

AMIGOS
BRAVOS

Bi-Annual Report 2016 - 2017

M. Chrisman



Our Mission:
Protect and Restore
the Waters of New Mexico

Table of Contents

3

*A Message from our E.D.
and Board President*

4-6

*Restore Watershed
Health*

8-10

*Hold Polluters
Accountable*

11-13 14-17

*Build a Rivers
Movement*

*Financial Report
Fiscal Year 2016-2017*

18-19 20

Appreciation

*Call to Action
Ways You Can Help*

From the E.D.

“Getting My Feet Wet!”

Looking back over my first two years at Amigos Bravos, I think I would modify the old saying to say “time flies when you’re busy AND having fun!” Leading a non-profit organization has certainly stretched and challenged me, and I had to learn some new ways as compared to how I did things in my

many years in the for-profit world. But I feel incredibly fortunate to have had the support of many people as I “got my feet wet” in the business of Amigos Bravos.

First, I so appreciate our hard-working staff. I’m proud of my colleagues, and I’ve learned plenty from them. The same can be said of our Board of Directors, who bring together diverse viewpoints into wise and focused strategy for the organization. But finally, I want to acknowledge our members and supporters. People in New Mexico really care about our water – as well we should. The financial and moral support we receive from our members and supporters is incredible to me – it’s inspiring, it’s motivating, and it’s so very important to the health of our organization.

*To all of you who have helped “the new guy” in his first couple of years, thank you! - **Joe Zupan***



From the Board

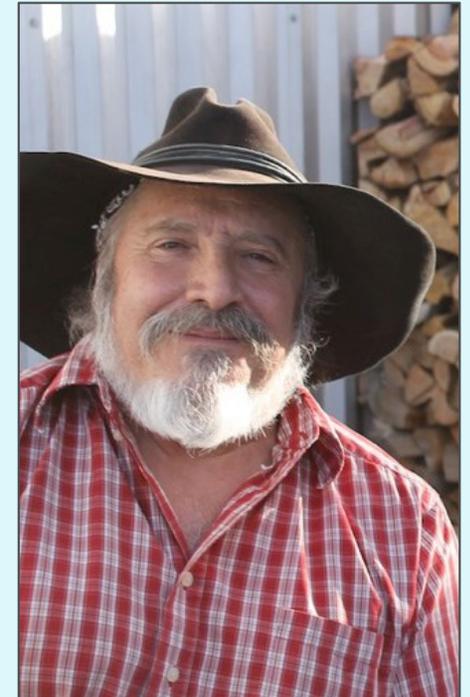
“Navigating the Rapids”

As a long-time river guide, I know you have to be ready for whatever the Rio brings your way. Sometimes the water is slow and smooth, and sometimes you’re running fast when you hit some challenging rapids!

Making a management transition for the Amigos Bravos organization after 28 years is comparable to hitting the rapids. Add to that the challenging political climate we find ourselves in, where conservation efforts at all levels of government seem to be short-changed from where they should be, and the ride can feel downright bumpy.

All of that being said, my experience as a guide is that the rapids that you successfully navigate are usually the most memorable part of the trip.

After a year of transition, the organization is healthy and working hard to ensure the health of New Mexico’s watersheds. What a ride!
Francisco Guevara,
Board President



Restore Watershed Health

Project Highlight:

Forest Planning in New Mexico

The Carson and Santa Fe National Forests, home to the headwaters of the Upper Rio Grande, are undergoing once in a lifetime planning processes. The Forest Planning process is an opportunity to guide how the public lands that surround our communities and feed our rivers and streams are managed. In 2016, Amigos Bravos submitted detailed Forest Plan proposals to the Carson and Santa Fe Forests that identify and outline protections and restoration priority for "Wetland Jewels" - high priority headwater wetland systems that are critical in providing ecosystem and community resilience in the face of climate change.



Project Highlight:

Taos Ski Valley

Few who live in the Taos community could fail to notice the massive changes underfoot at Taos Ski Valley, which is recently under new ownership. The base area, which sits right on the banks of the headwaters of the Rio Hondo, is undergoing a complete redevelopment with new buildings and infrastructure. In 2016 Amigos Bravos engaged in monitoring these changes and advocating for better protections for the Rio Hondo. For decades runoff from the developed areas at the ski valley has led to sediment laden storm water entering the Rio Hondo. The redevelopment of the area is an opportunity to address these historic issues. In 2016 Amigos Bravos has advocated for:

Utilization of permeable surfaces to decrease runoff

Strict adherence to village stream setback ordinances

Zero increase of pollution loading into Rio Hondo from planned new wastewater treatment plant.

