

# **Amigos Bravos Strategic Plan**

## **2008-2012**

### **AMIGOS BRAVOS MISSION**

It is the mission of Amigos Bravos to:

- *Return New Mexico's rivers and the Río Grande Watershed to drinkable quality wherever possible, and to contact quality everywhere else;*
- *Ensure that natural flows are maintained and where those flows have been disrupted by human intervention, to advocate that they are regulated to protect and reclaim the river ecosystem by approximating natural flows;*
- *Preserve and restore the native riparian and riverine biodiversity;*
- *Support environmentally sound sustainable traditional ways of life of indigenous cultures;*
- *Ensure that environmental justice and social justice go hand in hand.*

### **PREAMBLE**

The 2008 Strategic Plan is aimed at building on Amigos Bravos' past successes, current skills, organizational capacity, and unique advocacy niche.

- Amigos Bravos – with offices in Taos and Albuquerque, a staff of seven, 1,600 members, and over 50 volunteers – is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- The mission and practice of Amigos Bravos ensure that environmental protection is linked to social justice principles
- We are an organization with credibility, proven staying power, and diligent focus on protecting and restoring rivers
- We are recognized for being an inclusive, multi-cultural, culturally competent, strength-based organization
- We are recognized as experts in water quality, and the implementation of the Clean Water Act
- We are sought out for providing assistance to groups and individuals wishing to protect their rivers
- We are recognized for building strategic alliances with a broad and diverse range of allies
- Our work is informed by a strategic plan that is developed in collaboration with our allies to respond to the needs of affected communities
- We use all advocacy tools at our disposal

The development of the Amigos Bravos 2008 Strategic Plan is taking place within a unique environmental, political, and economic context.

- The effects of Global Warming are accelerating Climate Change at a rate that cannot be ignored – thus raising the issue to the top of the world environmental agenda. New Mexico is expected to experience a change in the spring hydrograph and considerable reduction in river flows due to increasing rates of evapo-transpiration

- The US is on the eve of an historic presidential election; unfortunately, despite overwhelming evidence of Climate Change impacts, the environment is not a major issue in the campaign
- The Clean Water Act is in total disarray, having been eroded by the Supreme Court and the Bush Administration to the point where most of New Mexico is susceptible to unregulated discharges into surface waters
- The war in Iraq, the Federal Deficit, the reduction of government, and an economic recession, are all factors leading to less federal and state money going to ecological protection, cleanup, and restoration efforts
- The US supply of oil has peaked at the same time that there is an increasing demand for energy worldwide; with a barrel of oil over \$130, the search for fossil fuels and new sources of energy is placing huge environmental stresses on New Mexico and the West
- With increasing efforts to counter threats to National Security and energy independence, New Mexico has become the center of US nuclear activities, in nuclear weapons manufacturing, nuclear waste disposal, uranium enrichment, and the mining of uranium for nuclear energy
- The stagnant economy, together with an increasing burden on civic organizations to provide essential services, is decreasing the amount of philanthropic financial resources available, while increasing the competition for those resources
- Pressures of development and growth are aggravating tensions within New Mexico's communities that have experienced generations of cultural trauma as a result of colonization

In preparing the 2008 Strategic Plan that will respond to current and foreseeable circumstances, Amigos Bravos held a three-day strategic planning retreat at the Ghost Ranch Conference Center in early November 2007. Facilitated by Martha Quintana, past president and long time Board member of Amigos Bravos, over 40 participants from diverse backgrounds and communities reviewed Amigos Bravos' ongoing work and identified opportunities and priorities for the next three-four years.

