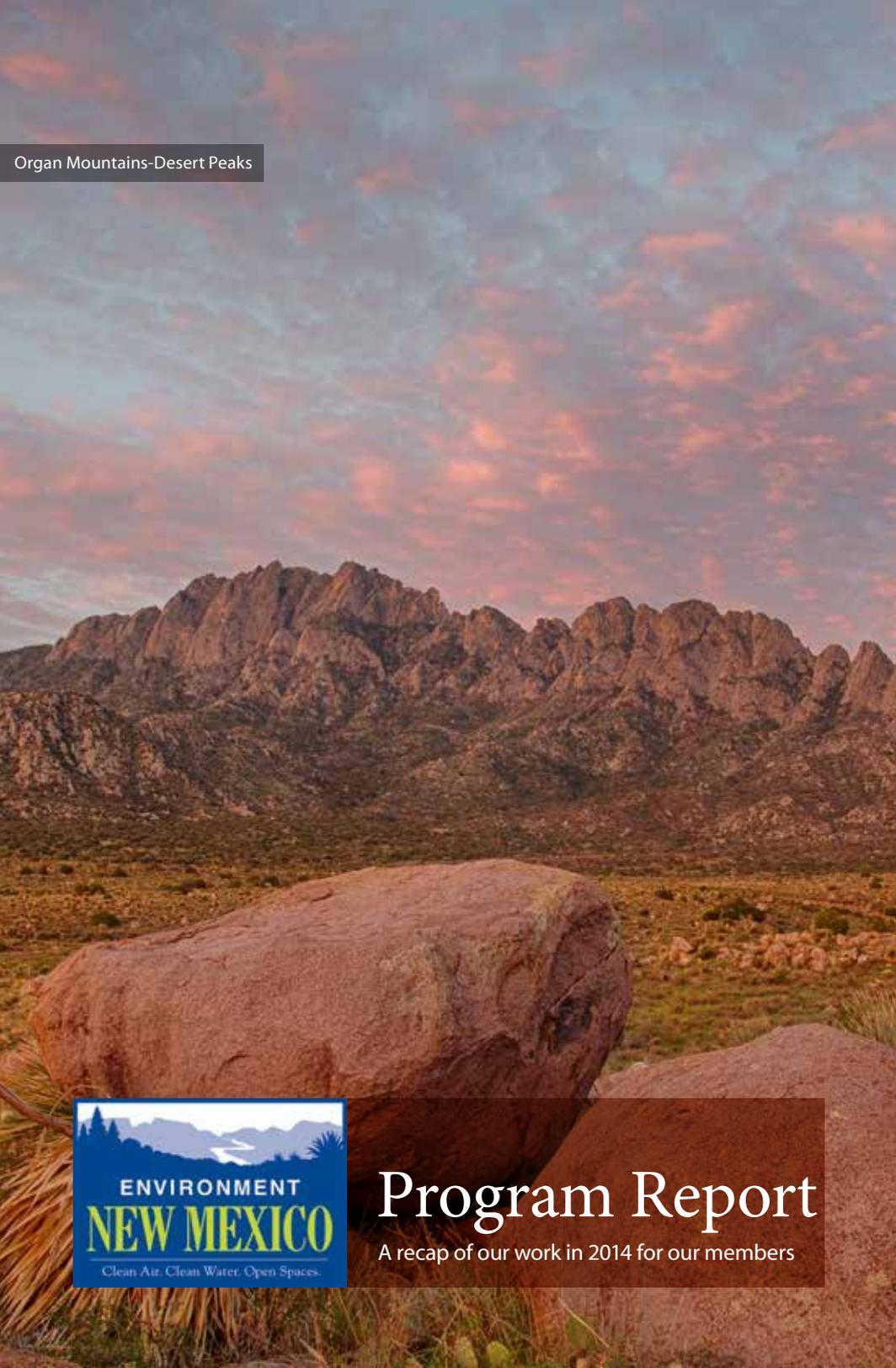


Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks



Program Report

A recap of our work in 2014 for our members



To our members

“We helped protect the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks for future generations when we convinced President Obama to declare this treasure a new national monument.”



Margie Alt

Executive Director
Environment America

At Environment New Mexico, we live by a simple formula: Take action that leads to changes that translate into tangible results for our environment and our lives.

And this past year was one full of action, signs of real progress, and a victory in our work to protect one of New Mexico’s most spectacular landscapes!



