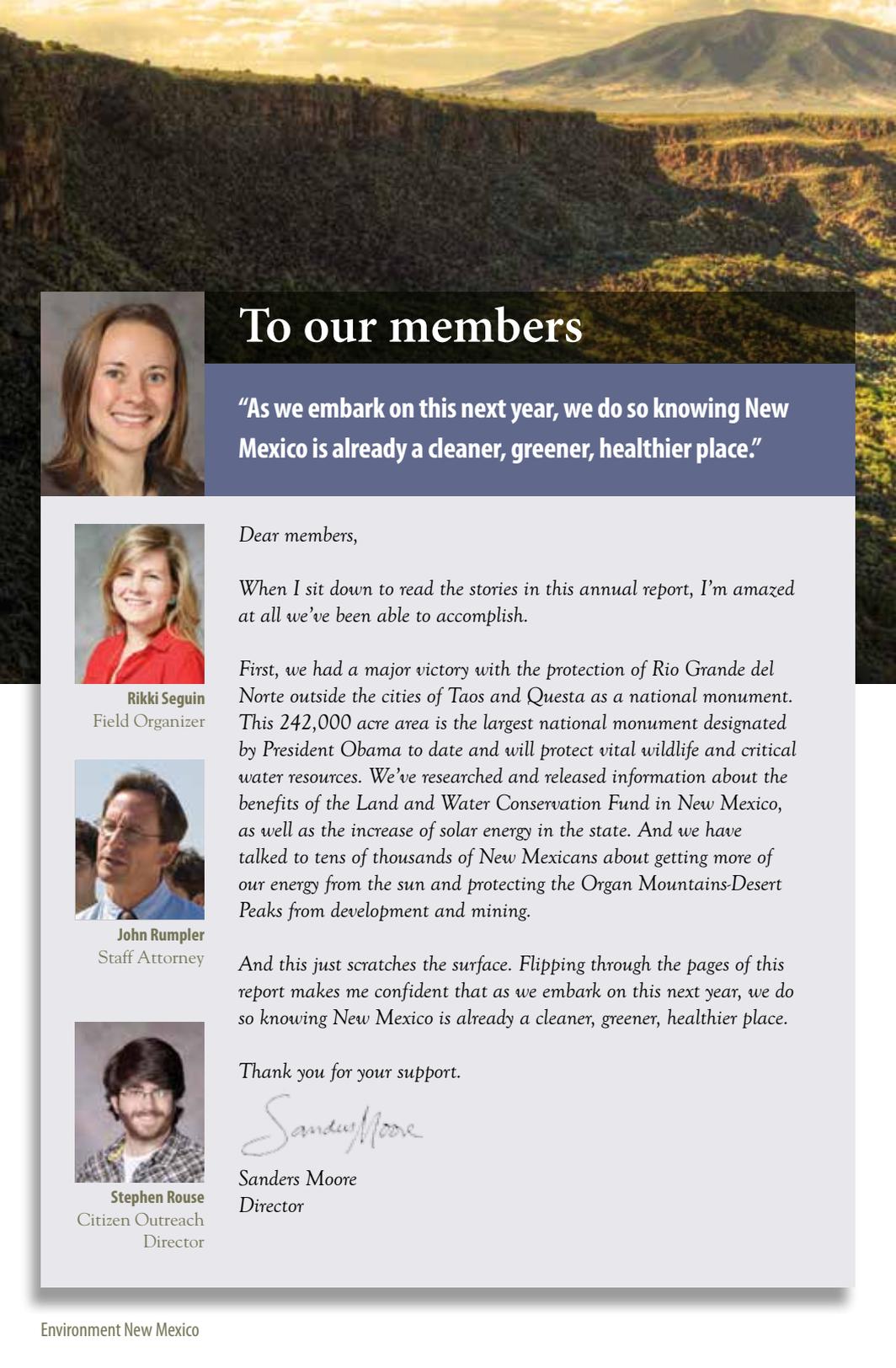




# Annual Report

A recap of our work in 2013 for our members



# To our members

*"As we embark on this next year, we do so knowing New Mexico is already a cleaner, greener, healthier place."*



**Rikki Seguin**  
Field Organizer



*Dear members,*

*When I sit down to read the stories in this annual report, I'm amazed at all we've been able to accomplish.*