The three most pressing action issues identified by the participants are:

- To address sources of water pollution and agency decisions that result in disparate impacts to the health and wellbeing of people of color and low income communities (Environmental Justice)
- To develop water-related policies, management priorities, and restoration initiatives that will offset impacts of global warming and climate change
- To build the capacity of the progressive environmental and social justice movement by providing opportunities for civic engagement and organizing broad coalitions with the goal of establishing that all New Mexicans have a right to a Clean and Healthy Environment

The strategic plan incorporates those three priority action issues into Amigos Bravos' ongoing goals of *Protecting and Restoring Watershed Health*, *Holding Polluters Accountable*, and *Building Advocacy for the Future*. Our work will focus on organizing around Environmental Justice issues and on countering the predicted effects of Climate

Change. Moreover, we will celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary by launching a new effort to elevate environmental protection to the level of a constitutional mandate. We will accomplish our work by using three strategies:

- Civic Engagement and Action
- Policy Implementation
- Building Community Capacity

It is inherently understood that strategic plans are living documents that undergo refinement as circumstances change and opportunities present themselves. The Amigos Bravos strategic plan is conceived as a container flexible enough to hold the needs of evolving and emerging issues. The three-year and three-month campaign to save the Valle Vidal is a prime example of an unforeseen opportunity that presented itself in the first year of our last strategic plan and came to fruition within the plan's timeframe. Although the Valle Vidal ended up taking a tremendous amount of time and effort, it informed our other campaigns and we were able to accomplish most of the goals and objectives we had originally set for ourselves.

## **STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2008-2012**

### **GOAL 1: PROTECTING AND RESTORING WATERSHED HEALTH**

*Protecting and Restoring Watershed Health* underlies all of our work and brings into focus the complex set of proactive and defensive initiatives that we must undertake simultaneously in order to further our mission. We must restore key functions of the watershed in ways that will help address the effects of climate change. At the same time, our task is to ensure that the protections that address environmental justice issues – such as the Clean Water Act – remain robust; where those protections have been eroded, we help develop mechanisms that provide a safety net. *Protecting and Restoring Watershed Health* provides an important venue for involving the public in both on-the-ground restoration efforts and in the political process.

#### **Protection**

Strong environmental laws and regulations are key to addressing environmental justice issues and protecting and restoring New Mexico's rivers. The Clean Water Act (CWA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the New Mexico Mining Act, and the New Mexico Water Quality Act are the basis for most of our work. Unfortunately, environmental laws are constantly attacked by industrial interests – from mining, oil and gas, construction, and dairy industries, to mention a few – in the State legislature, the U.S. Congress, and in state and federal courts. Furthermore, existing law does not address many of the environmental ills that befall rural communities and people of color living in urban settings. To counter these trends Amigos Bravos will take a three-pronged approach to protecting watershed health through policy development and enforcement:

- Environmental Rights: Amigos Bravos believes that all people deserve a right to a clean and healthy environment, a right that should be protected under the New Mexico constitution. Over the next four years we will launch a major effort to amend the state constitution to include an environmental rights provision.
- CWA Protection: Because Amigos Bravos has a national reputation for innovative application of the CWA, we are called upon to provide leadership in its defense. We view and use the CWA both as a legal defense and as a highly effective organizing tool for river restoration initiatives. For that reason, the CWA is core to all of our work. Because of recent Supreme Court decisions and new Bush Administration regulatory guidance that places most of the waters in New Mexico at risk of unregulated discharges, Amigos Bravos will focus the next four years on restoring and creating protection for those vulnerable waters – at the national, state, and local levels of government.
  - *Triennial Review of Surface Water Quality Standards*: To improve the State’s water quality standards we will continue to participate in the Triennial Review. Specific objectives will include addressing the cumulative effects of man-made causes of global warming and climate change, the control of pharmaceuticals and personal care products, the adoption of protective standards for perchlorate and tritium, and elimination of the toxic mixing zone provision in discharge permits.
  - *State Safety Net Program*: Discharges to surface waters and the filling of wetlands are regulated by EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers. In order to protect rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands in New Mexico that have lost CWA protection under those federal agencies, Amigos Bravos will advocate for a state “safety-net” program aimed at regulating discharges to any waters not protected under federal CWA regulations.
  - *Federal Legislation and Regulations*: Amigos Bravos will continue to organize support at the state level and help provide leadership at the federal level for passage of *the Clean Water Restoration Act*, which would restore the CWA to its historic breadth of application. Our focus will be to build public awareness, provide opportunities for action, and document on-the-ground impacts by developing a ground-truth squad of volunteers.
- State and Local Ordinances: In recognition that all politics is local, Amigos Bravos will launch a new initiative aimed at passing state resolutions and local ordinances. We will do this by developing policy initiatives aimed at providing buffers for rivers, streams and wetlands, protecting human health, and requiring that environmental impact statements and assessments include an analysis of the climate change implications of the proposed development.