John Rumpier
Staff Attorney

We helped protect the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks for future generations when we called on President Obama to declare this treasure a new national monument—and he did. Thanks in part to our advocacy, nearly 500,000 acres will be permanently safeguarded from development.

In the pages of this report, you can read all about our successful campaign to protect these jagged peaks, as well as some of the challenges we faced in our work to solve global warming, protect our waters, and expand clean energy in New Mexico.

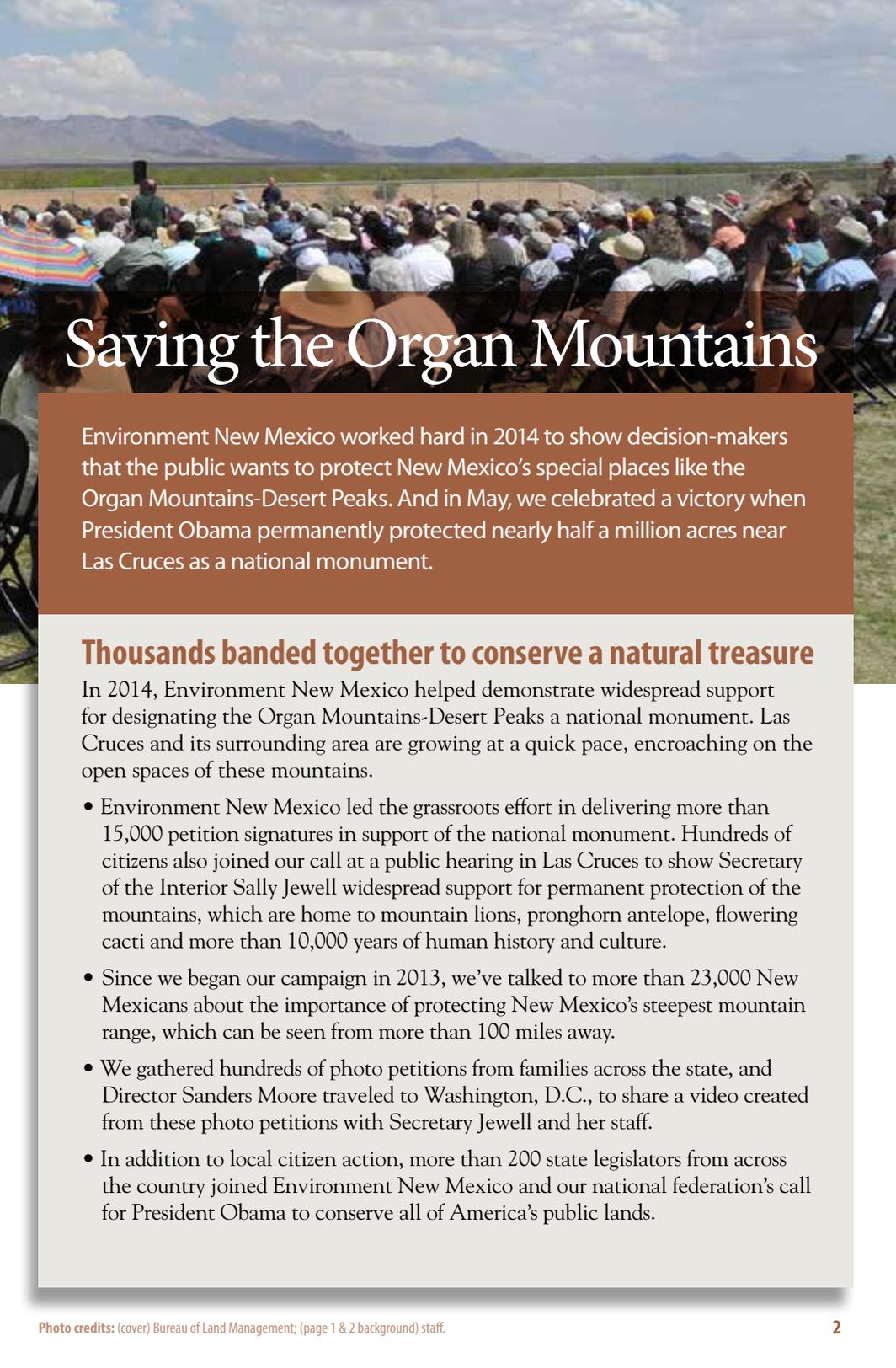
In the year to come, we’ll keep you informed about our work on all these issues. With your support, we’ll keep working to translate action into positive change in our lives, in the quality of our environment, and in the world we leave to the next generation.