*Definition of BRAVO:
a shout of approval*



Volunteers during Midnight Meadows restoration weekend on August 19 - 21, 2016

BRAVO! Wetland Restoration in Midnight Meadows

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Amigos Bravos and the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation (AWF) teamed up again to host a weekend-long volunteer project, August 19-21, 2016, at Midnight Meadows in the Carson National Forest near Questa, NM. 25 volunteers from both groups spent the weekend working to improve the integrity of streams and wetlands in the area through repairs and new additions to enclosure fencing. Through the hard work of AWF and Amigos Bravos volunteers and support from the US Forest Service, the a vital riparian exclosure in the Midnight Meadows was completed.

Restore Watershed Health

Project Highlight:

Valle de Oro National Urban Wildlife Refuge



For many years, Hispanic and low-income neighborhoods in Albuquerque's South Valley have suffered greatly from an environmental justice perspective. In 2014, conceptual designs and preliminary drawings - created from the imaginings of members of the community and the skills of landscape architects - were unveiled for the first national urban wildlife refuge in the southwest. Members of the community worked hard to develop support for the Refuge, located where an old dairy farm once existed. Purchase of the 570-acre site was made by the US Fish and Wild Life Service (USFWS), now managing the Refuge. In concert with the community's exciting vision, Amigos Bravos was granted the opportunity, through an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Urban Waters Grant, to work with schools and community members to monitor water quality in the ditches that flow through the Refuge as well as in the Rio Grande, which flows alongside the Refuge.

For this project, Amigos Bravos was excited to develop a partnership with the USFWS and two non-profit groups, Talking Talons and Earth Force, whose overall goals are to introduce the concepts of environmental stewardship to youth. The goal of the partnership was to develop a strategy to approach working with students in area schools on water quality monitoring. Locations for monitoring along the Rio Grande, irrigation ditches, and at riverside drains were determined and in 2015, several of the planned student- and community-based water quality monitoring events were successfully completed. Work included sampling for nutrients and metals, as well as pharmaceuticals, PCBs, and E. coli. By identifying potential sources of contamination, the work will benefit small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permittees in the urban watershed regarding PCB analytical methods and efforts to meet EPA's goal of eliminating water quality impairments on the river.

Restore Watershed Health

Project Highlight:

*River Otter Re-introduction
in the Upper Rio Grande*

In 2015, in partnership with New Mexico Friends of River Otters, we increased staff capacity to monitor the river otter population in the Upper Rio Grande watershed. After much success working with volunteers to do otter monitoring, staff planned for field observation of the otters with camera traps, also known as trail cameras ("river cameras"). The cameras are motion activated and snap 3 pictures every 30 seconds when they are triggered by movement. Cameras were placed in two different locations along the Upper Rio

Grande in 2016. River otters have been "caught" at both locations by our cameras. We have also seen bighorn sheep, a ringtail cat, a bobcat, a coyote, raccoons, a muskrat, geese, wood ducks, and other birds.

In an effort to monitor the progress of the river otter re-introduction, Amigos Bravos plans to expand this monitoring program on the Rio Grande with more cameras and to survey the San Juan for signs of river otter.



*Cisco Guevara,
President of the
Board of Directors,
Amigos Bravos Owner/
Operator,
Los Rios River Runners,
Taos, New Mexico*

"One of my favorite projects of Amigos Bravos is the reintroduction of the river otter to the Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument which has brought fun and enjoyment to my raft customers with wildlife viewing opportunities."



Otter Family. Credit: Diane Harareaves

Hold Polluters Accountable

Project Highlight:

Water–Energy Nexus



In 2016, an attorney and energy expert continued to work as the lead researcher for Amigos Bravos' "water-energy nexus" project. This work carefully documents how much water individual energy sources appropriate, consume, and pollute, and how much energy is used to manage and transport water in New Mexico. The report is already being used to inform discussions with policy-makers and strategic partners about how best to address the way various energy sources consume and degrade New Mexico's water.

Some key findings from the report include the following:

- ❖ Coal-fired power plants in NM consume ~13% of the state's public water supply, or four times the usage of Santa Fe's population.*
- ❖ Oil and gas-fired power plants consume ~2% of the state's public water supply, equivalent to 42,000 New Mexicans.*
- ❖ Oil and natural gas production consumes ~3-5% of the state's public water supply.*
- ❖ Much of New Mexico's energy production (oil and gas, electricity) is transferred out of state – in effect, we are transferring a substantial portion of the state's water supply along with it.*

Hold Polluters Accountable

Project Highlight:

CMI Questa Mine



Chevron Questa Mine Tailings Pond.

CMI Questa Mine commits to substantial water quality improvements.