### **Restoration**

On-the-ground restoration efforts provide opportunities for people to connect to our work in very direct ways that both increase their knowledge base and foster civic action. We will provide opportunities for engagement in three critical areas:

- Restore headwater streams and wetlands in Taos County: We will focus on restoration work in the upper watersheds that will decrease evaporation by providing riparian shade, provide buffers along streams and wetlands to decrease erosion and siltation, and address impacts from off-road-vehicle recreation
- Clean up and restore urban waterways in Albuquerque: These efforts will focus on addressing water quality issues, rebuilding the viability of the old *acequias*, planting trees and shrubs to provide wildlife corridors, and providing access to the *Bosque* within the boundaries of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
- Protect and restore native species: These efforts will focus on reintroducing river otters to New Mexico, helping to develop consensus for toxic-free Río Grande cutthroat trout restoration efforts, and assisting with removal of Tamarisk at the Orilla Verde Recreation Area

## **GOAL 2: HOLDING POLLUTERS ACCOUNTABLE (Corporate Accountability)**

*Holding Polluters Accountable*, whether it is corporations or municipalities, has been a core goal of Amigos Bravos since the organization's inception. It is through holding polluters accountable that we have learned our biggest lessons in how to organize as a community of affected individuals, engage the public, address technical and policy issues, and take legal action. While each situation deals with a unique set of issues and circumstances, we select campaigns that respond to environmental justice concerns and build on our prior successes. *Holding Polluters Accountable* provides an important venue for involving the public in the political and regulatory process.

### **LANL**

In our campaign to hold the Los Alamos National Laboratory accountable for 65 years of toxic discharges, our objectives are to stop ongoing pollution and to clean up the source of those discharges.

- Surface and ground water discharges: Our efforts will focus on stopping pollution emanating from over 1,400 hazardous waste sites on the Pajarito Plateau. We will do this through Clean Water Act citizen enforcement and by participating in regulatory permitting opportunities. In February 2008, we filed a CWA lawsuit (*Amigos Bravos et al v. DOE*) aimed at stopping the migration of PCBs (found in quantities up to 38,000 times the state's standard for protecting human health) and other pollutants in two of the seven watersheds that drain into the Río Grande from LANL. Further citizen enforcement action may follow to address other unpermitted discharges. We will also use EPA stormwater and state ground water regulations and permitting processes to augment enforcement of state water quality standards
- Cleanup: Our ultimate goal is to secure cleanup of all hazardous sites discharging pollutants into surface and ground water. We will do this by scrutinizing compliance with the LANL/NMED Consent Order, the Federal Facilities Compliance Act, and

other applicable laws and regulations. In addition, we will advocate for federal funding for independent (citizen-based) monitoring and clean up at LANL

### **Mining**

Since 1988, addressing the effects of mining and advocating for mining reform have been a central component of our work. Hard rock mining and oil and gas development have huge consequences for both global warming and communities suffering from environmental injustice. In the next three years, we will continue to focus on impacts from the Molycorp (now Chevron Mining Inc.) molybdenum mine above the Village of Questa. We will address the predicted boom in uranium mining and milling oppose oil and gas developments that effect the state's water resources, and pursue opportunities at the local and national level to pass legislation that will reform the mining laws of 1872. In addition, we will continue to combine opposition to mining activities that threaten the environment and the public health with collaborative work on local economic alternatives that promote environmental protection and sustainable communities.

