivers and streams, including the Gila (above). For more on our work to protect all of New Mexico's waters, please see page 7.



# Cutting air pollution

We should be able to breathe without worrying about mercury in our bloodstream or soot in our lungs. Yet coal-fired power plants like Four Corners, near Farmington, spew tons of dangerous pollutants into our atmosphere every year. Over the past year, we helped build support for commonsense standards to protect our health.

## EPA moved to cut mercury, saving 25,000 lives

In 2011, the Environmental Protection Agency moved ahead with efforts to significantly reduce mercury, soot and smog pollution from power plants like Four Corners near Farmington. We expect these standards to save more than 25,000 lives nationwide every year. Environment New Mexico and our national federation built support across the country to ensure these rules were adopted:

- Our staff released two reports on the health impacts of smog and mercury pollution, which also detailed how much pollution is emitted by power plants nationwide.
- Thanks to our efforts, and those of our allies, more than 800,000 people sent comments to the EPA in support of strong action on mercury—no other single EPA rule has ever received so much public support.



The amount of mercury emitted by coal-fired power plants like Four Corners near Farmington far exceeds the total mercury pollution from the 10 next biggest sources of the pollutant. Coal-fired power plants emitted 134,365 pounds of mercury nationwide in a single year.



## Congressional attacks voted down

Unfortunately, polluters and their allies in Congress launched a coordinated attack to block these critical safeguards. But after working closely with Physicians for Social Responsibility, the New Mexico Health Association and our other allies in the public health community, lobbying key senators, and rallying thousands of our online activists to speak out, we held the line against some of the worst attacks:

- In March, the U.S. Senate rejected a bill that would have blocked standards for soot, mercury and carbon pollution. Many senators cited the environmental and public health attacks within the bill as one of the reasons for their opposition, showing that we'd succeeded in conveying our message.
- In April, the Senate defeated four more bills that would have blocked the EPA from reducing pollution that causes global warming.



Environment New Mexico and our allies helped deliver a record-breaking 800,000 public comments in support of clean air standards, including hundreds of photo petitions like these.

# Saving Otero Mesa

A unique part of New Mexico's natural heritage, Otero Mesa is home to 1,000 native species and sits atop one of the largest untapped freshwater sources in the state. This past year, we worked to protect Otero Mesa from mining and drilling by persuading President Obama to designate it as a national monument.

## Nearly 200 hardrock mining claims staked

While no plans to drill for natural gas had been announced by mid-year, Environment New Mexico discovered in early 2011 that a multinational corporation called Geovic had staked more than 180 hardrock mining claims on Otero Mesa's Wind Mountain. We immediately swung into action to spread the word that:

- Geovic would use mountain-top removal techniques to extract minerals like zirconium, commonly used to make fake diamonds. To reach the minerals, mountains would be literally blasted away, and toxic runoff from the chemicals involved could leach into the groundwater below.
- Mining and drilling on the Mesa just doesn't make sense: The Salt Basin Aquifer is estimated to hold enough water to supply 1 million New Mexicans for 100 years. We will not sacrifice our natural resources for a multinational corporation's short-term financial gain.



Left: A bee pollinates an ocotillo flower in Otero Mesa. The grassland is home to cactus wrens (center) and pronghorn antelope.

## More than 7,500 supporters stood up for Otero Mesa

- With a stroke of the pen, President Obama could protect the Mesa by designating it as a national monument. The move would not affect current activities like camping and hunting, but would protect the land from drilling and mining.
- Environment New Mexico has been working with a broad coalition, including sportsmen and tribes, to advocate for this crucial step to preserve our natural heritage.
- Our outreach staff spoke face to face with more than 35,000 people. Thousands have contacted President Obama, urging him to protect the Mesa. Hundreds have sent hand-written letters and others called our senators to ensure their support for an Otero Mesa National Monument.



This past year, Environment New Mexico sounded the alarm when we discovered that 180 hardrock mining claims were staked on Otero Mesa. The Mesa is also vulnerable to oil and gas drilling, as the map at left shows. (Green lines mark the boundaries of the proposed protected wilderness area; yellow dots indicate current oil and gas well locations.) Advocate Sanders Moore has helped lead an effort to deliver more than 7,500 petitions to President Obama, urging him to protect Otero Mesa from drilling and mining by declaring it a national monument.



