

LETTER FROM BOARD PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Wild Rivers,
2005 was an amazing year for Amigos Bravos. Despite the fact that the political and funding climates have aligned to make life difficult for progressive organizations, we were able to gather our resources in an unprecedented way to achieve substantive victories on behalf of the Río Grande watershed and all beings that depend on it to survive and flourish. We were able to help build and lead a strong coalition of businesses, local governments, and organizations to protect the Valle Vidal from the devastation of coalbed methane extraction, and we continued to provide training to communities throughout New Mexico so that they in turn can take action to protect their rivers. We had a major advance in our effort to offset Bush Administration endeavors to undermine the power of the Clean Water Act, which meant we had to defend that success in the state legislature and the courts due to the attempts by industry to overturn our decisive, and, as it turned out, sustained victory. In addition, we were able to focus our energies on the Albuquerque reach of the Río Grande by revitalizing and empowering the farming community in the South Valley, a population disenfranchised since the 1920's when the Middle Río Grande Conservancy District took possession of the historic acequias in that valley.

We have applied the same kind of focus to building a financially stable organization. As funding from foundations has become more difficult to access, our Board of Directors determined that as an organization we have the responsibility to build a Capital Reserve Fund and an Endowment Fund. These devices will ensure our long term ability to provide protection for the Río Grande, while enabling us to weather those times when a rapidly emerging issue demands the investment of immediate time and energy. We ended the year with over \$60,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund. Our goal is to raise that to \$150,000. We have set up the Endowment Fund at the New Mexico Community Foundation where, in the year to come, we will be launching a Planned Giving Campaign to solidify a strong and enduring base. By putting the Endowment Fund in your will, you will be giving forever toward the protection of the Río Grande.

The fate of the Río Grande is intricately tied to the fate of its tributaries and the communities that depend on them. For over 18 years, Amigos Bravos has placed most of its focus on addressing the purity of tributary and main-stem waters by taking on the mining industry, waste water discharges from municipalities, and, most recently pollution emanating from Los Alamos National Laboratory. One of the most alarming emerging water quality concerns is the increased concentration of pharmaceuticals and personal care products in our rivers. The source of this pollution comes from domestic disposal of products that

bypass current treatment technologies at municipal wastewater facilities. Fortunately, there is a regulatory mechanism with which Amigos Bravos can attempt to address this and all other water quality issues. The Clean Water Act establishes that clean water is a right not a privilege.

Water quantity issues are more difficult to address because they are so tied to unsustainable habits and, increasingly, to the unprincipled financial market place. Our dependence on pumping water for domestic use draws down the aquifers and consequently dries up the tributaries, while at the same time creating a demand for water to offset municipal and industrial needs. Just as troubling is the laissez-faire perspective that allows the economic market to determine the highest and best use of water. A recent study by the Chicago Climate Exchange concluded that in New Mexico one acre-foot of water used for farming translates to a monetary value of \$486. The same acre-foot of water used by industry is valued at \$915,153. The problem with the economic market approach to water distribution is that it does not acknowledge the significance of cultural and spiritual values, or long-term sustainability, thus dividing our rural and urban communities. Rural communities own the rights to the water. However, the unquenchable thirst of urban communities and industries, containing greater monetary resources, can eventually dry up rural as well as semi-rural farms, creating a situation in which New Mexico's landscape will become increasingly vulnerable to desertification and we will not be able to grow crops.

After having returned from the World Water Forum in Mexico City, where we were able to witness first-hand the global urban/rural fight over water, Amigos Bravos will be looking at ways to address the issue by building dialogue between the urban and rural communities of New Mexico. Our work in the semi-rural South Valley is a good beginning for that process. We hope that you will support this work. We hope that as you read this report you will be proud of the progress we are making and will continue to put your voice, your spirit, and your resources toward the sustenance of the rivers that are the life blood of our collective lives in New Mexico, including, most importantly, the main artery that is the Río Grande.

Thank you for your support.



Michael Coca, President

¡Qué Viva el Río Grande!



Brian Shields, Executive Director

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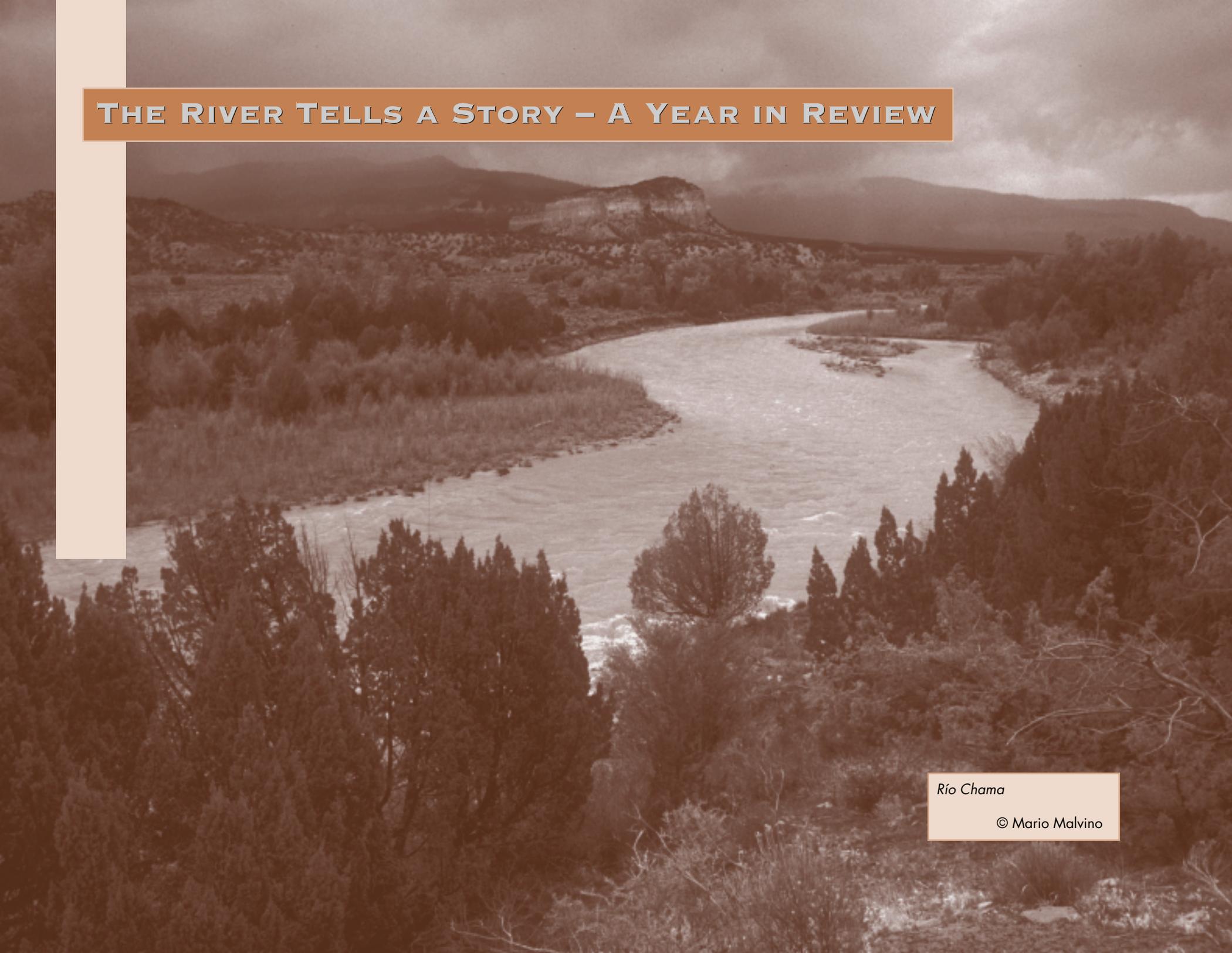


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Cover Photo

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THE RIVER TELLS A STORY – A YEAR IN REVIEW



Río Chama

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“When you put your hand in a flowing stream, you touch the last that has gone before and the first of what is still to come.” – Leonardo da Vinci

THE LAST THAT HAS GONE BEFORE

Amigos Bravos has been in existence for 18 years. A long time for a river organization, but the blink of an eye when we think of the millennia it has taken to form the landscape of rivers and waters we see now. In New Mexico, as we look out across the landscape we may sometimes feel as though we are in a land where time stands still. Yet, within only one human lifetime, our rivers and waters have been seriously degraded and their presence on the landscape steadily diminishes as we demand more and more from them.