Anna Aurilio
Federal Legislative
Director

Sincerely,

Sanders Moore
Environment New Mexico Director



Saving the Organ Mountains

Environment New Mexico worked hard in 2014 to show decision-makers that the public wants to protect New Mexico's special places like the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks. And in May, we celebrated a victory when President Obama permanently protected nearly half a million acres near Las Cruces as a national monument.

Thousands banded together to conserve a natural treasure

In 2014, Environment New Mexico helped demonstrate widespread support for designating the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks a national monument. Las Cruces and its surrounding area are growing at a quick pace, encroaching on the open spaces of these mountains.

- Environment New Mexico led the grassroots effort in delivering more than 15,000 petition signatures in support of the national monument. Hundreds of citizens also joined our call at a public hearing in Las Cruces to show Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell widespread support for permanent protection of the mountains, which are home to mountain lions, pronghorn antelope, flowering cacti and more than 10,000 years of human history and culture.
- Since we began our campaign in 2013, we've talked to more than 23,000 New Mexicans about the importance of protecting New Mexico's steepest mountain range, which can be seen from more than 100 miles away.
- We gathered hundreds of photo petitions from families across the state, and Director Sanders Moore traveled to Washington, D.C., to share a video created from these photo petitions with Secretary Jewell and her staff.
- In addition to local citizen action, more than 200 state legislators from across the country joined Environment New Mexico and our national federation's call for President Obama to conserve all of America's public lands.



Global Warming Solutions

Together, we've made hard-won progress in the race to protect our children from global warming. In June, after 6 million Americans urged President Obama to limit carbon pollution from dirty power plants, the Environmental Protection Agency finally proposed a bold Clean Power Plan. Since this historic announcement, Environment New Mexico has defended the EPA's plan from attacks by those in Congress who deny the science of climate change, as well as their fossil fuel industry backers.

A groundbreaking step to tackle global warming

On June 2, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took a historic step in the fight against global warming by proposing the Clean Power Plan. America's power plants are the number one source of the dangerous carbon pollution that is fueling global warming, and cleaning up power plants is the most important step the United States can take to reduce this threat.

Environment New Mexico enthusiastically applauded the proposal, which would limit, for the first time, carbon pollution from power plants, reducing this pollution by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

"We're already paying the price for global warming in unusually extreme drought, storms, floods and wildfires," said Anna Aurilio, director of our national global warming program. "If we want to protect our children's future, we need to limit global warming pollution, and the EPA's Clean Power Plan does just that. Limiting global warming pollution from dirty power plants and transitioning to clean, renewable energy are exactly the actions we've been waiting for. Now, we're focused on making sure the proposal is as strong as it can be and polluters don't slow this critical step."



Staff, supporters turned out to back Clean Power Plan

Following the announcement, Environment New Mexico's Global Warming Solutions campaign, waged together with our national federation, has been connecting the dots between the consequences of global warming that are already being felt across America and the meaningful impact of the Clean Power Plan.

- In June, the EPA held hearings on the Clean Power Plan in Denver, Pittsburgh, Atlanta and Washington, D.C. Environment New Mexico's staff testified and helped turn out citizen climate defenders to show support for the plan.
- During the summer, we also distributed literature making the case for global warming solutions to nearly 1 million households across the country.
- In September, Environment New Mexico Research & Policy Center released an update of a report entitled, "America's Dirtiest Power Plants," that found our country's coal-fired power plants produced more carbon pollution than the entire economies of Russia, India, Japan, or any other nation besides China.



Left – Environment America Executive Director Margie Alt (left) testified to the EPA on our behalf, alongside Hal Quinn, President & CEO of the National Mining Association. Right – EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy announced new limits on power plant pollution.

Protect New Mexico's Rivers

In 2014, as part of a renewed call to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act, Environment New Mexico helped educate more than 400,000 people about protecting our waterways from pollution. Together with our national federation of state groups, we collected more than 200,000 public comments and built a coalition of businesses, elected officials and farmers to restore protections to America's waterways.

The EPA agreed to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act

With drought plaguing the southwest, a chemical spill in West Virginia, a coal ash spill in North Carolina, a toxic algae bloom in Ohio and other pollution disasters, it's clearer than ever that restoring protections to America's waterways is crucial. On March 25, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a rule to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act that have left more than half the nation's streams and the drinking water for 117 million Americans at risk for more than a decade. Environment New Mexico went to work to get it over the finish line.

