



Summer Report

Defending Otero Mesa face-to-face in D.C.

Local legislators, small businesses join campaign

Environment New Mexico has been hard at work to prevent hardrock mining and natural gas drilling on Otero Mesa. Earlier this year, we traveled to Washington, D.C., and met face-to-face with the Obama Administration to impress upon federal officials the importance of permanently protecting this rare Chihuahuan desert landscape and the 1,000 native species that call it home.

Civic leaders endorse campaign

Here in New Mexico, we've educated more than 40,000 New Mexicans about the threats to Otero Mesa, its wildlife, and the untapped groundwater it holds. More than 8,000 Environment New Mexico supporters have sent postcards to President Obama, urging him to give Otero Mesa the protection it deserves by designating it as a national monument. More than 100 local businesses and numerous state legislators have also endorsed our campaign.

"Many grasslands across our country have received federal protection," said Gill Sorg, Las Cruces City Councilor. "Otero Mesa is the last best grassland in the Chihuahuan Desert. I want future generations to see the open space grassland we can enjoy today."

A legacy of conservation?

President Obama has the power under the Antiquities Act to designate areas of extreme ecological or historical significance as national monuments, and Otero Mesa certainly fits that bill. Earlier this year, President Obama created Fort



KC PHOTO

▲ Director Sanders Moore meets with Jorge Silva-Bañuelos from Sen. Jeff Bingaman's office.

Monroe National Monument in Virginia, an important first step in building what we hope will be a legacy of conservation.

Backed by thousands of supporters, Environment New Mexico is encouraging President Obama to build on that foundation by protecting special places in New Mexico, especially Otero Mesa.

At risk: 1,000 native species

Until the President acts, Otero Mesa is vulnerable to hardrock mining and natu-

ral gas drilling. The international corporation Geovic has staked more than 180 claims to mine on the Mesa, potentially jeopardizing this rare Chihuahuan desert landscape and its native wildlife species, including mountain lions, pronghorn antelope and golden eagles.

We're fighting to ensure Otero Mesa is protected for future generations to enjoy, not sold to an out-of-state company that will make a quick profit at our expense.



Jim David*

more inside

Environment New Mexico supporters help block bad bills in Santa Fe; an interview with U.S. Sen. Tom Udall, and more.



To our members

Dear Environment New Mexico member,

Most of you know the folks who show up at your door each year in blue shirts, giving you updates on our campaigns and asking you to renew your membership.

As they pound the pavement, our citizen outreach team educates countless New Mexicans about the problems impacting our drinking water, air, and special places, and find more and more New Mexicans who are looking for ways to help protect our environment.

The more people like you who join Environment New Mexico, the better able we are to fight the polluters who would put their own business interests ahead of public health and our environment.

Thank you for your support, and please continue providing it to the young people who work tirelessly for New Mexico's environment.

Sincerely,

Sanders Moore
Director



How do you want to be remembered?

You can be remembered as someone who cared enough to keep up the fight for a cleaner, greener, healthier future by making a bequest to Environment New Mexico or the Environment New Mexico Research & Policy Center.

For information, call: 1-800-841-7299, or email PlannedGiving@EnvironmentNewMexico.org.

Recent action

Mercury emissions to decrease 90 percent

After decades of effort by Environment New Mexico, our national federation and allies, the Obama Administration issued standards that will result in a 90 percent decrease of mercury emissions and other toxic pollution from coal-fired power plants. These new standards are expected to save 11,000 lives nationwide.

Coal-fired power plants are the largest source of airborne mercury emissions in the United States, accounting for two-thirds of all mercury pollution. In fact, Four Corners Power Plant in Fruitland emits over 400 pounds of mercury each year.

This has a direct impact on New Mexicans, as mercury pollution is a potent neurotoxin that can lead to deficits in attention and motor control, damage to verbal skills, and reduced IQ, especially in unborn and very young children.

Blocking anti-environment bills in Santa Fe

Environment New Mexico supporters helped block legislation that would have made it nearly impossible to protect open spaces near the border, increased water use, and maintained our dependence on dirty energy sources.

Hundreds of supporters contacted their senators and representatives. Dozens more chipped in with vital financial resources that enabled Environment New Mexico's staff to fight back against these egregious attacks.

Thanks in part to our efforts, a measure to block the creation of new wilderness areas died in the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and the sponsor of a bill that would have removed incentives for water conservation introduced a substitute bill that addressed our concerns. Polluters' allies in the Roundhouse had been pushing a plan to keep New Mexico reliant on dirty fossil fuels, but they didn't get a hearing before the Senate Rules Committee.



▲ New standards will limit the amount of mercury pollution that power plants like Four Corners, in Fruitland, can emit.