Amigos Bravos worked hard in 2005 to help reverse this process, pursuing our three interconnected goals to restore our rivers, hold polluters accountable, and build a river movement.

Some of our efforts, like the restoration of the Red River from the toxic legacy of the Molycorp mine in Questa, have been central to our focus from the very beginning and continue to dominate our efforts even as we see notable successes along the way. Another long-time commitment – linking environmental goals and social justice needs – has produced concrete results (even amid sometimes painful lessons) that are highly regarded by both our community partners and supporters.

Significant challenges over the past year have occurred as a direct result of shortsighted actions taken in Washington, DC. The current administration’s determination to gut the Clean Water Act, while pursuing an aggressive “extract at any cost” energy and minerals policy, has led to the potential destruction of the Valle Vidal and the possibility that rivers, lakes, and wetlands across as much as 40% of New Mexico’s land area may be excluded from Clean Water

Act protection. Other problems are home-grown: the decision by the City of Albuquerque to divert Río Grande water and replace it with city wastewater, and the failure of the State Engineer to grasp the scope of the problem that unchecked water transfers are having – and will have – on the sustainability of both our waters and the traditional land-based communities who depend on them.

However, as we look back at the past year, we – Amigos Bravos and our committed partners and members – can be proud of what we accomplished. Working closely with Amigos Bravos, Governor-directed State agencies submitted a petition to declare all waters of the Valle Vidal as Outstanding National Resource Waters, the highest level of protection under the Clean Water Act (this became official in late 2005). In addition, both Representative Udall and Senator Bingaman submitted bills in Congress that seek to have the Valle Vidal permanently protected from oil and gas development. Our work and that of the Coalition for the Valle Vidal (for which we act as fiscal agent and chair of the Executive Committee) mobilized tens of thousands of citizens and community organizations in one of the largest campaigns against a Forest Service proposal anywhere in the country.

To counter Bush administration efforts to rollback application of the Clean Water Act, Amigos Bravos educated, pressured, and ultimately supported the Water Quality Control Commission during their Triennial Review of water quality standards. As a result, the Commission widened the definition of “waters of the state” to include virtually all the state’s waters. This means that the state can now set its own standards independently of whatever the federal government decides it will do. This victory brought national attention to

Amigos Bravos and New Mexico, but it is under heavy attack in the State Legislature and the courts by the mining, oil & gas, home building, and dairy industries.

In the Summer of 2005, our Albuquerque Projects Director began the long-term commitment of revitalizing the *acequia* associations in Albuquerque's South Valley. Going door-to-door, one ditch at a time, and working with local community members, she discussed the role *acequia* used to play in managing water along the middle Río Grande and how residents can go about reclaiming the South Valley's senior water rights. The enthusiastic response among South Valley residents to the process of reestablishing the *acequias* has been amazing. A network of functioning *acequia* associations will serve as the foundation for much broader community action in the South Valley to deal with problems of industrial pollution, poor city and county services, and a community desire to maintain the rural, small-scale agricultural basis of the area.

For the past two years, Amigos Bravos has been working with a number of statewide social and environmental justice organizations to develop ways to partner strategically on critical water issues and elaborate a set of public welfare principles that we could apply – individually or in collaboration – to water decisions anywhere in the state. Amigos Bravos worked on the Public Welfare Committee to insert strong public welfare principles into the Taos Regional Water Plan, ensuring that decisions about water transfers will remain in the hands of local citizens.

In a related effort, Amigos Bravos provided intensive training to thirteen community organizations in 2005, providing general information on the legal and technical aspects of the Clean Water Act, strategic planning guidance, and capacity-building as part of our continuing emphasis on building a strong, diverse, and self-empowered river protection movement in New Mexico.

In preparation for what we forecast will be protracted permitting processes in 2006, Amigos Bravos worked very closely in 2005 with its legal and technical consultants and

partnering organizations to build a strong foundation for our goals regarding the cleanup of LANL's toxic and radioactive legacy and Molycorp's continued pollution of the Red River and threats to the Village of Questa's water supply. In regard to LANL, water sampling of springs feeding into the Río Grande and streams coming down canyons below the lab have demonstrated that radionuclides and toxic chemicals are reaching the river. Amigos Bravos and its partners have also shown that stormwater discharges from the lab are causing potentially serious problems – problems the lab is not monitoring or even acknowledging in any serious manner. In relation to Molycorp, work by our consultants and additional work by the USGS over the past year have provided Amigos Bravos with a strong case for forcing Molycorp to install a water recycling facility at the mine. As a result of our diligent efforts in 2005, in 2006 we will argue forcefully that the mine must begin reclaiming the 360 million tons of acid generating waste rock piles and deal once and for all with water contamination emanating from the tailings facility.

Finally, in 2005, in order to ensure that Amigos Bravos remains a mighty force to be reckoned with for years to come, the Board of Directors took two important steps: they committed to significantly increase the Amigos Bravos Capital Reserve Fund, and they established the Wild Rivers Endowment Fund with a formal Planned Giving Campaign. We look toward a future in which the arrogant and reckless polluters of New Mexico's rivers tremble at the sound of our name!

THE FIRST OF WHAT IS STILL TO COME

We face serious challenges in 2006. In confronting those challenges, we ask: Does the river flow as clean and full as elders remind us it once did? Does the river sustain life that once teemed in its waters and subsisted through its generosity? Are indigenous cultures able to maintain the traditional, cultural, and spiritual relationship with the river so crucial to their survival? Is the river *ALIVE*? If not, what must we do to bring it back?

RESTORING WATERSHED HEALTH



Otter Group

© Eric Peterson

Amigos Bravos' first imperative is to restore New Mexico's impaired rivers and streams to drinkable quality where possible, to contact quality elsewhere, and to protect and restore key native species indicative of the health of our watersheds.

Amigos Bravos achieved a major success in early 2005 when the Water Quality Control Commission agreed to expand the definition of *waters of the state* to include essentially *all* waters in the state. The Bush administration has attempted to significantly rollback EPA and Army Corps of Engineers authority to apply Clean Water Act (CWA) regulations. In New Mexico, this would mean that as much as 40% of the state's waters would no longer receive CWA protection. In an effort to counter this impact, Amigos Bravos participated extensively in the Water Quality Control Commission's (WQCC) Triennial Review of water quality standards with the result that, in January 2005, the State agreed to significantly expand the definition of waters of the state. That victory came under immediate attack in the State Legislature by the mining, oil & gas, home building, and dairy industries.

Nevertheless, and through concerted efforts with allied organizations, Amigos Bravos succeeded in beating back legislation to overturn the new definition. Industry groups then filed suit against the WQCC in District Court. In July 2005, Amigos Bravos put together a coalition of community organizations and joined the suit in defense of the WQCC. We can certainly expect other major legislative assaults in the coming years as well. The fight to win and hold

onto an expansive definition of *waters of the state* has focused national attention on our efforts in New Mexico because it is pivotal for water protection throughout the country. With the current administration doing whatever it can to decrease environmental protections, and with little prospect for Congressional action, coupled with upcoming Supreme Court cases that could further rollback portions of the CWA, states and local governments are now the battleground. New Mexicans are at the center of this fight.

The Río Grande, like so many watersheds across the arid West, has been over-allocated for some time. Now the river faces even more serious danger, as urban centers along its length have announced or begun to implement plans to divert the river's water for their consumption. One of the most threatening plans to the river is Albuquerque's proposed diversion of San Juan-Chama river water. The current city administration announced that it would, for the first time, divert water from the Río Grande at the north end of the city and replace it with wastewater from the sewage plant. Use of diverted water will stop aquifer drawdown for only one generation, postponing a practical, equitable, and ethical solution to the problem until it has become an even more complex and potentially debilitating issue due to increased population and water

needs. At stake is the viability of 16 miles of the Río Grande that will be dewatered through the heart of the city, the livelihood of farmers and *acequias* downstream who have depended on the availability of San Juan-Chama water, and the river ecology (including the cottonwood bosque and endangered silvery minnow) impacted from reduced flows. Amigos Bravos is at the forefront of an appeal, filed in 2005, by farmers and conservationists against the most harmful aspects of the city's diversion plans.