More than 800,000 people sent public comments to the EPA backing the clean water proposal, with 200,000 of them coming from supporters of Environment New Mexico and our national federation. We also sought to engage influential constituencies, including local elected officials, small business owners and family farmers.

"Most people agree that we should do all we can to protect clean water," said John Rumpler, a senior attorney and director of our national clean water program. "Restoring protections that our nation's streams enjoyed for decades is what most of us would call common sense."

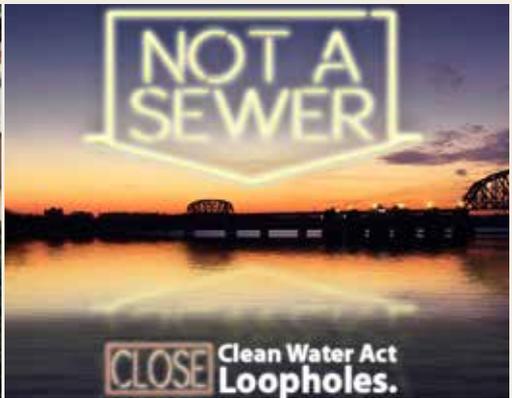


Wild exaggeration, outright falsehoods

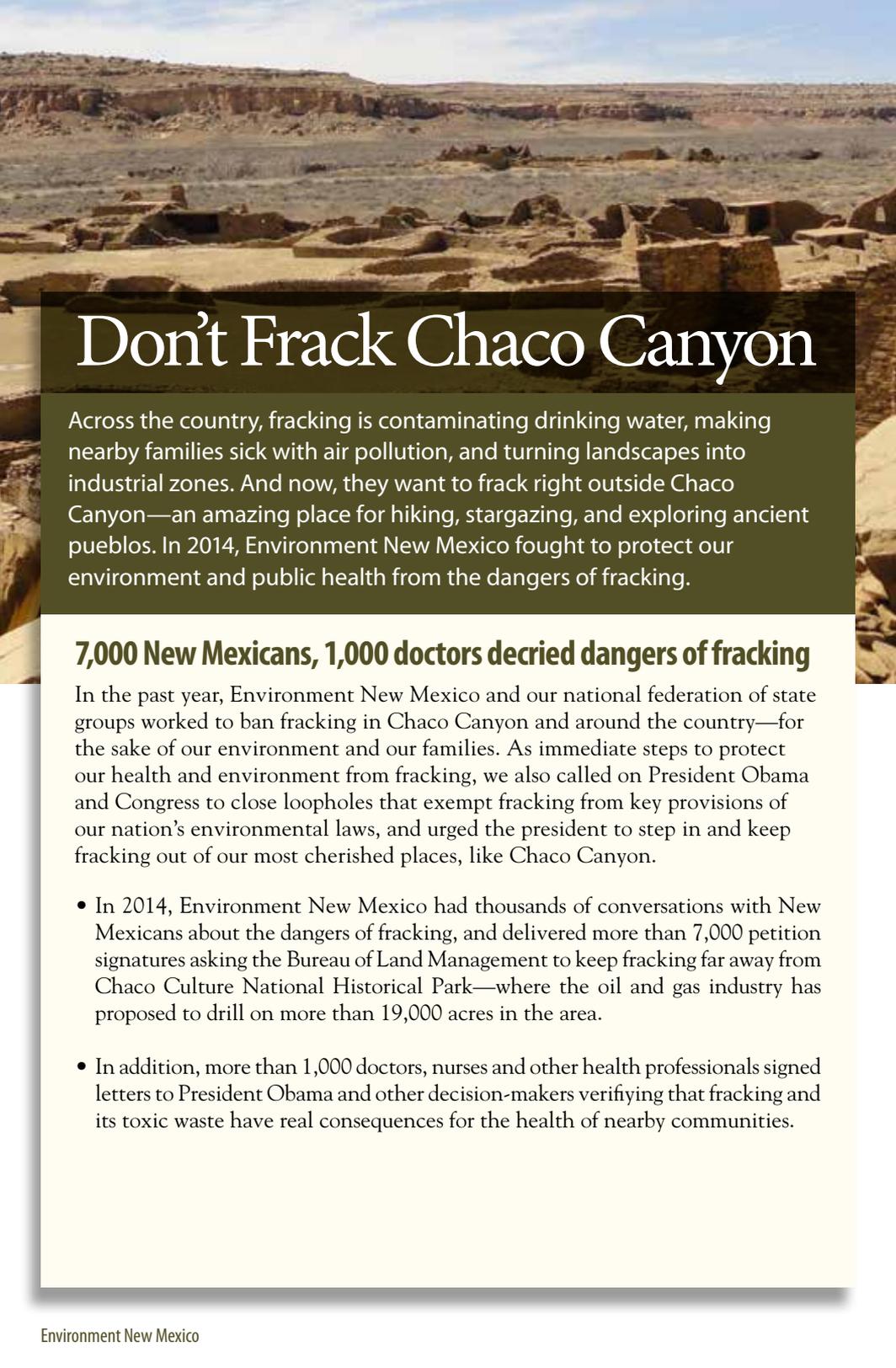
On the heels of the EPA's announcement, opposition from polluters intensified. Some agribusinesses launched a "Ditch the Rule" campaign, based in part on wild claims that the EPA was engaged in a massive "land grab" designed to regulate "puddles in driveways." Though often false, these claims successfully convinced some members of Congress to block the EPA's rule. As 2014 drew to a close, Environment New Mexico worked to refute the industry's message and show senators who were on the fence that the public wants our country to move forward on clean water, not backward.