- Molycorp/Chevron Mining Inc.: Building on earlier victories that have reduced water contamination and mandated a post-mining cleanup plan (with financial assurance of \$157 million), we will now focus efforts to further reduce pollution from the tailings facility by requiring that the mine treat and recycle its water. We will monitor the Superfund process, advocate for early reclamation at the mine site, and oppose efforts by Chevron Mining to evade current permit requirements
- Uranium Mining: Misguided notions that nuclear energy is an environmentally friendly source of energy to reduce global warming have created price speculation that places New Mexico at risk of a new uranium mining boom, which would revisit the horrors of the last boom on our Navajo and Pueblo brothers and sisters. In the next three years we will build on existing partnerships to confront the uranium mining industry
- Oil and Gas: The high price of oil and the nation's need to reduce its energy dependency on the Middle East has put tremendous pressure on oil and gas development throughout the Rocky Mountain region. Building on our success in protecting the Valle Vidal from short-sighted coalbed methane development, we will focus our work on helping other campaigns aimed at preventing the oil and gas industry from polluting prime water resources and special places that feed the rivers of New Mexico and provide drinking water to downstream communities. We will also insist that state and federal agencies assess and address the impacts of the oil and gas industry on Climate Change
- 1872 Mining Reform: We will continue to work with state and national groups to raise public awareness of the devastating and often permanent effects of mining on the environment and public health, and of the need to reform the mining laws of 1872 in order to hold mining companies accountable and provide funding to deal with abandoned mines and provide effective regulation

### **Municipal and Industrial Water Use**

Municipal and industrial uses of water are fast becoming a major purveyor of change for our rivers – both at the front and back ends of the water management cycle. At the front end, municipalities are increasingly looking at rivers as their new source of water supply, which dries up our rivers. At the back end, discharges from stormwater and wastewater are adding new pollutants – such as pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and endocrine disruptors (PPCPs) – in increasing amounts. PPCPs are presently unregulated but have measurable effects on riverine biota and potentially on human health. Moreover, municipal and industrial water management practices tend to have disparate impacts on communities of color. A new area of focus over the next 3-4 years will be on controlling stormwater discharges through watch dogging EPA-issued Multiple Sector stormwater permits (MS-4s) to ensure that all municipalities are complying with the new requirements, and that the new permits address environmental justice concerns.

### **GOAL 3: BUILDING ADVOCACY FOR THE FUTURE**

*Building Leadership and Civic Stewardship* is the key to accomplishing the mission of Amigos Bravos. By building the membership within the organization, we build political power, strengthen our voice for advocacy, and create the resources that allow us to implement our work. However, no matter how large Amigos Bravos becomes, it will never accomplish its mission on its own. Recognizing the need to build stewardship for rivers within each watershed and community, we work to build the capacity of the movement as a whole – not just the organization. By *Building Capacity and Civic Stewardship* we empower individuals and communities (through education, hands-on training, technical assistance, and coalition building) to protect the rivers in their backyard and become engaged in civic action.

### **Leadership Development**

Recognizing that the movement needs a constant stream of new leaders willing and able to further the work in their own ways, and that people learn from different approaches, we build leadership through recruiting public participation in all of our projects. In addition, we use a variety of approaches:

- **Coalition Building:** To build an effective leadership that can counter the highly complex political and economic pressures facing our communities, all major initiatives – whether defensive or pro-active – call for building working alliances with a broad spectrum of interests. Each initiative requires a unique set of partners and allies, starting with individuals and groups from the impacted communities. Over the next four years, Amigos Bravos will expand on its successful history of building leadership within the movement by initiating coalitions and working with diverse partners
- **Technical Assistance:** Through the Amigos Bravos Clean Water Circuit Rider program and the National Watershed Support Network, we respond to requests for assistance from individuals and organizations working in areas that enhance the goals

of our mission. We provide assistance through one-on-one consultation and/or by providing information and training in the areas of Clean Water Act implementation, regulatory intervention, water quality monitoring, organizational development, and strategic planning. Less formally, we respond to inquiries and make referrals on an almost daily basis

