



AMIGOS BRAVOS
2021 ANNUAL REPORT


AMIGOS

BRAVOS
BECAUSE WATER MATTERS

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Our mission

To protect and restore the waters of New Mexico.



Although the COVID-19 pandemic represented continuing challenges for our organization last

year (FY21), nonetheless Amigos Bravos stayed very busy advancing our agenda of protecting and restoring the waters of New Mexico.

Notably last year, we were successful joining several organizations across the country in pushing back against disastrous Federal water policy, which we dubbed the “Dirty Water Rule” developed in the last administration. On June 23, 2020, we filed an appeal of the rule in the District of New Mexico. The New Mexico Acequia Association and Gila Resources Information Project joined us in our appeal. New Mexico Environmental Law Center (NMELC) and Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) represented us in our appeal. **On August 30, 2021, the U.S. District Court of Arizona vacated and remanded the Dirty Water Rule!**

Of course, it’s not enough to simply overturn “bad” policy, we must work to ensure it is replaced with good policy, which is our ongoing challenge.

We were able to continue our work with a number of partners across New Mexico to amplify other efforts into desired outcomes.

From the Executive Director

SOME EXAMPLES OF OUR COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS INCLUDE:

- Continuing our work with our partners in the Communities for Clean Water to address contamination issues in the watersheds around Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Continuing our work with the New Mexico Mining Act Network to address contamination of groundwater and surface water at mine sites
- Collaboration with stakeholders on the Rio Fernando de Taos (Rio Fernando Revitalization Collaborative) to restore this important Taos County watershed to health
- Continuing our partnerships with conservation organizations in the Environmental Alliance of New Mexico (EANM) to advocate for conservation legislation and policy
- Working with a number of organizations to prevent more mining activity at the old Tererro mine near Pecos
- Identifying additional river segments worthy of designation as Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRWs), affording them additional protections

As always, I’d like to express my gratitude to our staff, our Board, and our collaborators and supporters across the state for enabling us to continue our mission to protect and restore the waters of New Mexico, even in a challenging year.
– **For the Rio, Joe Zupan**

PROTECTING WATERSHED HEALTH



PROTECTING THE PECOS

The Pecos Watershed supports a rich tradition of farming, ranching, acequias, and other traditional uses all of which depend on clean water. The Pecos is also a stronghold for New Mexico's imperiled native Rio Grande cutthroat trout and supports a thriving outdoor recreation economy. Thanks in large part to a long history of respect and stewardship among those who call the area home, most of the waters of the Upper Pecos Watershed remain clean and healthy today. Amigos Bravos is working hard to keep it that way!

IN 2021 AMIGOS BRAVOS WORKED CLOSELY WITH LOCAL AND STATEWIDE PARTNERS ON VARIOUS CAMPAIGNS IN THE PECOS WATERSHED.

- Pecos Outstanding Water (ONRW) Campaign: Amigos Bravos worked closely with petitioners San Miguel County, Village of Pecos, Upper Pecos Watershed Association, Molino de la Isla Organics llc., and the New Mexico Acequia Association to nominate the waters of the Upper Pecos Watershed as Outstanding Waters. Outstanding Water protections provide the highest form of water quality protection under the Clean Water Act and state water quality standards. A hearing and a final decision on this nomination is expected in 2022. More information on this work can be viewed at: **OurNMwaters.com**
- America's Most Endangered River Campaign: We worked with local and national partners to highlight the threats to the Pecos River from mining development and were successful in getting the Pecos highlighted nationally as a 2021 Most Endangered River. For more information: **endangeredrivers.americanrivers.org**
- Stop Tererro Mine Campaign: Amigos Bravos provided support to Pecos based efforts to protect the Pecos River from the proposed Tererro Mine development. We brought our history and knowledge about mining regulations and processes to the table and have served as liaison between the Tererro Mine Campaign and our work leading the New Mexico Mining Act Network. For more information about the Tererro Mine work: **stopterromine.org**