*First, we had a major victory with the protection of Rio Grande del Norte outside the cities of Taos and Questa as a national monument. This 242,000 acre area is the largest national monument designated by President Obama to date and will protect vital wildlife and critical water resources. We've researched and released information about the benefits of the Land and Water Conservation Fund in New Mexico, as well as the increase of solar energy in the state. And we have talked to tens of thousands of New Mexicans about getting more of our energy from the sun and protecting the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks from development and mining.*

*And this just scratches the surface. Flipping through the pages of this report makes me confident that as we embark on this next year, we do so knowing New Mexico is already a cleaner, greener, healthier place.*

*Thank you for your support.*



**Sanders Moore**  
Director



**John Rumppler**  
Staff Attorney



**Stephen Rouse**  
Citizen Outreach  
Director

# Protected: Rio Grande del Norte

This year, we won a historic victory for preserving a key place in our “Land of Enchantment.” In March, President Obama permanently protected a pristine region known as Rio Grande del Norte near Taos by designating it a national monument. We worked for many months to see that this region, known for diverse wildlife and incredible mountain scenery, got permanent protection.

## An incredible region protected under the Antiquities Act

Rio Grande del Norte was designated a national monument under the Antiquities Act. Signed into law by Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, the act has been used by nearly every president since to permanently protect federally-owned land from development. Right now, only about one third of our public lands are permanently protected as wilderness, parks, refuges or other protected areas.

- Our staff educated thousands of New Mexicans on the fact that this region is home to thousands of plants and wildlife, such as rare cacti, bald eagles, falcons and pronghorn antelope.
- In less than 24 hours, we sent more than 400 messages to President Obama to make Rio Grande del Norte the country’s next national monument.



Rio Grande del Norte is rich in wildlife, including the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

A satellite view of the Earth showing the Western United States. The state of New Mexico is highlighted with a white outline. The background shows swirling clouds and green landmasses.

# Tackling Global Warming

We know the consequences of global warming here in New Mexico, and these dangers are cause for immediate action. In 2013, we got to work standing up to elected leaders who have long dragged their feet on protecting future generations. And we were successful. Our campaign to stop global warming came to head this year when President Obama released his in-depth plan to tackle global warming.

## President's climate plan addressed threats to New Mexico

In June, President Obama announced a climate plan that will set limits on carbon pollution from power plants, advance energy efficiency and increase the nation's commitment to renewable energy. In the aftermath of severe wildfires, storms and record drought in New Mexico and other states across the country, the president's plan to address global warming was loudly applauded by Environment New Mexico.

- “President Obama responded to the millions of Americans who have spoken out on behalf of their communities and their families, urging him to lead on climate,” said Sanders Moore, director of Environment New Mexico. “All of us who have felt the effects of global warming, or simply worried about what’s in store for our kids, can take comfort in knowing that President Obama has put the nation on a path toward a cleaner, healthier and safer future.”
- Left unchecked, global warming is projected to bring more intense storms and more unhealthy air days. Scientists have warned that the window is rapidly closing for making the necessary cuts in carbon pollution to protect future generations from the worst consequences of global warming.