- Volunteer Opportunities: Recognizing that leadership in advocacy begins at the volunteer and internship level, Amigos Bravos offers a variety of opportunities to participate, including water quality monitoring, river cleanups, project-specific research, lobbying, event planning, and administrative assistance. In addition, we will be launching a new program aimed at investigating and ground-truthing the impacts from loss of CWA coverage for so-called “isolated waters” That no longer receive CWA protection
- Youth Engagement: Because youth provide a unique perspective and are the leaders of the future, Amigos Bravos works to offer connections to nature and the river while providing educational and advocacy opportunities for youth.
  - *Hands-On Activities:* We actively recruit youth participation in river cleanups, water quality monitoring projects, river and river otter restoration activities, and celebrations
  - *Education:* Amigos Bravos staff make presentations to schools when requested. In addition, we plan to implement two new initiatives in the next three years: 1) Develop a 40-minute school presentation on river restoration, and 2) Work with the Department of Education to insert into the history of New Mexico curriculum examples of how grassroots advocacy has shaped the history of the state
  - *Advocacy:* We work with youth groups to identify issues that empower their voice in regulatory proceedings. We then help them prepare to present testimony at public hearings and conferences

### **Membership**

Building a large, educated, and active membership is key to the success of Amigos Bravos. Our goal over the life of this strategic plan is to double our membership to over 3,000 individuals, families and businesses.

- Recruitment: We will recruit new members via our web site, direct mail membership drives, tabling, civic and volunteer activities, Radio Río (our monthly 30-minute broadcast to northern New Mexico and southern Colorado), special events, and word of mouth. In addition, we will develop new recruitment tools including video, pod casts, blogs, and publications
- Information and Education: In order to keep our membership informed and educated regarding critical issues, we will maintain a highly dynamic and up to date web page, and will develop a web-based information bank on climate change, the energy/water nexus, and water conservation. We will continue publishing our quarterly bulletin and annual report, producing Radio Río, and growing our in-house library at the Taos office

- Engagement: The key to educating, empowering and retaining our membership is to provide opportunities for civic engagement. We will do this through action alerts, a broad range of volunteer activities, festivals, house parties/events, petitions, media (earned and paid media, Letters to the Editor, Op-Eds, Radio Talk), regulatory interventions, and opportunities to provide community guidance for our work

## **APPENDIX**

We will accomplish our work by using three strategies – namely, *Civic Engagement*, *Policy Implementation*, and *Building Community Capacity*.

### **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

Amigos Bravos recognizes that to further our mission and to be a catalyst for progressive change, we must educate, inspire, and engage the public in the political process. Our strategy is to engage the public by providing opportunities to value place, connect to a vision for the future, and take part in effective civic action.

#### **Connecting to rivers**

In order to connect people to rivers and to empower them to take action for a better future, Amigos Bravos will provide opportunities for volunteers to participate in *on-the-ground restoration*, *water quality monitoring*, and *ground truthing* activities:

- On-the-ground restoration:
  1. Amigos Bravos will continue to involve the public in river cleanups in Taos and Albuquerque
  2. We will organize weekend volunteer opportunities during the summer to restore the upper Red River from the impacts of illegal off-road vehicle recreation
  3. We will work with the BLM to remove Tamarisk in the Orilla Verde Recreation Area
  4. We are launching a three-year volunteer effort to clean up and restore the *acequias* in the semi-rural and largely Hispanic South Valley of Albuquerque
- Water Quality Monitoring and Ground Truthing
  1. We will continue our work to involve volunteers in monitoring water quality in the Taos Valley, White Rock Canyon, and the South Valley of Albuquerque
  2. We will launch a new program to involve the public in ground truthing and documenting discharges in areas of the state that have lost federal CWA protection