Protecting Watershed Health

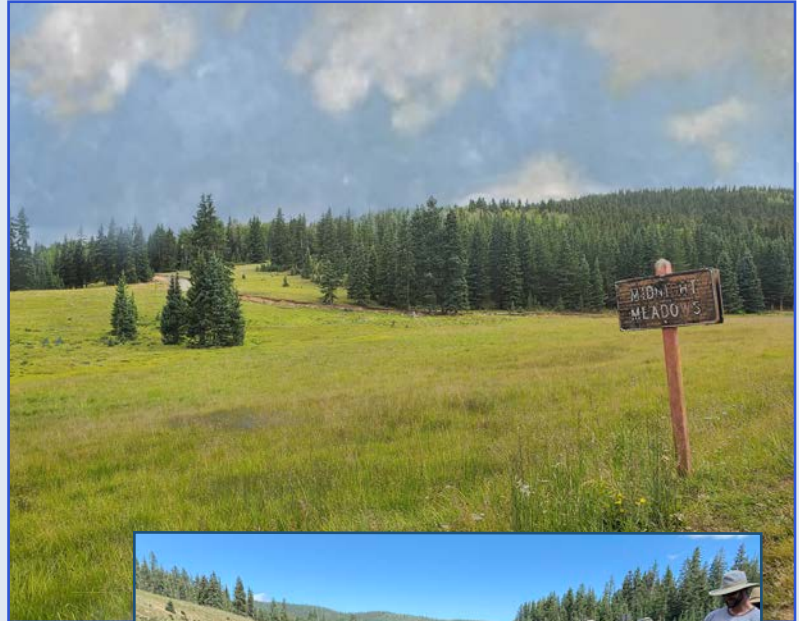
MIDNIGHT MEADOWS & WATERSHED ACTION PLAN

MIDNIGHT MEADOWS

Since 2016, using Department of the Interior Natural Resource Damage Funding, Amigos Bravos has worked with volunteers, the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, U.S. Forest Service personnel, and contracted with a wetland consultant to continue wetland restoration efforts in the Midnight Meadows Wetland Jewel, located in the Red River watershed.

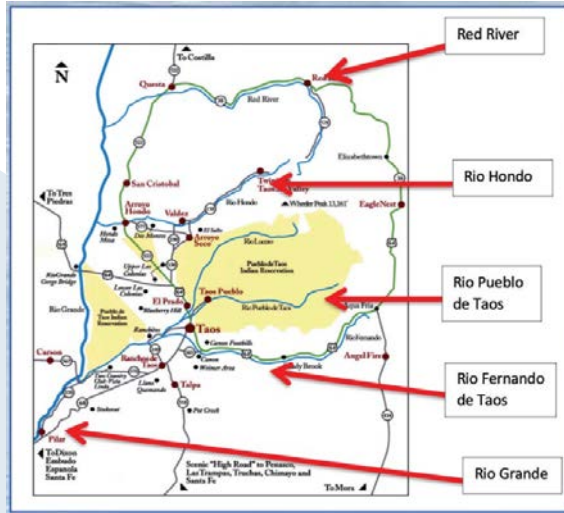
WATERSHED ACTION PLAN

Amigos Bravos has been leading and executing an NMED Wetland Action Plan grant around managing backyard waste along the Rio Fernando de Taos. The funds will provide pet-waste cans and bags along at least 10 sites along the Rio Fernando, and 4 large educational signs addressing waste in the watershed. The project will culminate in two backyard waste management workshops and a backyard waste manual.



In the summer of 2021, along with 40 volunteers, we installed over 30 new erosional control structures in Midnight Meadows. This work will continue into 2022 and result in major wetland revitalization in the area.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING IN TAOS COUNTY



The Rio Fernando de Taos, Rio Pueblo de Taos, the Red River, and the Rio Hondo were analyzed with in-stream water meters and by an EPA-approved lab from 2007-2019. Water quality parameters were sampled in 4-5 sites in each river, three times per year. All data was collected by the Water Sentinels Rios de Taos under approved Quality Assurance Plans. The findings will be published in a **Water Quality Sampling** pamphlet that will be available to the public in early 2022 free of charge. If you would like a free copy mailed to you, please contact SRomeling@amigosbravos.org or membership@amigosbravos.org.

**“WE CAN’T IMPROVE
CONDITIONS UNTIL WE KNOW
WHAT THEY ARE AND HOW
MUCH THEY ARE CHANGING.”**

– **Teresa Seamster**, (right) enthusiastic supporter of Amigos Bravos and longtime Waters Sentinel volunteer, shown here with fellow Water Sentinels volunteer **Nora Patterson**, testing water quality in the Rio Grande.





**HOLDING
POLLUTERS
ACCOUNTABLE**

NEW MEXICO CITIZENS DAIRY COALITION

The New Mexico Citizens Dairy Coalition is actively monitoring and responding to contamination in southern New Mexico Dairies. Amigos Bravos is a core member of the coalition. Of particular concern is the Doña Ana Dairies (DAD) Abatement Plan proposed amendments for mitigation and possible remediation. Members of the Dairy Coalition engage with community stakeholders and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) regarding the proximate community of Anthony, NM's and our concerns about groundwater contamination plume from the Doña Ana Dairies, and the need for plume monitoring and extraction.