Building a Better New Mexico

DOENREI



Interview

U.S. Senator Tom Udall

New Mexico could reduce global warming pollution from buildings by 31 percent and save families more than \$300 a year on their electricity bills by improving the energy efficiency of buildings, according to a recent report from Environment New Mexico Research & Policy Center.

Gary Goodman, CEO of Goodman Realty and owner of Hotel Andaluz, as well as Sherry Capone with Romero Rose, developer of Silver Gardens mixed-income apartment buildings, joined us in releasing the report, titled “Building a Better America.”

Moving backwards

Our homes and businesses account for 40 percent of energy use in the U.S., and nearly half of our global warming emissions. While we have made progress nationally in the past couple of years on efficiency, we need to significantly ramp up those efforts in order to avoid the worst impacts of global warming pollution, and we can save money at the same time.

Unfortunately, as the rest of the country is moving forward on increasing efficiency in buildings, New Mexico is moving backwards. In 2010, New Mexico adopted strong energy conservation standards for new homes and businesses built in the state, but in 2011 the Construction Industries Commission decided to revert to less energy efficient building codes.

42 percent fewer emissions

Our report lays out the projected savings in energy consumption, energy expenditures, and global warming pollution from buildings that we could expect to see if we were to meet aggressive building efficiency targets in the coming decades. We found that:

- By investing in efficiency, New Mexico can reduce our energy consumption by 28 percent.
- By 2030, efficiency measures could reduce projected annual emissions by 31

percent. This would put our emissions 42 percent below today’s levels.

- In just two decades, average electricity bills in New Mexico could be reduced by nearly \$26 per month, totaling \$309 annually by 2030.

Our plan to boost efficiency

Environment New Mexico Research & Policy Center has put forth a set of forward-thinking efficiency policies to cut energy use, reduce emissions and save New Mexicans money. Some of our recommendations include:

- Adopting updated energy codes at the state and local level;
- Setting goals of zero net energy construction—where buildings are so efficient that they can produce all the energy they need on site—by 2030;
- Educating potential buyers or tenants about the energy performance of a building before they decide to move in; and
- Supporting programs that help finance efficiency retrofits, including PACE financing, utility-funded programs and revolving loan funds.



more online

To read the full report, and for tips on how you can save energy in your home, visit: www.EnvironmentNewMexicoCenter.org.

Why is the Land and Water Conservation Fund important to New Mexicans?

The fund was originally authorized in 1965 to receive \$900 million annually from revenues from oil and gas leasing in the Outer Continental Shelf. It helps us to preserve, develop, and assure public access to outdoor recreation, and to strengthen the health of U.S. citizens.

The fund allows New Mexico to complete and pursue hundreds of projects from sports fields to trails, playgrounds and picnic areas. The bill I co-sponsored—which would provide \$900 million this year and permanently authorize the fund—would ensure that such projects continue to be possible.

What are your top environmental priorities for New Mexico?

New Mexico is blessed with a diverse array of energy resources, including vast renewable energy resources. I’m advocating for federal policies that will allow us to expand renewable energy to become a key part of a balanced, diverse energy portfolio and reduce greenhouse gas pollution. I am a sponsor of legislation for a federal Renewable Energy Standard of 25 percent renewable energy by 2025, and I am working to continue important tax incentives for wind and solar energy projects.

I am also committed to working with federal agencies to clean up the legacy waste left from the Cold War era at Los Alamos and abandoned uranium mines.

To read the full interview with Senator Udall visit: www.EnvironmentNewMexico.org.

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Environment New Mexico

Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind Environment New Mexico. We focus exclusively on protecting New Mexico's air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

On the verge of victory for our waters

We're on the verge of winning major new protections for the streams and wetlands that feed and filter the Pecos, the Gila, the Rio Chama and other vital waterways. But just as President Obama is about to sign off on the biggest victory for New Mexico's water in decades, some polluter-friendly members of Congress are doing everything they can to block our progress.

"Water is one of our most precious resources in New Mexico," said state Senator Dede Feldman, who joined us in urging President Obama to act. "We must protect drinking water sources across the state."

Two polluter-driven Supreme Court decisions in the last decade left many of our streams and wetlands inadequately protected by the Clean Water Act. Through research, advocacy and grassroots organizing, Environment New Mexico helped convince President Obama to remedy the problem. Now we're fighting to make sure polluters don't derail this clean water victory.



Michelle Dulieu*

more online

Visit www.EnvironmentNewMexico.org for updates on our work to protect Otero Mesa, bring more clean energy to New Mexico, keep our water clean and more.

You can also find us on Facebook:
www.Facebook.com/EnvNM