In 2004, Amigos Bravos and a handful of partner organizations conceived of the Coalition for the Valle Vidal in response to threats to a pristine area of the Carson National Forest that the Bush administration ordered the Forest Service to put on a "fast track" for coalbed methane (CBM) drilling. Amigos Bravos serves as Chair of the now well-known *Coalition for the Valle Vidal* Steering Committee, and also as the Coalition's fiscal agent. The Coalition is comprised of a phenomenally diverse bi-partisan collective of over 400 local governments, businesses, and organizations, committed to permanently protecting the Valle Vidal.

In January 2004, Amigos Bravos was successful in winning designation of the Río Santa Barbara as New Mexico's first Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW), which is the highest level of protection available under the Clean Water Act. With this success, we started a movement for creating ONRWs in special places throughout the State. Due to the success of that

movement, Governor Richardson's office became aware of the potential for using ONRW status for protecting the Valle Vidal. As a result of a battery of communications and an ongoing media and educational campaign, Amigos Bravos and our partners in the Coalition for the Valle Vidal succeeded in seeing the Governor's office put forward a petition to designate all creeks and streams in the Valle as Outstanding National Resource Waters, and the Valle Vidal's streams received ONRW status in late 2005.

We have also worked steadily to get the State's Congressional delegation to support legislation permanently withdrawing the Valle from extractive industry; Representative Tom Udall and Senator Jeff Bingaman introduced such legislation in fall of 2005.

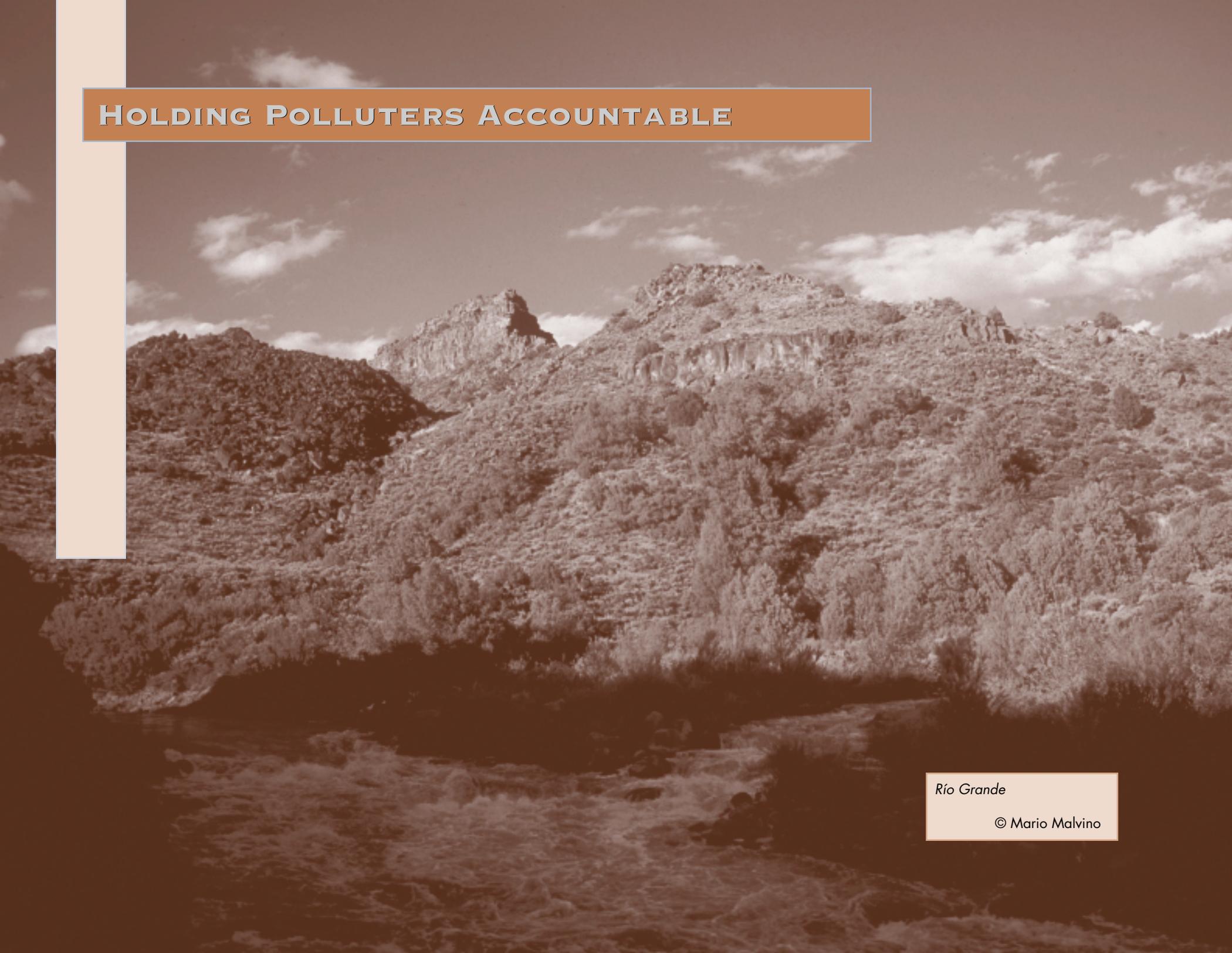
Amigos Bravos is River Network's EPA-funded National Watershed Health Project representative for New Mexico. Over the past year, our Clean Water Circuit Rider provided training and advice to thirteen organizations, ranging from Taos Pueblo to Trout Unlimited, the Coalition for the Valle Vidal and Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety to La Gente del Río Puerco and the Río Hondo Neighborhood Alliance. Our efforts involved providing general information about the Clean Water Act, as well as about specific aspects, such as Watershed Restoration Action Strategies (WRAS), TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Load), Outstanding Natural Resource Water nomination procedures, and strategic planning for river and watershed groups.

Amigos Bravos received two "Section 319" grants (state-administered EPA-funded grants for watershed restoration projects) to 1) address and educate the public on illegal off-road vehicle (ORV) use in the Red River watershed and its negative impact on Red River water quality, and 2) to develop a Río Pueblo de Taos watershed group and Watershed Restoration Strategy (WRAS) for that watershed. Progress on both grants has gone well. The watershed group completed its WRAS and is ready to begin implementing restoration projects. Several Red River on-the-ground projects to close off access to ORV use were carried out and Amigos Bravos has worked with, and paid the salary of, a half-time Forest Service enforcement officer to deter illegal ORV use and educate the public.

As part of our Native Species Initiative, work on restoration of the river otter continued to progress slowly. The required feasibility study – a first step towards eventual introduction – is still under review. Amigos Bravos and the New Mexico Friends of River Otters (which we were instrumental in forming) are working with the Department of Game and Fish in completing the feasibility study and in conducting extensive public outreach to provide political support for this process. Also under the Native Species Initiative, Amigos Bravos has explored safe and effective means of controlling or eradicating non-native noxious plant species and is developing and distributing educational materials to help

better identify weeds and utilize non-chemical means of control. After research and much deliberation, the Amigos Bravos Board of Directors approved an internal policy towards the use of Fintrol, a chemical agent used to help restore native fish populations.

HOLDING POLLUTERS ACCOUNTABLE



Río Grande

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HOLDING POLLUTERS ACCOUNTABLE

Amigos Bravos' second imperative is to hold polluters accountable for the harm they cause and to strive to prevent further degradation of New Mexico's rivers and streams. Amigos Bravos began in 1988 as a community organization opposing damage to the Red River and to the community of Questa caused by the Molycorp molybdenum mine. That struggle, despite notable successes that improved state mining and regional regulations, continues. In 2004, we began investigating the 60-year legacy of radioactive and other toxic discharges from Los Alamos National Laboratory and the possibility that those discharges are reaching surface and groundwater supplies. LANL and the Molycorp mine are the two giants whose actions Amigos Bravos is determined to bring to accountability.