For almost our entire history, Amigos Bravos has put the spotlight on the mining operations at Questa, and the detrimental impacts to the Red River and downstream communities. Over the past year, we have continued to monitor implementation of the Chevron Mining/Molycorp Superfund agreement, and advocate for cleanup and restoration efforts now that the mine is permanently closed.

Chevron is currently building a mammoth water treatment facility that will collect and process seepage, storm, and underground mine waters in perpetuity – prior to discharging clean water to the Red River. Amigos Bravos Staff and Board toured the site last spring to assess the progress, including an assessment of the overall closure process, followed by an in-depth tour of the site and the water treatment facility.

Amigos Bravos also spearheaded an effort to bring together several parties that expressed concerns about the final Natural Resources Damages (NRD) settlement for the Chevron Molycorp mine to discuss next steps in the process. These discussions included Trout Unlimited, Taos County, recreational based businesses, and Amigos Bravos. Subsequently several of these entities, including Amigos Bravos, submitted restoration proposals to

the Natural Resources Trustees in August of 2016. The Amigos Bravos proposal would seek to protect and restore the headwaters of the Red River, particularly around the Midnight Meadows high country wet meadow.

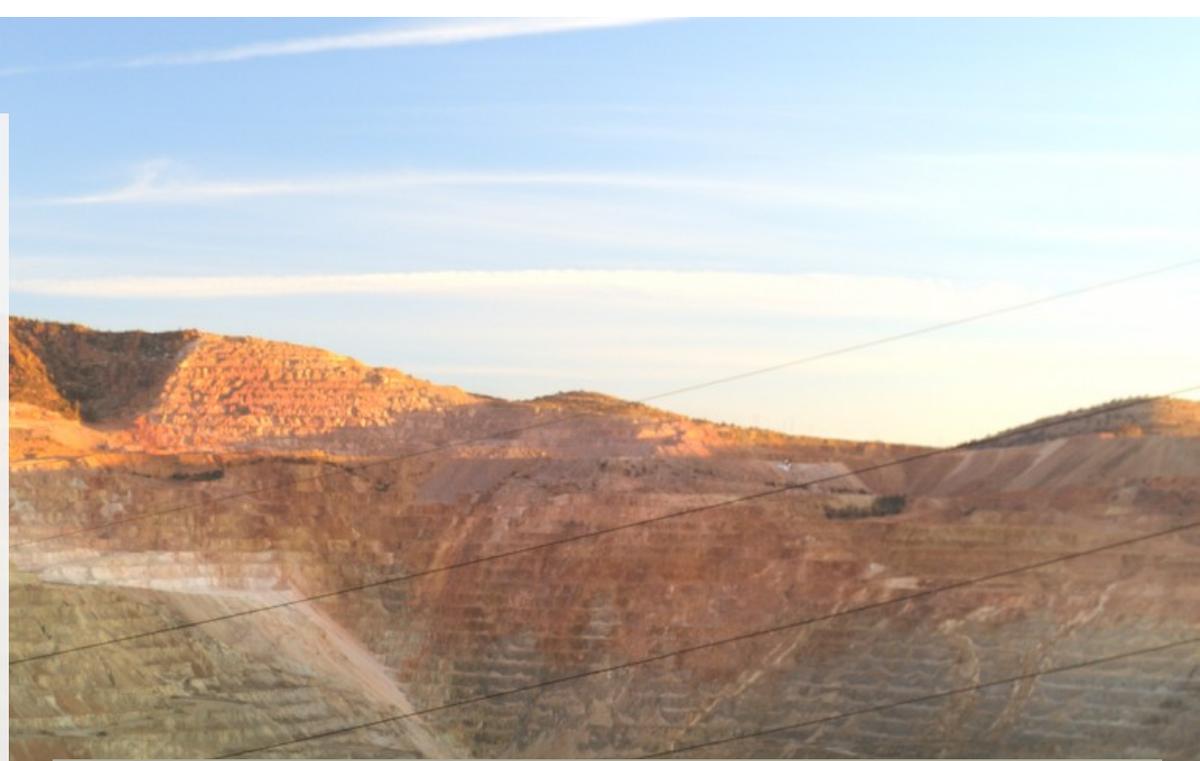
Court Win to Hold Mining Industry Financially Accountable!

In January of 2016, in response to an Amigos Bravos lawsuit, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to stop letting polluters off the financial hook for contamination they caused. The judges directed the EPA to finalize long-awaited “financial assurance” regulations that will first apply to metal (hard rock) mining and other industries. These rules will implement a “polluter pays” principle which ensures that instead of walking away from contaminated sites, as they did at the Gold King Mine, mining companies must cover all of their costs, including the cost of cleaning up their mess.