206 million pounds of toxic chemicals dumped

In 2014, Environment New Mexico Research & Policy Center released "Wasting our Waterways," a report underscoring the urgent need for clean water action. Our report revealed that 206 million pounds of toxic chemicals were dumped into America's waterways in 2012 alone, highlighting the urgent need to protect our rivers, lakes and streams. The report, released across the country with our national federation, earned media coverage in more than 160 media outlets.



Left – Across the country, people joined Environment New Mexico's efforts to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act. Right – Environment New Mexico's online outreach efforts helped gather thousands of comments to the EPA.



Don't Frack Chaco Canyon

Across the country, fracking is contaminating drinking water, making nearby families sick with air pollution, and turning landscapes into industrial zones. And now, they want to frack right outside Chaco Canyon—an amazing place for hiking, stargazing, and exploring ancient pueblos. In 2014, Environment New Mexico fought to protect our environment and public health from the dangers of fracking.

7,000 New Mexicans, 1,000 doctors decried dangers of fracking

In the past year, Environment New Mexico and our national federation of state groups worked to ban fracking in Chaco Canyon and around the country—for the sake of our environment and our families. As immediate steps to protect our health and environment from fracking, we also called on President Obama and Congress to close loopholes that exempt fracking from key provisions of our nation's environmental laws, and urged the president to step in and keep fracking out of our most cherished places, like Chaco Canyon.

- In 2014, Environment New Mexico had thousands of conversations with New Mexicans about the dangers of fracking, and delivered more than 7,000 petition signatures asking the Bureau of Land Management to keep fracking far away from Chaco Culture National Historical Park—where the oil and gas industry has proposed to drill on more than 19,000 acres in the area.
- In addition, more than 1,000 doctors, nurses and other health professionals signed letters to President Obama and other decision-makers verifying that fracking and its toxic waste have real consequences for the health of nearby communities.

Go Solar New Mexico

2014 was a breakout year for solar in New Mexico and across the country. Another home or business goes solar every four minutes, and the rate keeps getting faster. By crafting and promoting strong policies, Environment New Mexico has played a role in the clean energy boom and continues to work to defend and expand pro-solar initiatives.

Solar success relies on policy, not sunlight

Nationwide, the amount of solar power tripled between 2011 and 2013—and not because we're getting more sunshine. In August, Environment New Mexico Research & Policy Center released a report on the states driving the solar revolution. The report, "Lighting the Way: The Top Ten States that Helped Drive America's Solar Energy Boom in 2013," found:

- New Mexico came at #7 in our list of states with the most installed solar per capita. We've made strong progress in recent years, but we can still go further. Most of our energy still comes from dirty sources like oil and coal.
- The states with the most installed solar shared many policies, including net-metering programs, renewable energy standards, and creative financing options for solar.

In June, in response to Environment New Mexico and our national federation's outreach efforts, more than 17,000 people emailed President Obama urging him to put solar on federal buildings.

Top 10 States in Solar Electricity Capacity Installed During 2013 per Capita

1. Arizona
2. Hawaii
3. California
4. Massachusetts
5. North Carolina
6. New Jersey
- 7. New Mexico**
8. Vermont
9. Nevada
10. Delaware

New Mexico's Ranking:



#7