#### **Political advocacy**

By engaging people in the political process, Amigos Bravos aims to build the infrastructure necessary to create the change that will further its mission. Over the next 3-4 years, we will focus all of our community organizing efforts in ways that will maximize civic participation and build a database of individuals dedicated to progressive action. Projects that will provide the greatest opportunity for civic engagement include:

1. Advocating for a Constitutional Amendment: Because this will involve a massive statewide organizing effort, this initiative will provide the biggest opportunity for collecting names and contact information of progressive individuals and businesses throughout the state
2. Testifying at regulatory hearings: Regulatory hearings regarding LANL, mining operations, energy development, wastewater and stormwater discharges, and the Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards, provide unique opportunities for educating the public and involving individuals in the political process of

providing comments and testimony. Through these processes, the public becomes engaged in our work

3. Participation in state and local governance: Through action alerts, Amigos Bravos works with a network of conservation and environmental justice partners to involve the public in promoting good legislation and fighting bad initiatives at the state legislature. In addition, we will be initiating a new project that will engage the public in passing local ordinances protective of local surface and drinking water

### **POLICY STRATEGIES**

Amigos Bravos is dedicated to developing pro-active policy that promotes the public interest and to fighting policies that pollute rivers and create disparate impacts on communities of color. Our policy initiatives are aimed at building a better future while holding present-day polluters and governmental decision-makers accountable.

**Constitutional Amendment**: Amigos Bravos will launch a campaign to amend the New Mexico Constitution to provide for an affirmative right to a clean and healthy environment. If successful, the amendment will provide unprecedented opportunity for policy initiatives that address environmental justice issues and protect the rights and interests of the underrepresented. Moreover it will provide the basis for state regulation where the federal government has left a vacuum – such as regulating greenhouse gas emissions – and could stop actions that negatively affect the environment.

Yr. 1: Publish report, build campaign

Yr. 2: Pass town and county resolutions in support of a constitutional amendment

Yr. 3: Introduce legislation in the State Legislature

**Federal Legislation**: Because the erosion of the Clean Water Act and the lack of federal authority over the extraction of minerals are the biggest threats to New Mexico’s rivers and rural communities, Amigos Bravos will work for passage of the Clean Water Restoration Act and legislation to reform the mining laws of 1872.

**State Authority**: Amigos Bravos will advocate for a New Mexico safety net program aimed at regulating discharges to those waters that are not protected under federal CWA regulations. We will also work closely with the State and Tribal Nation governments to fully utilize their authority under section 401 of the CWA to certify or deny discharges and/or add conditions to federal discharge permits. We will also propose policy to: 1) Address the cumulative effects of man-made causes that lead to global warming and climate change; 2) Control discharges of endocrine disrupting compounds, pharmaceuticals, and personal care products; 3) Adopt protective standards for perchlorate and tritium; 4) Establish enforceable Best Management Practices, and; 5) Ban toxic mixing zone provisions in discharge permits.

**Local Governance & Corporate Accountability**: Amigos Bravos will work to implement policies that provide local governments with authority to deny development that is not in the “public welfare.” This includes policies that promote water as a community resource (rather than a commodity); maximize water conservation; minimize

the use of water to treat waste; minimize energy consumption; provide buffers for rivers; require recycling of pharmaceuticals, chemicals and plastics; and require impact analysis of proposed actions on global climate change and communities of color.

### **COMMUNITY CAPACITY STRATEGIES**

Since our inception, Amigos Bravos has recognized the need to build an organization and a river protection movement with credibility and staying power for the long haul.

Amigos Bravos also recognizes that we cannot – nor do we want to – do all the work of protecting New Mexico’s rivers by ourselves. Amigos Bravos has always been a community-based organization that partners with local communities, rather than simply delivering a service. We emphasize working with, and providing technical and organizational development assistance to, impacted communities that want to protect sustainable water uses. Our strategy to build organizational and community capacity over the next 3-4 years will focus on building *strategic partnerships*, *providing technical assistance* to individuals and organizations, and creating *educational and advocacy tool kits*.