*Definition of
BRAVO:
a shout of approval*

**B R
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Chino Mine - Santa Rita, NM



*Allyson Siwik,
Executive Director of
the Gila Information Project*

"As partners in the NM Mining Act Network, Amigos Bravos and GRIP have been working together for years to address impacts to communities from hard rock mining. Our efforts have ensured that our land, air and water are protected from mining operations.."

Building a Rivers Movement

Building Community

Despite 96° heat, we had a great time at our inaugural Rally for the Rio event, a member appreciation/expansion event, which was held at Orilla Verde Recreation Area in Pilar. Great food from a variety of vendors, cold craft beer from Eske's, and live music added to the festive atmosphere that attracted members and the general public alike.

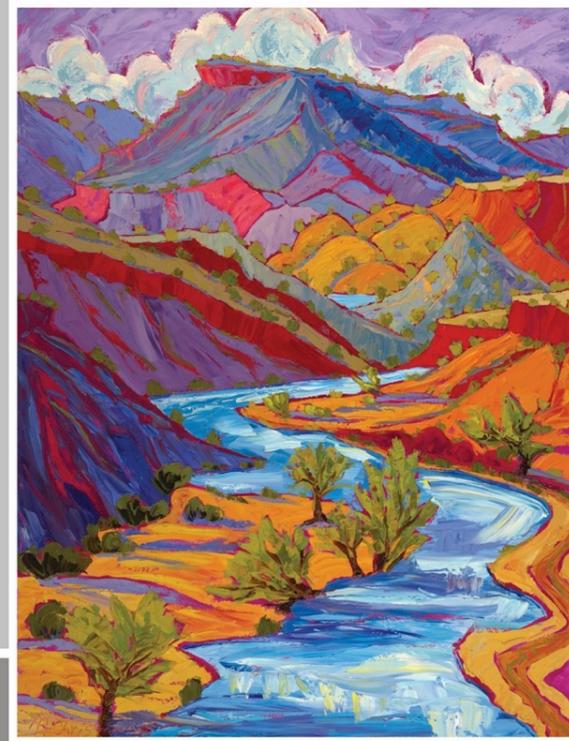
Amigos Bravos members were treated to a leisurely float down the Rio Grande courtesy of our Diamond-level sponsor, Los Rios River Runners. A big, heartfelt 'Thank You!' to Amigos Bravos Board President, Cisco Guevara, who donated the float trips and staff time for this inaugural event to grow our membership. A full list of businesses from the community that rallied to support this event are listed on the following page. Thanks, too, to all the like-minded conservation organizations for tabling in the heat: Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, Taos Field Institute, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, and Western Environmental Law Center!

A big shout out to all of our awesome volunteers, as well: Maya Anthony, Elena Ferdinand, Stephen Fabrey, Kyli Rhoades and Derrick Olinger, Vanessa Moon, Sharron Tavernier, Rob Weiss, Moira O'Hanlon, Nora and Eric Patterson, Gaia Mika, Kristin Ulibarri, Allen Griffith, and Linda Fair.

"My hope and plan is for this to be a fun and exciting event that we can repeat on an annual basis -- an event that members, supporters, and our communities will look forward to and that will generate support and awareness for the mission of Amigos Bravos, says Joseph Zupan, Executive Director of Amigos Bravos.

RALLY FOR THE RIO

June 17, 2017 | Rio Grande del Norte: Pilar, New Mexico



Photography: Susanna Moon Over Building River by Michael Gorman | Photography: Joe O'Donnell | Graphic Design: Alice Crispin Eye & Design



AMIGOS BRAVOS

Because Water Matters



*Definition of BRAVO:
a shout of approval*

**BR
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O!**

Amigos Bravos salutes the business community of Taos County who rallied to support clean water for our community.

We urge you to patronize these businesses to thank them for their participation in the reclamation and preservation of our rivers and wetlands.

Your business can participate, too, by making an investment of as little as \$10.00/month. Call our offices at 575.758.3874 or make a recurring donation at www.amigosbravos.org/donate.

BRAVO! Taos Businesses Who Supported Our Inaugural Rally for the Rio in 2017

A BIG THANK YOU  TO OUR SPONSORS!