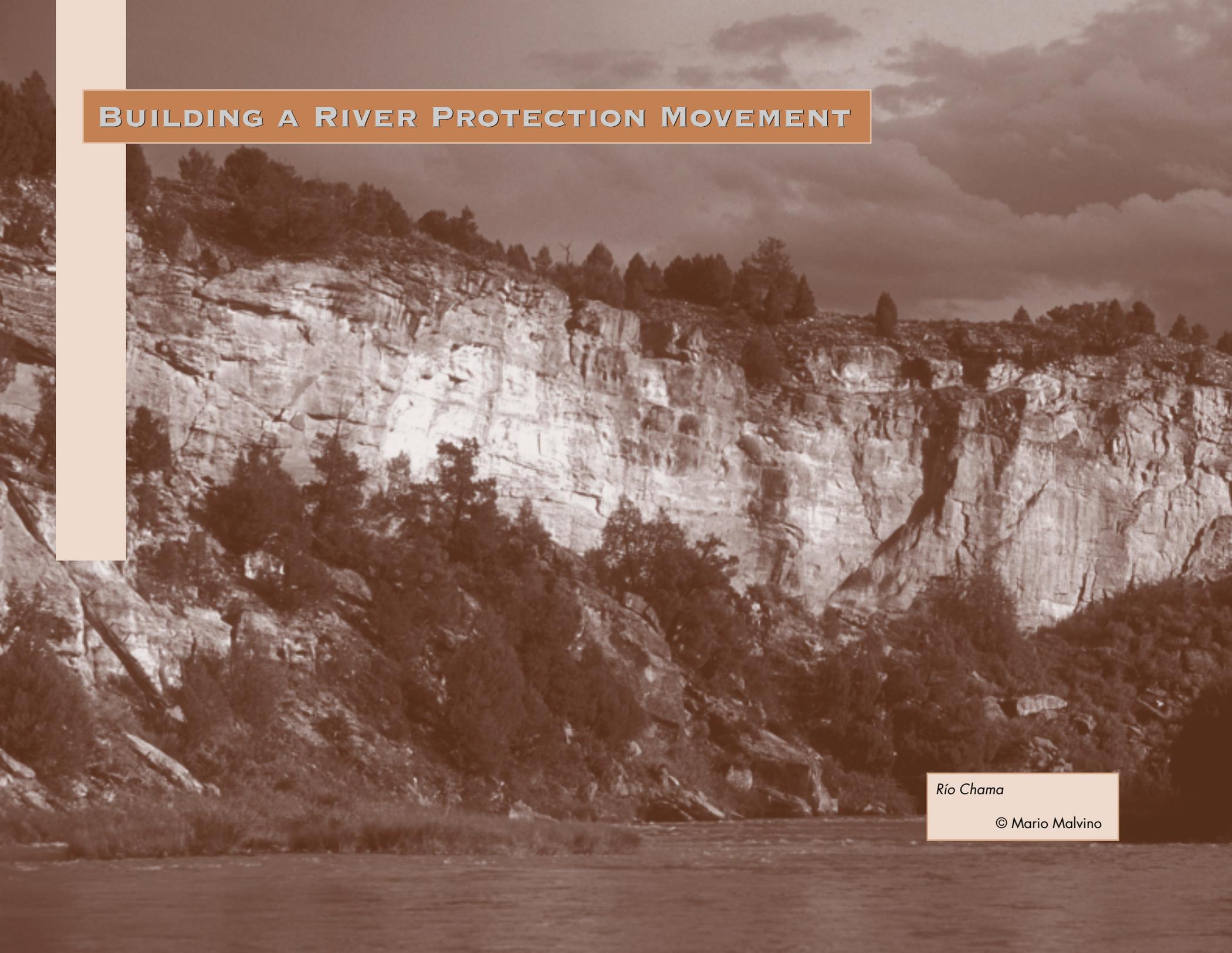
In July 2005, evidence provided by EPA showed that Molycorp's pollution is by-passing interception barriers and extraction wells at its tailings facility. This report and a USGS study of pre-mine water quality are providing Amigos Bravos with strong new ammunition to advocate for Molycorp to recycle its water and build a treatment facility. This would address pollution coming off the tailings and put more water into the Red River above mine operations, which would mitigate pollution of community wells, protect future water supplies, and offer increased river flow, further mitigating any effects downstream. Amigos Bravos is currently in discussions with the mine and the Environment Department seeking a negotiated agreement to install a water recycling facility. There are two important permitting processes that continue into 2006. The NM Environment Department will issue a new groundwater discharge plan for the tailings and the Mining and Minerals Department has issued a draft permit revision for Molycorp's mining permit to address whether Molycorp is capable of reclaiming the mine's subsidence areas, as it is required to in order to operate the mine.

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) has a sixty-year legacy of dumping, storing, and discharging radioactive and other toxins on the mesas and in the canyons of the Pajarito Plateau. Amigos Bravos, with Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (CCNS) and other partners (within the umbrella of NMSEES – New Mexicans for Sustainable Energy and Effective Stewardship) conducted a number of water sampling forays in 2005 in canyon streams flowing from LANL and from the Río Grande below the lab. Our findings and reports by the New Mexico Environment Department have documented the presence of radionuclides, perchlorates (residues from high explosives), PCBs, and other toxins in springs below the lab that feed into the Río Grande, which is a source of drinking and agricultural water for cities and communities downstream, including Santa Fe and several

Pueblos. For a long time, LANL insisted it would take thousands, or at least hundreds of years for toxins to reach the river through groundwater, but using LANL data and our own independent researchers, Amigos Bravos and CCNS consultants have been able to demonstrate that toxins can reach the river within 28 years. In addition, our findings have raised concerns that stormwater discharges at LANL are creating impacts the lab is not controlling or monitoring adequately. Under pressure from our coalition, LANL has investigated around 300 of its approximately 3000 solid waste sites and concluded that some of them are in fact leaking or have the potential to leak into groundwater. Amigos Bravos and its team of consultants are investigating LANL's compliance with the Clean Water Act and is releasing a report on potential violations in 2006. Given the lab's budget, its regulatory isolation, and its proven ability to withhold information and manipulate analyses, the fight to hold the lab accountable and protect the Río Grande watershed is likely to be protracted and difficult.

As a consequence of our work on the Molycorp mine, Amigos Bravos has initiated a Mining Reform Campaign aimed at defending the New Mexico Mining Act and its reclamation provisions. In 2005, we continued to provide leadership for the New Mexico Mining Act Network – an alliance of community groups, environmental law firms, mining and technical consultants, and national and regional mining reform advocacy groups – working to clean up mine sites and provide mining communities in New Mexico with post-mining economic development alternatives. Amigos Bravos also participated – through Westerners for Responsible Mining – in a nationwide push to reform the 1872 mining laws and oppose efforts that would end the moratorium on patenting mining claims and open public lands to private purchase. As part of that effort, Amigos Bravos joined with groups throughout the West staking mock mining claims to protect special places from future mining.

BUILDING A RIVER PROTECTION MOVEMENT



Río Chama

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BUILDING A RIVER PROTECTION MOVEMENT

Our third imperative, “Building a River Protection Movement”, is critical to the success of our other goals. As New Mexico’s only statewide river organization, we seek to develop and sustain programs keenly focused on policy and regulatory issues that affect the entire state – including some that have the potential to impact regional and national river and water policies. At the same time, our policy-making Board of Directors is composed largely of activists working at the local level in communities located the length of the Rio Grande. Furthermore, we partner with a range of grass-roots organizations to grapple with local river and water issues and to assist with legal, technical, and organizational advice. Our existence as an effective organization depends on the success of local community-based organizations to take responsibility for, and control over, decisions that affect their rivers and waters. Building a river protection movement is essential for the sustainability of Amigos Bravos and the sustainability of community efforts to restore and preserve local waters.

Amigos Bravos has elaborated a set of Criteria and Principles that guide every project we undertake. At the heart of these criteria and principles are the concepts of Capacity Building (inspiring others to become active and effective river protectors) and Diversity (including many voices in our projects). We seek to reach out and be responsive to communities that constitute the cultural landscape of New Mexico. Our challenge is to preserve a community-based heritage while sustaining the momentum and capabilities necessary to take on threats that come from state, regional, national – even global – events and actions.