# Less waste in our water

New Mexico's water is precious—we can't afford to waste a single drop. After years of research and advocacy by Environment New Mexico and our coalition partners, the Environmental Protection Agency took action this spring to protect our waters from pollution and irresponsible development.

## Finally, real progress to protect our rivers and streams

A pair of poorly reasoned, short-sighted decisions by the Supreme Court have left 88 percent of our rivers and streams without protection from pollution and overdevelopment. These smaller waterways feed and protect all our rivers, from the Gila to the Rio Grande. They also provide drinking water for more than 280,000 New Mexicans. Years of effort by Environment New Mexico and our allies to restore Clean Water Act protections paid off this year in two important ways:

### Senate rejected anti-clean water amendments

Exploiting the battle over the budget and the deficit, lobbyists for factory farms, developers and other polluters enlisted their allies in Congress to include a number of provisions that would have stripped environmental protections. Fortunately, we had already built the broad base of public support and done the research we needed to defeat these opportunistic anti-environmental measures:

- In February, we delivered thousands of signatures urging protections for New Mexico's water. Our federal coalition presented thousands more signatures calling for similar protections for waterways across the country.
- Two weeks later, we issued a report showing the growing influence of corporate agribusiness and its systematic efforts to roll back clean water laws.

- On March 9, the Senate rejected the budget package containing these anti-clean water amendments by a margin of 44-56.

## **EPA issued plan to restore river protections**

In a landmark decision in April, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson announced a plan to restore Clean Water Act protections to New Mexico's streams and wetlands. Unfortunately, polluters swung into action, urging their allies in Congress to stop the EPA from doing its job. ExxonMobil threatened "legal warfare" if the EPA moved forward.

- By mid-July, the House of Representatives had passed three separate measures attacking the EPA's authority to protect our waters. Luckily, we were prepared for this kind of assault and had already started building a campaign to defeat it.
- Along with our national federation, we delivered 150,000 signatures to the EPA, urging Administrator Jackson to stand strong for clean water. As the battle raged on, we continued to send a clear message to Congress: Don't mess with New Mexico's waters.



After Environment New Mexico and our national federation submitted tens of thousands of signatures in support of clean water, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson (above, left) announced a plan to restore protections to the streams and wetlands that feed our rivers and keep them clean.

# Environment New Mexico support

Citizen support is the cornerstone of Environment New Mexico. Thousands of New Mexico citizens supported Environment New Mexico and the Environment New Mexico Research & Policy Center by making membership contributions in fiscal year 2011. The members listed below were particularly generous in backing the organizations' research and advocacy. Names that appear in italics denote Monthly Supporters. These members provide stability to the organizations' resources through our monthly giving program.

## Foundation support

The Environment New Mexico Research & Policy Center is a 501(c)(3) organization, and conducts research and public education on emerging environmental issues. Contributions to the Environment New Mexico Research & Policy Center are tax-deductible. To find out more, contact Sanders Moore at (505)254-4819. The Environment New Mexico Research & Policy Center would like to thank Energy Foundation and McCune Charitable Foundation for supporting our work in 2011.

## Financial information

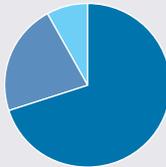
The charts below represent the combined financial information for Environment New Mexico and Environment New Mexico Research & Policy Center for the Fiscal Year 2011.

**FY11 Income**



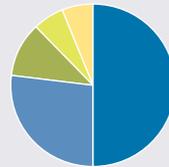
- ◆ Citizen Members 90%
- ◆ Foundation Grants 10%

**FY11 Expenses**



- ◆ Program 70%
- ◆ Fundraising 22%
- ◆ Administration 8%

**FY11 Program Expenses**



- ◆ Save Otero Mesa 50%
- ◆ Clean Water 27%
- ◆ Clean Energy 11%
- ◆ Clean Air 6%
- ◆ Global Warming Solutions 6%

## Planning for a cleaner, greener, healthier future

Environment New Mexico and Environment New Mexico Research & Policy Center gratefully accept bequests, beneficiary designations of IRAs and life insurance, and gifts of securities to support our work. Your gift will assure that we can continue to protect New Mexico's air, water and open spaces for future generations. For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 or send an email to: [plannedgiving@EnvironmentNewMexico.org](mailto:plannedgiving@EnvironmentNewMexico.org).

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# 2011 Annual Report

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