Diamond Sponsors 15 | **Gold Sponsor** | **Silver Sponsors** | **Bronze Sponsors**

 LOS RIOS RIVER RUNNERS

 Swirehart CPA, PC

 MAGEE DESIGN
home design + construction

 Albertson's

 Black Mesa Winery

 BLM - Taos

 patagonia

 Cid's

 Copy Queen

 Custom Graphics

 Dimond Mortgage

 Edelweiss Spa & Resort

 PPC SOLAR

 Taos Homes - Diane Enright

 TAOS
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

 Taos Landscaping

 Taos Print

 Walgreens

 Wanderer

 World Cup

 CENTINEL BANK
- TAOS

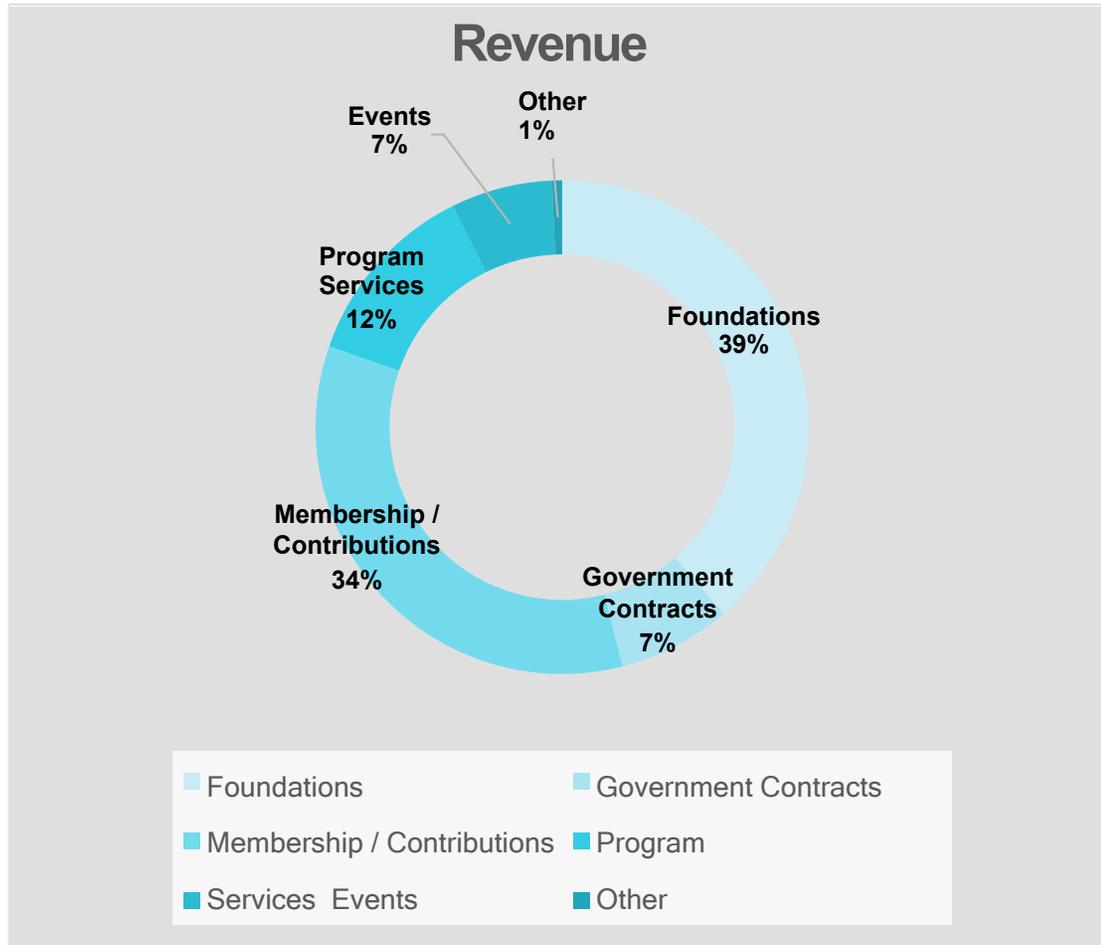
 TAOS MOUNTAIN
OUTFITTERS

 BE CAUSE WATER MATTERS

Financial Report

Fiscal Year 2016

Fiscal Year 2016 (October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016) Amigos Bravos is protecting its long-term financial viability by building its capital reserve fund, implementing a planned giving campaign, and growing endowment funds for Amigos Bravos housed at the New Mexico Community Foundation and the Taos Community Foundation.