As part of our Media and Communications Initiative, Amigos Bravos continued in 2005 to refine our quarterly Bulletin and began the task of redesigning our website in order to better serve members and friends. We also continued our monthly radio program, Radio Río, aired on Alamosa-based KRZA (88.7) and broadcast throughout northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. Most importantly, we worked closely with staff and partner organizations to ensure that the messages we send – in our Bulletin, the website, press releases, interviews, and at meetings – are clear, consistent, and conducive to affected community efforts to take action.

Amigos Bravos has long been at the forefront of

efforts to build bridges between environmental and traditional land-based communities. In 2005, we expanded this effort into Albuquerque’s South Valley through our “Environmental Justice, Diversity, and Youth Initiative”. This work has two goals: to revive the *acequia* associations that existed prior to state efforts to centralize water allocation decisions, and to take the first steps toward empowering youth in relation to water by holding a Youth Water Symposium. Traditional land users in the middle stretch of the Río Grande have been fighting for control over their own waters since the 1920s. However, as a result of the disenfranchisement that has taken place over the past century, many local people lost sight of traditional practices or were not aware of the legal options and processes that might help them maintain their water rights. The Amigos Bravos’ Albuquerque Projects Director began the *acequia* association process in early Summer 2005. Several associations were formed almost overnight and the demand for information and assistance has grown tremendously. The new *acequia* associations will help mobilize residents living along the *acequias* and will provide a mechanism to reclaim the water rights they lost, increase water for traditional family food and farming activities, and provide a focal point for efforts to

restore water quality in Albuquerque's most polluted neighborhoods.

The Youth Water Symposium, which will take place in Spring 2006, will provide an opportunity for high-school youth in the South Valley and other largely low-income and Hispanic communities to engage in leadership activities on important water-related issues. Students will conceive and implement their own projects, with guidance from teachers and Amigos Bravos staff. A key result will be the elaboration of a proposal for public policy change, at the local or state level, related to the student projects. It is the intention of Amigos Bravos for South Valley youth to gain an increased awareness of the Río Grande as their river to care for, to learn from, and to enjoy.

Dating from the early years that followed its inception, Amigos Bravos has worked closely with New Mexico's largely Hispanic and Pueblo land-based communities. As a follow-up to our *Somos Vecinos* initiative, Amigos Bravos is participating in an informal coalition of statewide organizations, all sharing a social and environmental justice perspective. Those organizations include the New Mexico Acequia Association, New Mexico Legal Aid, American Friends Service Committee, Southwest Organizing Project, 1,000 Friends of New Mexico, Western Environmental Law Center, and the New Mexico Environmental Law Center. Known as the New Mexico Water Alliance, the group has been developing a "Public Welfare" document whose principles could be applied to every water decision in the state. The State Engineer has a mandate to include public welfare in all water transfer decisions, but has routinely attempted to minimize the concept of public welfare. Amigos Bravos has been working with its partners to develop a consensus definition of public welfare and in 2005 participated in the Public Welfare Committee of the Taos Regional Water Plan process. The use of public welfare principles could

serve as a significant deterrent to private developers and local governments who might otherwise and unthinkingly divert water rights from poor, rural, and largely minority communities to the benefit of primarily urban, industrial, and wealthy interests.

Amigos Bravos' Capacity-Building Initiative has two components, one directed externally to help build the technical and organizational capacity of community river groups, and the other directed internally at our own processes and sustainability. Externally, we encourage public participation in hearings and comment periods on state permitting and water quality standard-setting in order to facilitate public involvement and a grassroots voice in these processes. As noted regarding our Clean Water Circuit Rider, in 2005 we conducted trainings with 13 organizations. To better serve the needs of community river and water groups, Amigos Bravos is training an additional staff person to provide specific organizational development training while the Circuit Rider will continue to focus primarily on technical training needs.

Internally, Amigos Bravos undertakes an independent annual audit of our fiscal year financial statement to ensure the accuracy and appropriateness of our statements and financial controls. In 2006 we will conduct a comprehensive survey of our membership and donor organizations to get a snapshot of what our supporters believe are our strengths and weaknesses. Finally, in a concerted effort to secure the long-term financial sustainability of Amigos Bravos, in 2005 the Board authorized increasing the Capital Reserve Fund over the next three years to meet emergencies created by short-term funding shortfalls or rapidly emerging issues. This program was complimented by creation of an Endowment Fund and a formal Planned Giving Campaign that will be housed at the New Mexico Community Foundation. When fully operational, the three programs will help support the financial strength and sustainability of Amigos Bravos.

An aerial photograph of a winding river, likely the Río Chama, flowing through a rocky and arid landscape. The river is the central focus, curving from the top left towards the bottom right. The surrounding terrain is rugged, with numerous large rocks and sparse, scrubby vegetation. The overall color palette is monochromatic, dominated by shades of brown and tan. A dark orange horizontal bar is positioned at the top of the image, containing the title text.

FINANCIAL REPORT & SUPPORTERS

Río Chama

© Mario Malvino

FINANCIAL REPORT FY2005

Fiscal Year 2005 (October 1, 2004 – September 30, 2005)

Amigos Bravos ended its fiscal year September 30, 2005 successfully with net assets of \$96,980. In FY2005, total revenues for Amigos Bravos increased by 18.5% over the previous year*. Our original FY2005 revenue goal – an effort to increase revenue 28% over FY2004 – was \$614,150; we actually raised \$566,410 (92% of our goal). In FY2005, the Board of Directors took two decisive steps towards ensuring the long-term viability of Amigos Bravos by committing to increase the Capital Reserve Fund and to establish an Endowment Fund. We were able to increase the reserve fund by \$28,726. With the help of two local foundations, we are setting up an Endowment Fund and a formal Planned Giving Campaign to be housed at the New Mexico Community Foundation. We feel we are making serious progress towards providing a more diverse and sustainable financial basis for carrying our work forward.

Support & Revenue FY2005	Amigos Bravos	Coalition for the Valle Vidal	Total
Foundations	\$480,734	244,040	724,774
Carryovers	(41,322)	(77,774)	(119,096)
Net Foundations	439,412	166,266	605,678
Contributions	24,576	5,647	30,223
Memberships	35,570		35,570
Appeals	17,149		17,149
Events	26,072		26,072
Product Sales	361		361
Fiscal Agent Fees	18,294		18,294
In-kind Donations	4,017		4,017
Investment Income	959	219	1,178
Total Revenue	\$566,410	\$172,132	\$738,542

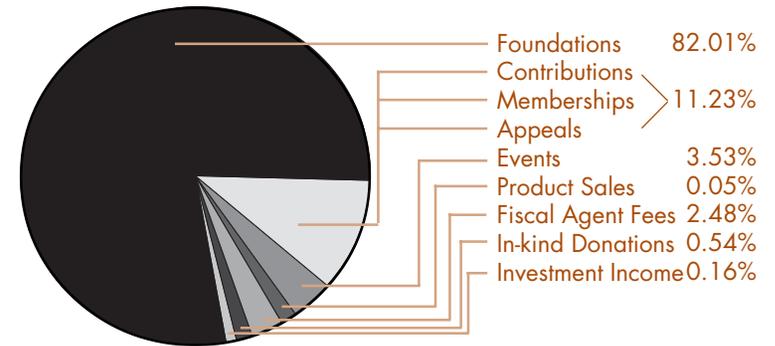
Expenses

Programs	\$355,736	172,132	527,868
General & Administrative	42,909		42,909
Fundraising	112,118		112,118
Total Expenses	\$510,763	\$172,132	\$682,895

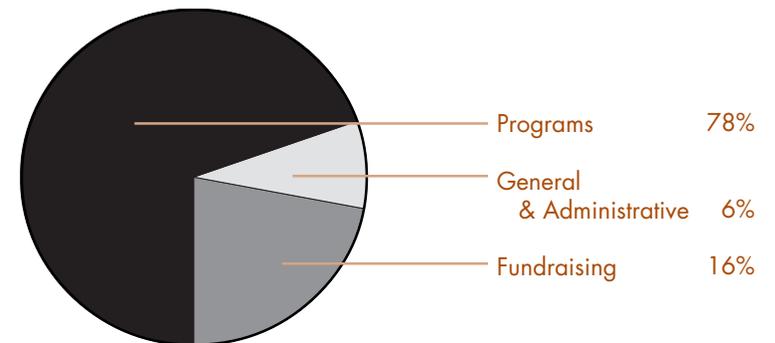
Assets

Net Assets, end of year	\$96,980	Increase in Net Assets	\$55,647
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WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM...