Recently, the Dairy Coalition has become interested in monitoring air-quality in real-time to collect local air-data especially in the area of Anthony. Dust from the dairies has a negative impact on the air-water cycle where dust rises and deposits into the watershed affecting the turbidity (water clarity) of surface water, and exacerbates local air pollution. Dust is not only a blight on the local ecosystem, but harmful to the health and well-being of the local community that negatively impacts social health and well being and is a cause for social justice and equity.



BUILDING A WATERS MOVEMENT



Building a Waters Movement

THE MOOD WAS UPBEAT FOR OUR SCALED-BACK IN-PERSON RALLY FOR THE RIO

On just about any given summer day throughout the pandemic, the banks and waters of the Rio Grande became a welcome outdoor respite from the confines of COVID-19 isolation. Families gathered for picnics along the Rio Grande's shady shores; people floated downstream in inner tubes, paddle boards, kayaks; people from all walks of life fly fished, hiked trails along the river's edge or took a cool dip in the Rio's regenerative flow of water.

The Rio Grande has a long history of connecting people with nature and to each other, which is why we chose its shores to host our annual member appreciation event, **Rally for the Rio**. The flagship event of Amigos Bravos, Rally for the Rio, is a hometown celebration of the lifeblood of our state. In

September of 2021, for our 4th annual Rally for the Rio, we returned to being an in-person event—though we scaled it back quite a bit due to COVID-19 social distancing protocols. While following all the latest safety guidelines to keep our attendees safe, we offered our members and welcomed new members and river enthusiasts with free float trips provided by **Los Rios River**

Runners, a free, guided bird watching tour in Orilla Verde Recreation Area of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument led by Amigos Bravos member, **Meg Peterson of the Audubon Society**, a bird photography workshop taught by **Bob Friedrichs in the Pilar Visitor's Center**, with a rare sighting of Great Kiskadee in Taos County (left), and a free fly fishing demo from a **Taos Fly Shop** guide.

It is with great thanks to all the passionate and dedicated river enthusiasts, partners, and supporters that this event continues to be the gem that

is today. Our fingers are crossed that we will be able to return to a larger in-person event in 2022!



Building a Waters Movement

NURTURING FUTURE WATER STEWARDS THROUGH INTERNSHIPS

The internship program at Amigos Bravos provides an opportunity for high school and college students to obtain hands-on experience in water policy, science-based research, and hands-on restoration work.

The spirit of the Amigos Bravos internship program is one of mutual benefit. The intern expects to learn new tasks and acquire new capabilities, and Amigos Bravos expects to receive competent assistance on a viable research project. It is our hope that the experience gained through internships will be invaluable in future career pursuits.

T'ika Vlischarra-Wood (right) interned with Amigos Bravos during the summer of 2021. Born in Taos, T'ika spent a portion of every year in Taos, and was primarily raised and educated in Peru. For her senior project in Water Chemistry from University in Cusco, Peru, she analyzed the data compiled in several years of water quality sampling reports and created graphs that are incorporated in a printed pamphlet, "**Water Quality in Taos County.**" The brochure will be distributed free of charge to anyone interested in reviewing it. It will also be posted on our website along with further data analyzed by T'iKa at, www.amigosbravos.org/water-quality-monitoring.



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

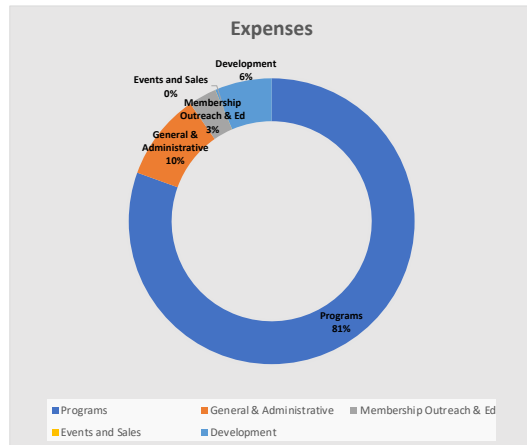
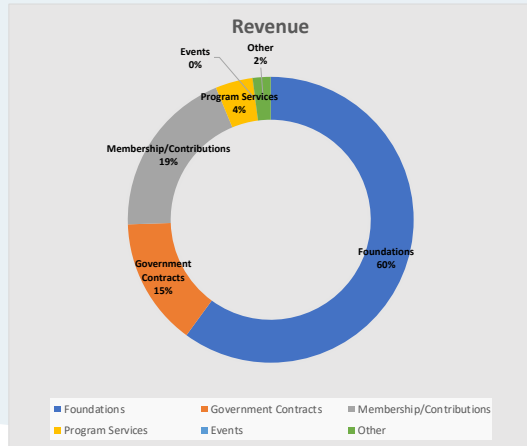
Youth field trips and in-classroom presentations are provided upon request each year. There were lower than normal requests this fiscal year due to Covid-19. We look forward to more youth engagement in FY2022.