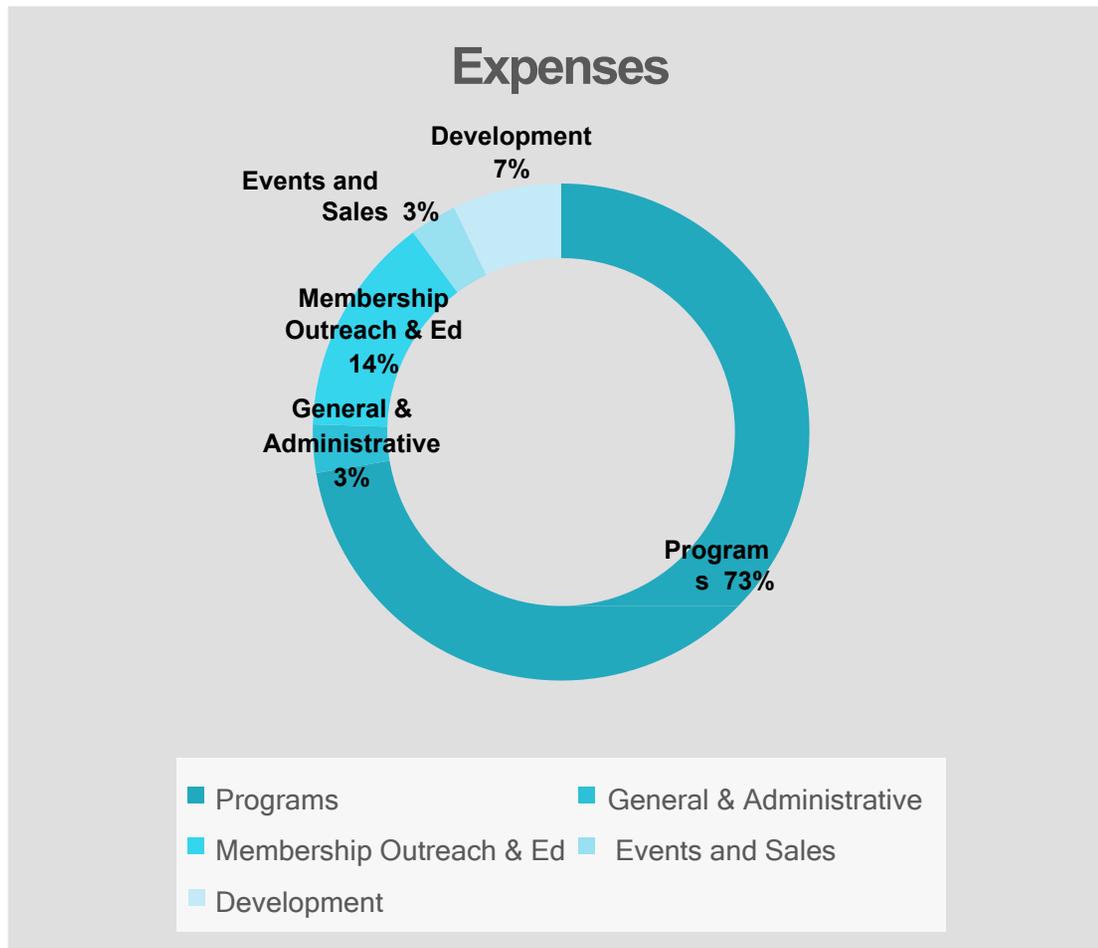


Revenue	
Foundations	177,025
Government Contracts	34,006
Membership / Contributions	156,873
Program Services	56,706
Events	30,483
Other	3,014
Total	458,107

Financial Report

Fiscal Year 2016

Fiscal Year 2016 (October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016) Amigos Bravos ended its fiscal year with an increase in net assets.