...AND WHERE IT GOES



* In addition to its own revenues and expenses, Amigos Bravos served as fiscal agent in FY2005 for the Coalition for the Valle Vidal, which reported revenues of \$172,132.

YOUR TRUST AND SUPPORT

At Amigos Bravos, we take our responsibility as a community-based organization very seriously. Because of that, we seek to earn the trust of everyone who has contributed to support our efforts and sustain our organization, whether it was through a new or renewed membership, a foundation grant, a special contribution, or an in-kind donation. We accept these contributions as a sign that you share our vision and mission and believe that we represent a conscientious and effective effort to bridge critical environmental goals with social justice concerns.

To our over sixteen hundred individual, business, and family members we extend our deepest gratitude.

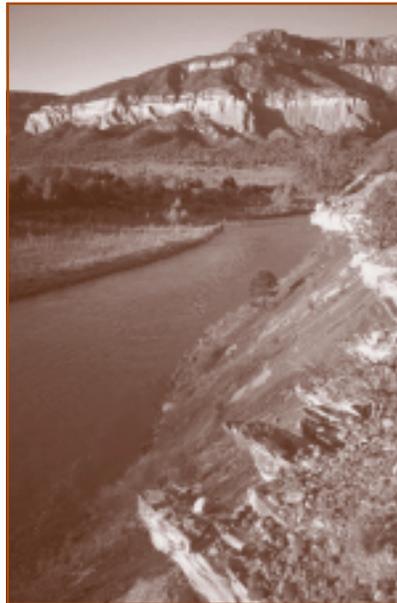
In addition, we are honored to recognize the following organizations, government agencies, donor advised funds and charitable foundations for their generous support and trust in our efforts in 2005.

ORGANIZATIONS

Citizen's Monitoring & Technical
Assessment Fund
Concerned Citizens for
Nuclear Safety
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthworks
Four Corners Institute
Natural Resources Defense Council
River Network
Río Grande Chapter of Sierra Club
Santa Fe Garden Club
TREC
Western Resource Advocates

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
New Mexico Dept of Game & Fish
New Mexico Environment Department
319 Grants



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FOUNDATIONS

Anonymous
General Service Foundation
Healy Foundation
Max & Anna Levinson Foundation
McCune Charitable Foundation
Giles W. & Elise G. Mead Foundation
Messengers of Healing Winds Foundation
New Cycle Foundation
New-Land Foundation
New Mexico Community Foundation
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Pond Foundation
Public Welfare Foundation
S.B. Foundation
Thaw Charitable Trust
Turner Foundation
Wilburforce Foundation

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Sanford & Jane Brickner Fund of the
Santa Fe Community Foundation
Martha Jo Trolin Fund of the
New Mexico Community Foundation

excerpt from

Song

A voice flew out of the river as morning flew

out of the body of night, a voice sending

out from the night of the sleeping

Morning : a voice in its own voice, naked, made

of the whole body and the whole life . . .

-- Muriel Rukeyser

BOARD AND STAFF



Río Grande

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS



MICHAEL COXA, LAS VEGAS, PRESIDENT

Michael is an affordable housing consultant and the architect/contractor for Tapetes de Lana, a nonprofit wool processing facility in Mora County. He joined the Board in 1997 and has served as President for the past three years. Michael also serves on the board of the Northern New Mexico Educational Opportunity Center (Española), is a past board member of the New Mexico Acequia Association, is past chairman of the Acequia Madre de Las Vegas, and is affiliated with the Gallinas Watershed Partnership, the Acequia de los Cuarteles de Santo Domingo de Cundiyo Land Grant, the Río Gallinas Acequia Association, and the New Mexico Solar Energy Association. Through his work in and around Las Vegas, he has been instrumental in raising water quality standards for the Río Gallinas. Michael's partner, Diane, is a nurse practitioner in Santa Fe.



JON KLINGEL, SANTA FE, VICE PRESIDENT

For many years, Jon worked as a biologist with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish where he received an "Award of Excellence" for development of the Biota Information System of New Mexico. In addition to his volunteer efforts with Amigos Bravos – including extensive work on our river otter reintroduction and Valle Vidal projects – Jon has been involved in radio tracking of reintroduced wolves, a rattlesnake hibernaculum study and bighorn sheep surveys. Among his many adventures, Jon has experienced nine seasons of fire control/smoke-jumping in Alaska and the western states and, together with his wife Marlene, designed and built a cabin using hand tools in the northern New Mexico mountains. He holds degrees in Zoology and Wildlife Biology.



HOPE BUECHLER, ARROYO SECO, SECRETARY

A former librarian, Hope also served as a volunteer coordinator for Amnesty International in Massachusetts before retiring to Taos in 1997. Since then, she has been a volunteer for Amigos Bravos, providing research and support for our Molycorp Watch and Río Santa Barbara protection efforts, and in organizing our library. Hope joined

the Board in 2002 and has served as Secretary since 2003. She is involved in the work of the Río Colorado Reclamation Committee, a citizen initiative to oversee the Molycorp Superfund Process, sings in the Taos Community Chorus, and enjoys Contra and English Country Dancing in Taos and Santa Fe.



MARTHA QUINTANA, ALBUQUERQUE, TREASURER

A native of Taos, Martha currently lives in Albuquerque, works as a Board Agent for the National Labor Relations Board, and has 21 years of experience in labor relations. Martha has been on Amigos Bravos' Board for 12 years (from 1991-1998 and 2000-2005), is a member of the Executive and Finance Committees, and served as President from 1995-1997. As a volunteer, Martha also facilitated our past three strategic planning retreats. Her mother Viola was a member of our Advisory Council for five years. Martha is married to math teacher Mason Kressly and they have a daughter, Magdalena, who is 9.



TOM GRIEGO, ALBUQUERQUE

Tom is an attorney concentrating on employment and labor law with Bill Gordon and Associates and frequently represents workers on discrimination and workers' compensation claim issues. He joined the Board in 2004. Though born in St. Louis, Missouri, Tom's family traces its New Mexico heritage back to the arrival of the Oñate expedition and his father – whose family is from Pecos and Santa Fe – grew up working in the mining and logging industries. Returning to New Mexico in 1976, Tom worked for both the City of Santa Fe and New Mexico State Parks in administering federal conservation grants. He holds both a master's degree in Public Administration and a juris doctorate degree from UNM.



MARY HUMPHREY, EL PRADO

Mary is an attorney specializing in water law and was a founding member of Amigo Bravos' Board in 1988, serving as President in 1991-1992. Together with her law partner Connie Odé, Mary represents acequias and northern New Mexico communities on contentious water and land use law issues and has been instrumental in legal opposition to planned diversions from the Río Costilla and Río Grande. Prior to her career in law, Mary was an outfitter and river guide for 20 years and remains committed to the health of rivers and the people who live along their banks. She holds a juris doctorate degree from UNM.



ROBERTO VIGIL, QUESTA

Roberto is a fourth generation New Mexico artisan – a fine woodworker, artist, home designer, builder and landscaper, and owner of Vigil Studio in Questa – whose work has been displayed at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC, and the New Mexico State Capitol Building (Roundhouse). He is the founder of Artesanos de Questa – a traditional arts cooperative aimed at providing economic alternatives to mining. A native and resident of the mining-impacted Village of Questa, he is a founding member of Concerned Citizens of Questa and has worked tirelessly for over 30 years to address the negative effects of mining on his community.