#### **Strategic Partnerships**

Each campaign calls for a unique set of partners. By building trust and collaboration through coalitions and alliances, we can create long-term strategic partnerships that enhance our collective capacity to organize and provide resources. Amigos Bravos is presently engaged in a number of strategic partnerships that help guide our major projects. The following table lists primary partner organizations in several of our collaborative project areas.

| <b>Program Area</b>                               | <b>Primary Partners</b>   |
|---|---|
| <b>Clean Water Policy</b>                         | Taos Pueblo, Arroyo Hondo Community Association, Rio Pueblo de Taos Watershed Group, Rio Colorado Reclamation Committee, Upper Gila Watershed Alliance, Gila Resources Information Project, New Mexico Friends of River Otters, New Mexico Trout, Center for Civic Policy, 1000 Friends of New Mexico, Center for Biological Diversity, Wild Earth Guardians, Defenders of Wildlife, Conservation Voters New Mexico, New Mexico Wildlife Federation, River Network, American Rivers, Clean Water Network, Citizens Agenda for Rivers, Watershed Support Network |
| <b>Communities for Clean Water</b>                | Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety, Honor Our Pueblo Existence, Tewa Women United, Embudo Valley Environmental Monitoring Group, New Mexico Acequia Association, Don Gabino Andrade Community Acequia, SouthWest Organizing Project, Partnership for Earth Spirituality, Rio Grande Restoration, New Mexicans for Sustainable Energy and Effective Stewardship   |
| <b>Public Welfare, South Valley, Rural Issues</b> | Advocates for Community and Environment, New Mexico Legal Aid, New Mexico Acequia Association, South Valley Partners in Environmental Justice, Bernalillo County Environmental Health, La Plazita Institute, Southwest Network for Economic and Environmental Justice, SouthWest Organizing Project, South Valley Academy, School on Wheels, Bosque School, Native American Community Academy, South Valley acequia   |

| Program Area                     | Primary Partners   |
|----------------------------------|--|
|                                  | associations, Rural People Rural Policy/Southwest Policy Network   |
| <b>Mining Reform</b>             | Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP), Rio Colorado Reclamation Committee, Southwest Research and Information Center, Earthworks, Earthjustice, Center for Science in Public Participation, Kuipers & Associates, Westerners for Responsible Mining, Western Mining Action Network (Southwest Caucus and Uranium Caucus)   |
| <b>On-the-Ground Restoration</b> | Sentinels – Rios de Taos, Rio Pueblo de Taos Watershed Group, Taos Noxious Weed Committee, South Valley Partners for Environmental Justice, American Friends Service Committee, La Placita Community Gardens, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, US Forest Service, New Mexico Friends of River Otters, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and scores of community volunteers |

In addition, we have built strategic partnerships with organizations that provide *pro bono* services, including the Western Environmental Law Center, New Mexico Environmental Law Center, and LightHawk.

### **Technical Assistance**

A key component of our strategy to build the capacity of the movement is to respond to requests for assistance from individuals and organizations working in areas that enhance the goals of our mission. We provide assistance through one-on-one consultation and/or by providing trainings in the areas of Clean Water Act implementation, regulatory intervention, water quality monitoring, organizational development, and strategic planning.

In addition, we plan to launch a new effort that we aim to turn into an incubator for new creative campaigns that will help build leadership, strategic partnerships, and movement capacity. We will broadcast a request for proposals and choose one or two campaigns/communities/organizations to which we will provide technical assistance.

### **Educational and Advocacy Tool Kits**

The third component of our capacity building strategy is to build educational and advocacy tool kits that can be used in our projects and be applied to different circumstances. We will also redesign the resource page on our web site to better provide information and assistance on a variety of topics.

- Ground Truth Kit: We will develop a tool kit that can be used by individuals and organizations to help document unpermitted discharges and the loss of wetlands
- School Presentations: We will develop school presentations that explore river restoration topics
- Ordinances: We will develop model ordinances aimed at providing river buffers, water conservation BMPs, and recycling opportunities for pharmaceuticals and personal care products