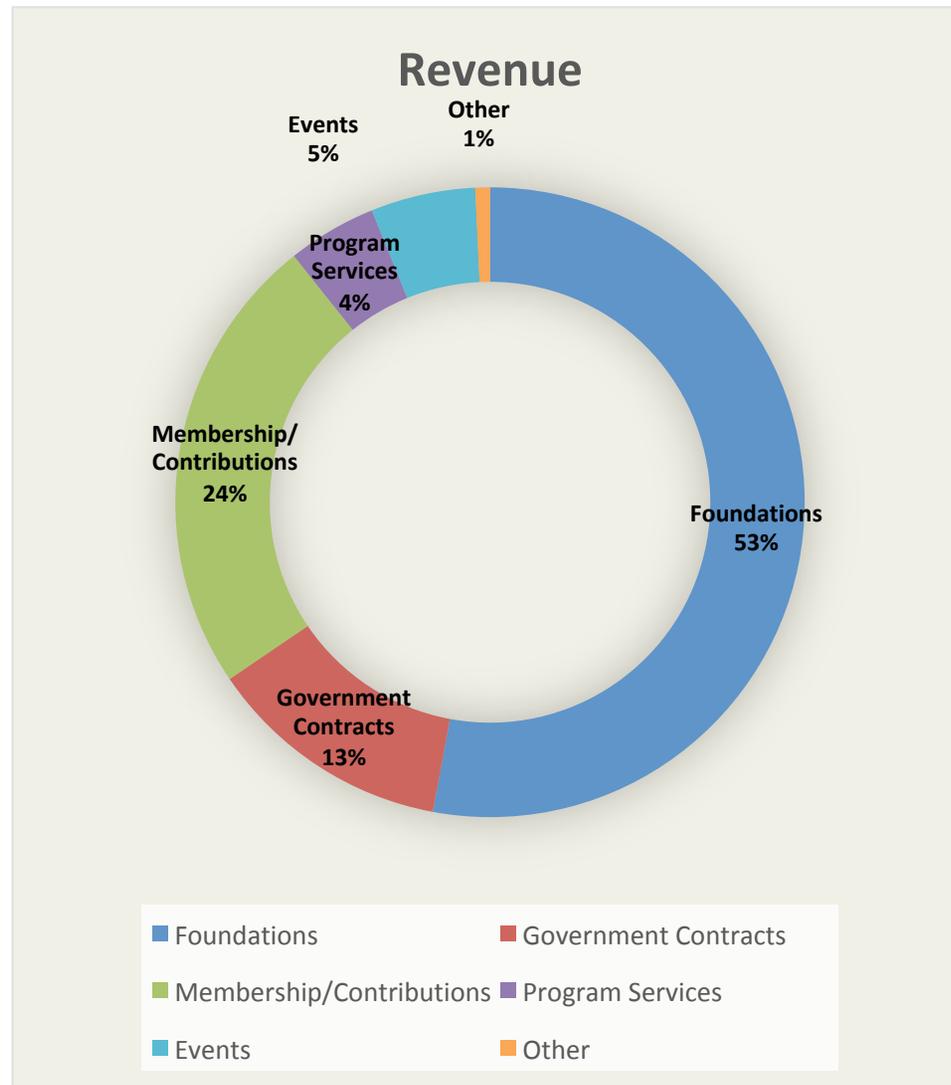


Expenses	
Programs	311,747
General & Administrative	13,464
Membership Outreach & Ed	61,828
Events and Sales	13,255
Development	30,518
Total	430,812
Net Excess or <Deficit>	27,295

Financial Report

Fiscal Year 2017

Fiscal Year 2017 (October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017) Amigos Bravos is protecting its long-term financial viability by building its capital reserve fund, implementing a planned giving campaign, and growing endowment funds for Amigos Bravos housed at the New Mexico Community Foundation and the Taos Community Foundation.