EXECUTIVE STAFF



BRIAN SHIELDS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Brian has provided visionary leadership of Amigos Bravos since its inception – serving as a founding member of the Board of Directors from 1988-1990, as Projects Director from 1991-1996, and as Executive Director since 1996. While creating and sustaining an organization with influence, credibility, and staying-power, he continues to build lasting and highly productive alliances among a broad range of environmental and social justice advocates, along with decision makers at the local, regional, and national levels. He repeatedly accepts leadership roles in the establishment

of national, regional, and community-based campaigns including, most notably, the Citizens Agenda for Rivers, Westerners for Responsible Mining, the New Mexico Mining Act Network, NM-SEES (New Mexicans for Safe and Sustainable Energy), Alliance for Rio Grande Heritage, the Coalition for the Valle Vidal, and a newly formed (and as yet unnamed) network of individuals representing organizations working on water-related issues impacting poor, indigenous communities. Raised in an international family and under the Franco regime in Barcelona, Spain, Brian's early experiences convinced him that progress in any joint endeavor is only accomplished through mutual respect and understanding, and that in diversity exists the most potent energy imaginable for creative solutions. Brian has resided in New Mexico for the past 36 years.



SAWNIE MORRIS, ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR

Sawnie works on a contractual basis to assist the Executive Director in all aspects of organizational development, with an emphasis on human resource tasks and social justice concerns. She was the founding executive director (1989-1996) and subsequently served on the board of directors (1997-2002). Sawnie has made Taos, New Mexico her home since 1983.

STAFF



RACHEL CONN, CLEAN WATER CIRCUIT RIDER AND POLICY ANALYST

As Circuit Rider, Rachel assists communities to establish citizen-led watershed protection groups and educates those groups in how to track and understand regulatory and policy actions that effect their rivers. Rachel is a leader in the ongoing campaigns to protect the Valle Vidal, hold Los Alamos National Lab accountable for pollution, restore river otters to New Mexico, protect the Red River watershed from degradation caused by mining and unwise off-road vehicle use, oversee safe nontoxic control of noxious weeds in our public lands, and watchdog national, state, and local policies affecting rivers. Born and raised in the Boston area, Rachel has lived for the past thirteen years in Colorado and New Mexico, earning a BA in Environmental Biology from Colorado College and working as a conservation advocate in San Luis, prior to joining Amigos Bravos.



CAROL HARDISON, ACCOUNTANT

A native of North Carolina, Carol moved to Taos in 1990 and has been Amigos Bravos' accountant on a contractual basis since 1994. She received a bachelor's degree in business administration (accounting) from the University of Georgia. Carol has 10 other clients, but considers Amigos Bravos her "baby" and creative challenge. She also is a single mother of four even greater challenges – Snowflower, Fawn, Lake, and Brook Romero of Taos Pueblo.



MICHAEL JENSEN, GRANTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Michael serves as the primary grant-writer for Amigos Bravos. His work in that capacity includes tracking and reporting, as well as proposal and messaging development, along with other writing for publication, including the Annual Report. He came to Amigos Bravos in 2005 after working at UNM for almost eight years at the Alliance for Transportation Research Institute, as Outreach Coordinator for the College of Fine Arts, and as the Program Coordinator for the US-Japan Center. Before moving to Albuquerque in 1990, he worked for international development management firms in Washington, DC. He holds a bachelors degree in American Studies from UC Santa Cruz. Most of all, though, he has three totally awesome kids.



DENISE MARTINEZ, MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH COORDINATOR

A native of Taos, Denise brought ten years of experience in Human Resources and General Management to her nine months, ending in January of 2006, at Amigos Bravos. During that time she conducted the annual Raffle for the Rio and the on-going membership campaigns, while providing administrative support. Born and raised in Arroyo Hondo, Denise is the mother of Amigos Bravos volunteer, Adrienne Espinoza. She is also granddaughter of Ida Martinez, who was a participant in the Amigos Bravos Oral History Project in the late '90s.



LUCY SANCHEZ, ALBUQUERQUE PROJECTS DIRECTOR

Lucy leads the organization's environmental justice and youth projects in Albuquerque and the surrounding area, including reestablishment of *acequia* associations to restore water quality in the south valley, orchestration of the Amigos Bravos Youth Symposium, and co-sponsorship of the San Isidro Day celebration of water in relationship to spirit. Prior to joining Amigos Bravos in 2004, she served as Vice President for the Albuquerque Educational Assistants Association Local 4129 and has 21 years of union organizing and membership development experience. Born in Hatch, NM, Lucy has lived in Albuquerque's South Valley since the age of six. In 2002, Lucy received a *Brindis a la Mujer Hispana* for her work on behalf of the Hispanic community.

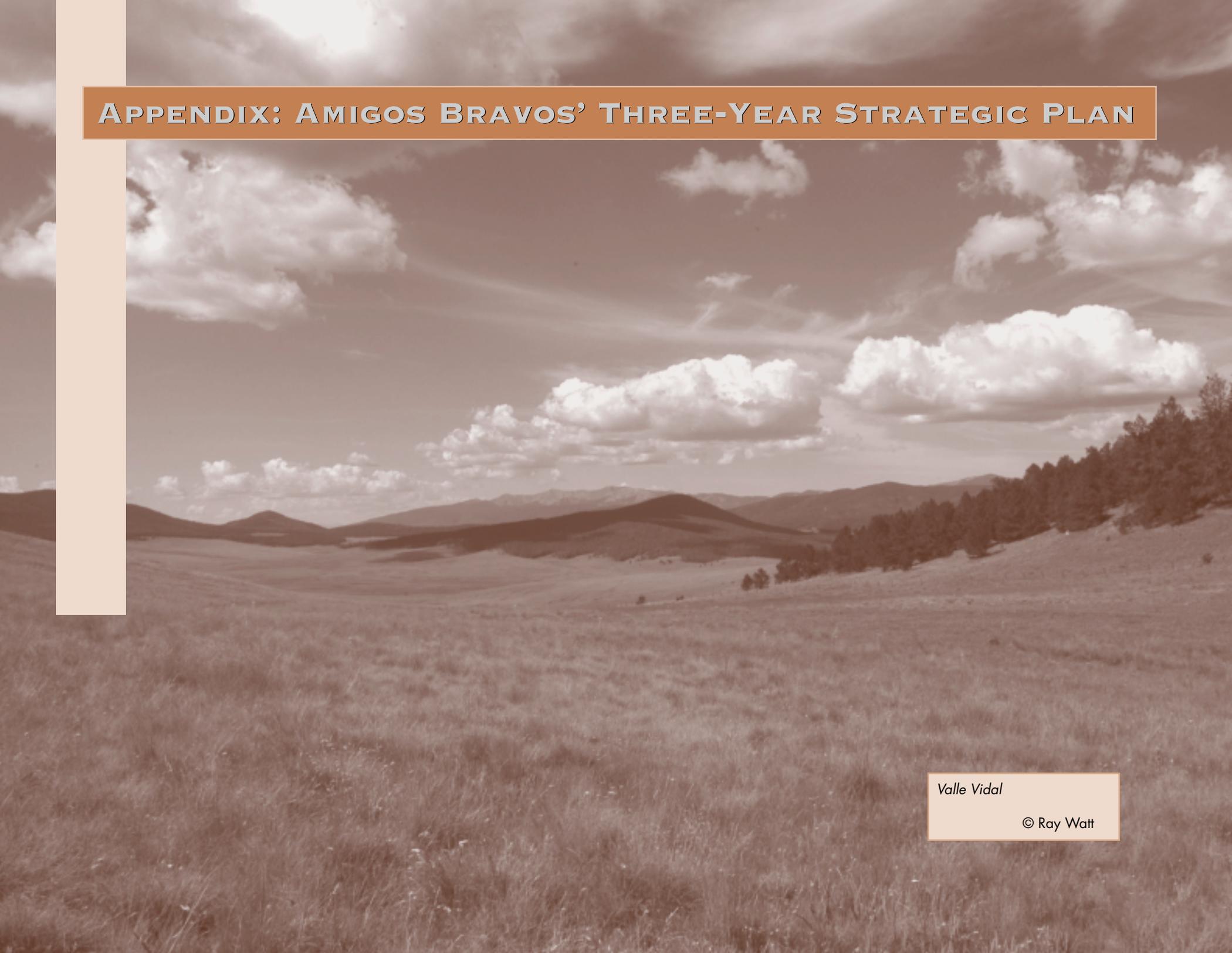


BETSY WOLF, ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLICATIONS

Betsy has been with Amigos Bravos since 1996 and provides institutional memory while overseeing all administrative functions, including in-office accounting, management of the website, production of the Quarterly Bulletin and Annual Report, and proof-reading and editing of all other publications. She also facilitates and coordinates day-to-day communications between the staff and the public. Prior to joining Amigos Bravos, she served for 10 years as Administrative Secretary for the Harwood Foundation of the University of New Mexico. A lover of horses, Betsy was educated in France, is a native of New York, and has lived in New Mexico for 31 years.