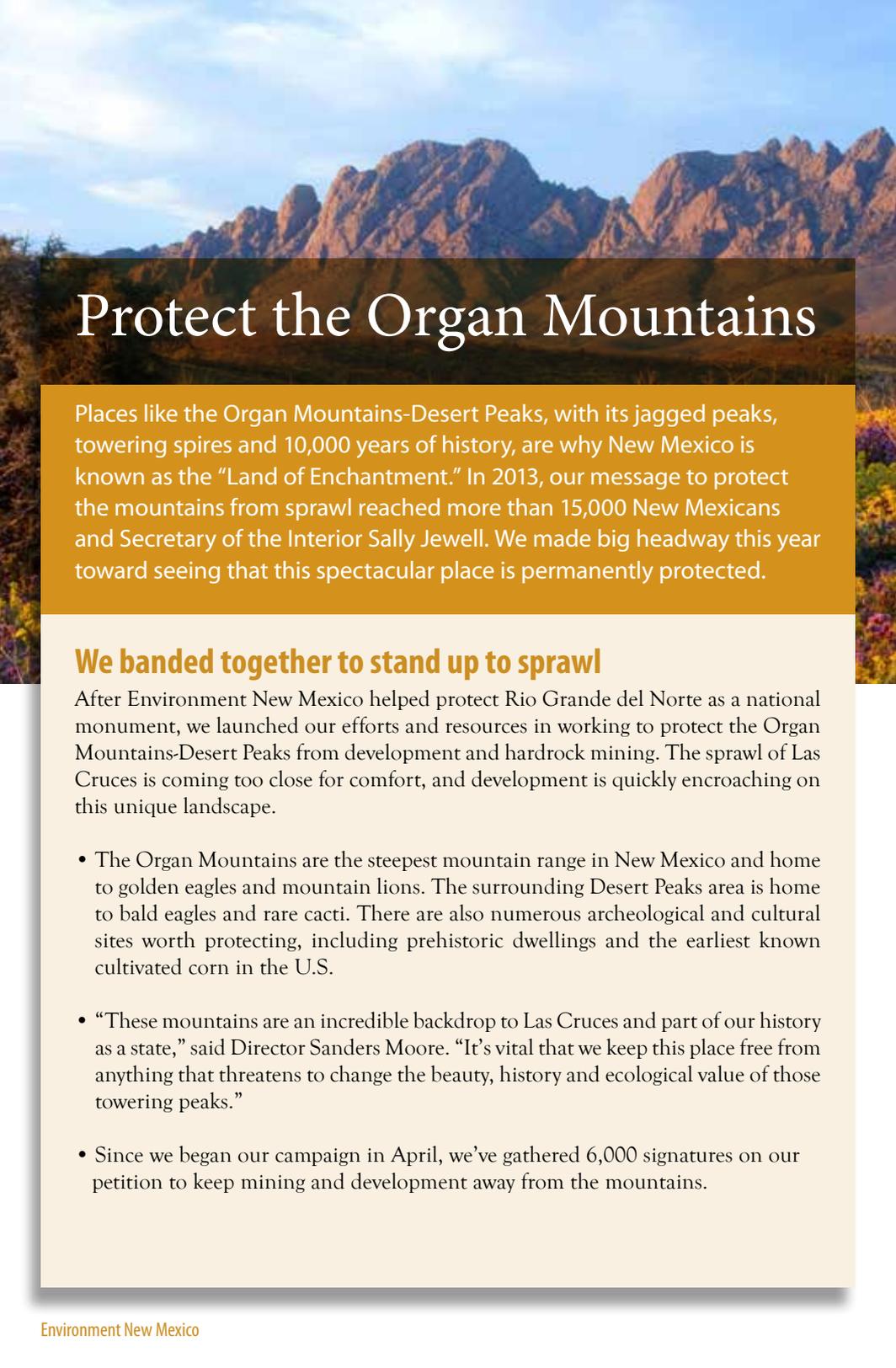
## Commitments made to curb global warming

To respond to the threats of global warming felt in New Mexico and across the globe, the president's plan contains five key components. It will:

- **Limit carbon pollution from new and existing power plants.** Right now, power plants currently lack federal limits, despite being the largest single source of carbon pollution.
- **Invest in energy efficiency.** New efficiency measures for buildings and new appliances will cut carbon pollution by reducing our overall energy demand.
- **Build more renewable energy.** The plan focuses on expanding production of renewable energy sources like wind and solar.
- **Support affected communities.** The president's plan will help ensure communities are prepared for, and can recover from, global warming.
- **Rebuild U.S. leadership internationally.** The plan calls for the U.S. to actively engage in international efforts to reduce global warming.



Left unchecked, global warming is projected to bring New Mexico more intense storms, wildfires and more unhealthy air days. Wildfires rage in Gila National Forest (left) and a dry river bed on the Rio Grande, due to drought conditions (right)



# Protect the Organ Mountains

Places like the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, with its jagged peaks, towering spires and 10,000 years of history, are why New Mexico is known as the “Land of Enchantment.” In 2013, our message to protect the mountains from sprawl reached more than 15,000 New Mexicans and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. We made big headway this year toward seeing that this spectacular place is permanently protected.