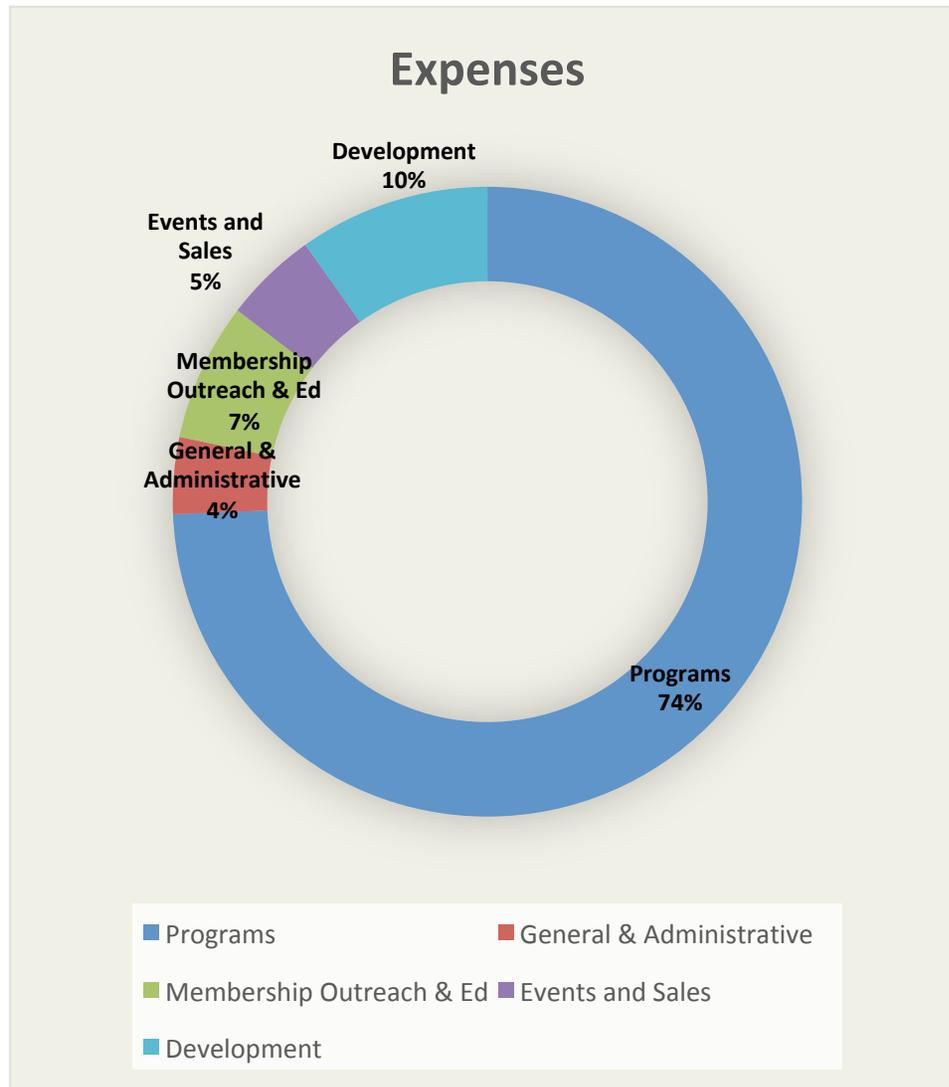


Revenue	
Foundations	241,851
Government Contracts	57,600
Membership / Contributions	108,692
Program Services	20,939
Events	24,583
Other	3,426
Total	457,091

Financial Report

Fiscal Year 2017

Fiscal Year 2017 (October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017) Amigos Bravos ended its fiscal year with a decrease in net assets.



Expenses	
Programs	378,695
General & Administrative	20,042
Membership Outreach & Ed	36,143
Events and Sales	24,377
Development	49,997
Total	509,254
Net Excess or <Deficit>	<52,163>

BRAVO! ! Our Volunteers Care About Water In New Mexico and Continue to Change Lives and Our Landscape

Definition of BRAVO

: a shout of approval

Amigos Bravos is a member- and volunteer-driven organization with 29 years of experience connecting people to the environmental, social, cultural, and spiritual values of our rivers and waters. We deeply appreciate *each and every individual and group*, who in various ways throughout the year, committed to volunteering with us. We simply could not carry out our mission of working to protect and restore the waters of New Mexico without you. Thank you!

BRAVO!



Appreciation



"To look at why Amigos Bravos started, and what has been accomplished, is amazing. Years of devotion to Water. May this mindset be carried well into the future, until there is no need for protection, because we all have respect. Thanks, Amigos Bravos!!!"



**Claire D'Gaia, Taos,
New Mexico**

Thank You!

The board and staff with Amigos Bravos are deeply grateful for the generous support of everyone who helped to strengthen the work of the organization in 2016 and 2017.

Private donations and grants from corporations, community and family foundations and government agencies allows us to carry forward our vision of clean, free-flowing waters and to use our expertise to solve river and water issues.

Thank you for helping protect the waters of New Mexico in the face of overwhelming pressures under a tumultuous political climate.

In 2017, we said goodbye to longtime Amigos Bravos board member, Mary Humphrey and welcomed to board member, Liliana Castillo. You can read more about all of our board members on our website: amigosbravos.org/board

Board of Directors

Francisco "Cisco" Guevara,
President
Peggy Nelson, Vice-
President
Sally Wisely,
Secretary
Jon Klingel,
Treasurer
Michael
Coca
Liliana
Castillo
Nicola Ulibarri

Staff

In Fiscal Years 2016 & 2017, Amigos Bravos experienced the transition of leadership and a new addition to staff. Hire dates are noted below in ().

Joe Zupan, Executive Director (2016)
Rachel Conn, Projects Director (2000)

Shannon Romeling, Projects and
Foundation Coordinator (2013)

Nina Anthony, Donor &
Communications Coordinator (2017)

Call to Action

Amigos Bravos relies on charitable gifts from individuals, families, and foundations to continue our work on water-related issues that affect communities across New Mexico. With your support, together, we can accomplish our goals.

Amigos Bravos is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization, so your gifts are tax deductible as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes.



Ways You Can Help

- ❖ Annual Memberships and General Donations
- ❖ Project-specific Donations
- ❖ Bequests and Planned Giving
- ❖ Capital Reserve Fund
- ❖ Amigos Bravos Friends of the Wild Rivers Fund
- ❖ In-kind Gifts
- ❖ Volunteer Opportunities

Be a part of our work!

Become a member or donate at:

<https://amigosbravos.org/join-donate>

To learn more about our work, please visit our website,

<https://amigosbravos.org>

You can sign up for our electronic newsletter, E-currents by contacting

Membership@amigosbravos.org