THE FOLLOWING STAFF LEFT AMIGOS BRAVOS IN THE PAST YEAR:
Joseph DiChiaro III, Development Director
Sean Larkin, Membership & Outreach Coordinator

APPENDIX: AMIGOS BRAVOS' THREE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN



Valle Vidal

© Ray Watt

APPENDIX: AMIGOS BRAVOS' THREE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN AND CRITERIA & PRINCIPLES

Amigos Bravos' programs and activities are developed through a collaborative process with our Board of Directors, staff, and an Advisory Council of 40 constituents. Amigos Bravos has held periodic Strategic Planning meetings since shortly after its founding in 1988. The Advisory Council is composed of local community members, legal and technical experts with whom we work, and representatives of national organizations. Our Board is made up of people from communities in which we have on-going projects as well as people with legal and technical skills on which we rely to do our work.

The strategic planning group emulates Amigos Bravos' self-description: "...While rooted in science and the law, our work is inspired by the values and traditional knowledge of New Mexico's diverse Hispanic and Native American land-based populations ...". The planning process assures that Amigos Bravos remains close to its diverse constituency of land-based local communities and Native American tribes while linking those insights with expertise from a variety of local professionals working on natural resources, legislative policy, science, health, and education, as well as with representatives from regional and national conservation organizations.

The strategic planning group met in Spring 2003 to formulate a new three-year Strategic Plan. The planning group concurred that the overall goals for Amigos Bravos should remain as they have been: 1) *Restore watershed health*; 2) *Hold polluters accountable*; and 3) *Build a river protection movement*. Participants confirmed the importance of continuing and refining our work on mining reform and water quality standards on a statewide level and through empowering specific communities with the tools to protect and restore their own resources.

Participants also identified an immediate need to address the environmental legacy of Los Alamos National Laboratory and possible contamination of the surrounding watershed. Shortly after the retreat, the threat of coalbed methane gas development in the Valle Vidal added an additional project and priority for our work in the coming years. In late 2004, defense of the new state definition of "waters of the state" became a singularly important area of activity.

The following summarizes Amigos Bravos' programs and major activities under the Strategic Plan, 2003-2006. In conjunction with the Strategic Plan, Amigos Bravos developed a set of Criteria & Principles for all work undertaken by the organization.

CRITERIA & PRINCIPLES FOR AMIGOS BRAVOS PROJECTS

Amigos Bravos applies the following principals to its work both internally and externally:

- All projects must support and further the Amigos Bravos Mission
- All communities impacted by our projects and work should be included; none should be excluded
- All projects should recognize the important role of land-based communities in preserving the quality of life and characteristics of the landscape of New Mexico
- New projects should build on prior successes and lessons learned
- All projects must be do-able, win-able and measure-able
- Where practicable, projects should build capacity in communities, as the communities see the need
- All projects should further intercultural communication and understanding
- All projects must have integrated media outreach and funding strategies
- Projects should leverage the collective resources of the organization

OVERARCHING THEMES FOR ALL PROJECTS

- Media/Outreach: By incorporating media outreach into all of our projects, we will get out the message that "The River Lives!" An informed public is essential for protecting our rivers
- Capacity Building: By inspiring others to become active and effective river protectors, we can multiply our effectiveness in preserving and restoring the ecological and cultural richness of the Rio Grande
- Diversity: By including many voices in our projects, the buy-in and success of our work will be increased. Intercultural communication and understanding is essential for a healthy river movement

OBJECTIVES FOR EACH PROJECT

- Hold Polluters Accountable
- Restore Watershed Health
- Build Capacity and Provide Assistance to Communities
- Develop Policy Initiatives
- Build a Voice for the River and create a diverse rivers movement
- Link environmental impacts to human health issues

Goal #1 – RESTORE WATERSHED HEALTH

Project	Objectives/Tasks
Río Grande Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a comprehensive restoration strategy for the Río Grande and its tributaries from the CO/NM border to Velarde • Provide leadership for Alliance for Río Grande Heritage national campaign • Help implement ARGH diversity, media, and water quality strategies • Pursue legal and negotiation strategies regarding Albuquerque and Santa Fe water diversion projects
Clean Water Policy Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue river-friendly changes to state and federal water-related laws and regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nominate New Mexico’s first Outstanding National Resource Water - Assure stringent application of state and federal clean water laws and regulations (TMDLs, CAFOs, antidegradation, mixing zones) - Set precedent by including mandatory Best Management Practice as part of a permit - Participate in the state’s Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards (change the definition of “waters of the state” to be more inclusive and protective of all waters in the state) • Participate in state, regional, and local water planning and regulations (ISC/OSE/WQCC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oppose detrimental water transfers - Link water quality and quantity, help define “public welfare” and water commodification issues - Link water quality to human health and economic development - Focus on land use, urban sprawl, and river corridor zoning • Defend state and federal environmental laws and promote environmentally-friendly legislation and regulations
Native Species Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Río Grande Silvery Minnow Recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Represent environmental interests on the USFWS Río Grande Silvery Minnow Recovery Team - Coordinate recovery and enhancement strategies with ARGH • River Otter Restoration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinate and help lead a river otter restoration strategy for New Mexico - Restore river otters in the Río Grande, San Francisco and Gila watersheds within three years • Bosque Restoration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop volunteer program for ongoing river clean-ups and riparian enhancement projects - Replace tamarisk with willows and cottonwoods within the Orilla Verde Recreation Area • Río Grande Cutthroat Trout Enhancement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance Río Grande cutthroat trout populations on the Río Costilla and Río Santa Barbara watersheds

Goal #2 – HOLD POLLUTERS ACCOUNTABLE

Project	Objectives/Tasks
Clean Rivers Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red River Campaign (Molycorp Watch) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stop acid mine drainage by requiring the resloping and revegetation of waste rock piles - Stop contamination of the Red River through the NPDES and tailings (DP-933) discharge permits - Re-negotiate the mine permit
Mining Reform Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Rock Canyon Campaign (LANL Watch) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collect data, develop long-term advocacy strategy, and identify funding mechanisms - Assemble legal/technical/policy campaign team, develop media messages, and obtain standing - Pursue legal/regulatory options to stop pollution from reaching the river • Provide leadership for the New Mexico Mining Act Network and the Mining Impacts Communications Alliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assure enforcement of, and counter any attacks on, the New Mexico Mining Act (focus on financial assurance, reclamation issues) - Develop and implement a strategic plan for reclaiming abandoned mines in New Mexico (hard rock, uranium, and sand and gravel) - Develop, and advocate for, ‘bad actor’ provisions applicable to all state environmental permits • Provide leadership for, and coordinate with, the Western Mining Reform Campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop public/congressional support for reforming the 1872 mining laws - Advocate for mining reform policies and legislation to stop mining in ecologically important and sacred sites • Assist mine-affected communities with technical, research, and capacity-building needs

Goal #3 – BUILD A RIVER PROTECTION MOVEMENT

Project	Objectives/Tasks
Media and Communications Initiative (tell stories and dispel myths)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop clear and concise organizational and issue-specific messaging • Strengthen local, and develop national, positive media presence • Enhance real-time responsiveness to emerging issues and press inquiries • Refine print and electronic means of capturing and promoting organization’s mission, work, and effectiveness
Environmental Justice, Diversity, and Youth Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Justice Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in coalitions linking river health and sustainability to human health and economic justice issues - Provide political and technical assistance to EJ groups dealing with water quality issues - Build relationships with marginalized groups and communities dealing with water pollution issues • Diversity Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize diversity workshops at the local, regional, and national levels to ensure a diverse voice speaks for the river

The River

*The river is like my mother
smooth and quiet.*

*The stone is like my brother
strong and stable.*

*The ripples are like my father
always moving.*

*The current is like me
always in a rush.*

-- Wade Lujan of Taos Pueblo