Right Photo: Santa Fe River by Nina Anthony

A lush green forest with a stream flowing through it. The water is clear and reflects the surrounding greenery. Large rocks are scattered in the stream, and a fallen log lies on the right bank. The trees are tall and dense, creating a canopy of green leaves. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS
APPRECIATION &
MEMBERSHIP LEVELS**

Financial Report



FISCAL YEAR 2021 (OCTOBER 1, 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2021)

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.....	345,977
Government Contracts.....	45,013
Membership / Contributions*	191,114
Program Services	18,614
Events.....	0
Other	322,029

Total: 922,747

* Additionally, Amigos Bravos received a generous \$3,000,000 gift for a charitable endowment in FY21.

FISCAL YEAR 2021 (OCTOBER 1, 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2021)

Amigos Bravos ended its fiscal year with a modest decrease in net assets.

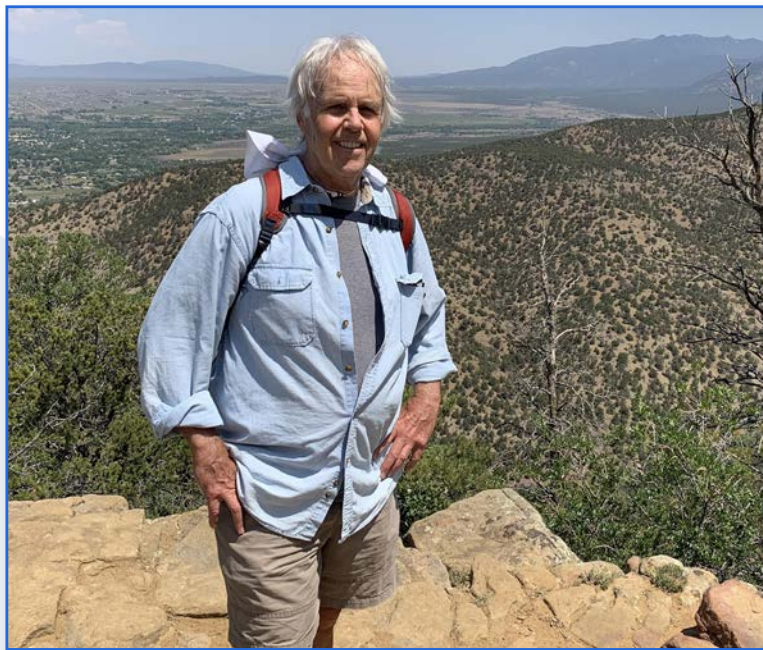
EXPENSES:

Programs.....	464,335
General & Administrative	85,210
Membership Outreach & Ed	60,340
Events and Sales	0
Development	56,796

Total: 666,681

Net Excess or <Deficit> 256,066

Appreciation & Thank you



“Amigos Bravos is truly “a little engine that could.”

“Amigos Bravos is truly “a little engine that could.” It’s a non-profit with a big heart, small profile and outsized results. My yearly donation to Amigos is always my favorite because I know that every dollar I give results in two dollars of performance. In the day of jumbo corporate non-profits with bloated budgets, luxury office buildings, limos and galas, Amigos quietly goes about their business making sure we have better water, safer disposal practices, cleaner air, and preserving our Rio Grande watershed for our children and grandchildren. The little Amigos engine doesn’t brag, wave flags or solicit door-to-door to do this job either. They simply

publish yearly, or more often when they see fit, a list of accomplishments, goals, and projects that proves their tireless commitment to the environment. Read the list, and you’ll know why Amigos Bravos is my favorite check to write. I send it every year on my birthday, so I won’t forget. And it’s the best birthday present I could give myself or to anyone else.”