## We banded together to stand up to sprawl

After Environment New Mexico helped protect Rio Grande del Norte as a national monument, we launched our efforts and resources in working to protect the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks from development and hardrock mining. The sprawl of Las Cruces is coming too close for comfort, and development is quickly encroaching on this unique landscape.

- The Organ Mountains are the steepest mountain range in New Mexico and home to golden eagles and mountain lions. The surrounding Desert Peaks area is home to bald eagles and rare cacti. There are also numerous archeological and cultural sites worth protecting, including prehistoric dwellings and the earliest known cultivated corn in the U.S.
- “These mountains are an incredible backdrop to Las Cruces and part of our history as a state,” said Director Sanders Moore. “It’s vital that we keep this place free from anything that threatens to change the beauty, history and ecological value of those towering peaks.”
- Since we began our campaign in April, we’ve gathered 6,000 signatures on our petition to keep mining and development away from the mountains.

## Hundreds of messages sent to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell

In order to permanently protect the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks from development and mining, Environment New Mexico talked to more than 15,000 New Mexicans face-to-face about the ecological value and risks of the area.

- In addition, Environment New Mexico volunteers and activists traveled throughout Las Cruces and the surrounding area and gathered photo petitions from more than 100 New Mexicans asking President Obama and Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell to protect the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks.
- Director Sanders Moore also traveled to Washington, D.C., to share a video Environment New Mexico created from these photo petitions with Secretary Jewell to invite her to the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks. Hundreds of New Mexicans sent her personal invitations to visit this special place so she can see firsthand why this area deserves protection.



Environment New Mexico gathered photo petitions from people across the state who care about saving the Organ Mountains and their history, wildlife and plant life, like the night-blooming cereus.

# Go Solar, New Mexico

In 2013, through reports and citizen outreach, we continued making progress toward our goal of seeing 100,000 solar roofs in New Mexico by 2020. By working toward passing a solar resolution in Santa Fe and publishing research on our burgeoning solar industry, we've helped our state take sizeable steps toward realizing its solar potential.

## New Mexico ranked fifth in nation for solar power

Last year, our solar report showed that despite being second in the country for solar potential, New Mexico didn't rank in the top 20 for solar production. That fact stoked our fire, and this year's solar report shows we're making some real headway toward seeing our state become a solar leader.

- Our "Lighting the Way" report ranked New Mexico fifth in the nation for per capita solar installations. Last year, solar capacity in our state grew by 12 percent, bringing it to a total of 190 MW.
- This year, we've been working on getting the city of Santa Fe to pass an important solar resolution, a step that will hopefully be a precedent for other cities across New Mexico.



Environment New Mexico staff at the release for "Lighting the Way," a report ranking New Mexico fifth in the nation for solar installations per capita.

# Save Otero Mesa

Atop the largest untapped freshwater aquifer and home to 1,000 species of native wildlife, Otero Mesa is an irreplaceable treasure for New Mexico. In the past year, we fought back against multiple attempts to drill on this rare desert landscape and generated hundreds of public comments to secure a strong management plan to keep the drillers away for good.

## A strong plan to stave off drilling

For years, Environment New Mexico has been working to protect Otero Mesa from gas drilling and hardrock mining. This year, a resource management plan introduced by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was too weak to protect the most ecologically-sensitive places from gas drilling and mining. In response, we jumped into action to make sure the proposal was strengthened and will protect this incredible place.

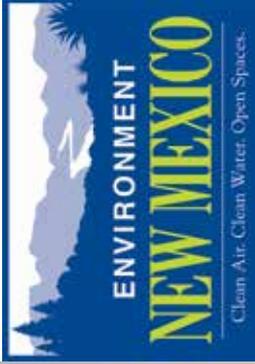
- Environment New Mexico organized hundreds of activists to weigh in on the plan, asking the BLM to strengthen the proposal.
- We educated thousands of New Mexicans about the significance of Otero Mesa. It is the last wild Chihuahuan grassland in the U.S. and sits above the state's last untapped groundwater source.



Among the 1,000 species of native wildlife in Otero Mesa, you can find mule deer, Aplomado falcons, pronghorn antelope and more than 345 of the world's 1,500 cacti species.

# 2013 Annual Report

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