– **Sam Rychner**, *Amigos Bravos Water Benefactor*

Appreciation & Thank you

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Francisco "Cisco" Guevara, *President*

Peggy Nelson, *Vice President*

Nicola Ulibarri, *Treasurer*

Liliana Castillo, *Secretary*

Gordon "Jock" Jacober

Eleanor Bravo

Jeremy Vesbach

STAFF

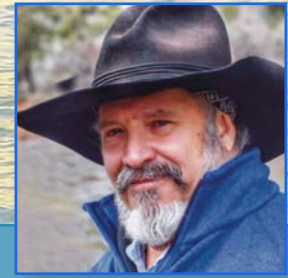
Joseph Zupan, *Executive Director*

Rachel Conn, *Projects Director to Deputy Director*

Shannon Romeling, *Projects + Foundation Coordinator*

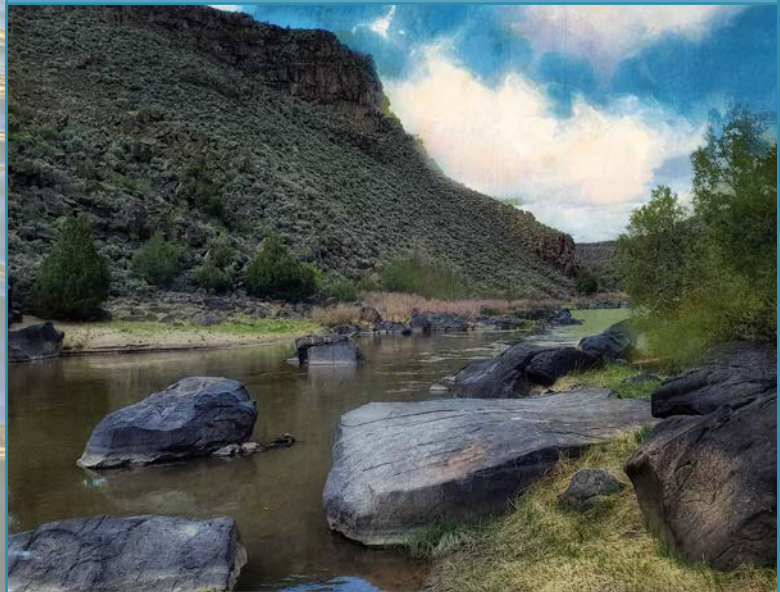
Nina Anthony, *Donor + Communications Coordinator*

Elena Fernandez, *Projects Associate*



SPECIAL THANK YOU!

We would like to extend a special thank you to **Amigos Bravos Board President, Francisco "Cisco" Guevara**. In addition to volunteering for Board service, Cisco donates time, staff, and equipment from his company **Los Rios River Runners** to provide free float trips for our flagship annual event, **Rally for the Rio**. We are so grateful for you, Cisco!



Membership Levels: WE COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU

FRIENDS OF NM WATERS \$1 TO \$99

Dr. Mercedes Agogino
Jerry Sue Bassalleck
Jan Birchfield
Karen Blackmore
Dwarka Bonner
Judith S. Bronner
Gaia Mika and Hank
Brussleback
Mark Bundy
Martha Burk &
Ralph Estes
Karen Cohen &
Robert Templeton
Robert Cooley
Sonya Luz Costanza
Wendy Cox
Charles C. Crooks
Jenna Dailey
Cindy Rea Daniell
Debbie & Dennis Devine
Christine & Paul Drumright
Mike Eisenfeld
Naomi Engelman

Elena Fernandez
Kristina G. Fisher
Albuquerque Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of
Friends
Arifa B. Goodman
Mary Gray McGee
James E. Hammerberg
Harriett & Wendell Harris
Martha E. Heard
Barbara Hill
Jennifer & James Stoner
Nancy Johnson & Kim Buehre
Lou Malchie & Kay Weiner
Brian Kitts
Marlene & Jon Klingel
Kathleen Knoth
Jennifer C. Kruger
Ken Kuhne
Robert Lawrence
Judith Lockwood
Ron & Ellen Loehman
Alston C. Lundgren
Susan E. McIntosh
Ellen & Roger Miller
Bill Murray
Jean Muste

Network for Good
Deborah Newberg
Patrick & Andrea Nicholson
Alice Pasqualetti
Kendra, Daniel, Sarah, Allison,
Noelle Peralta
Kerri Plumbo
Daniel Pritchard
Rebecca Kay Quintana
Jason Railsback
Rita Rice
Joe Riddell
Alan Rogers
Vicente J. Romero
Charles De Saillan
Jo Ann & Fen Sartorius
William J. Scott
Joan & Lawrence Shandler,
M.D.
Pam Shepherd
Lawrence Smith
Marc Steinberg
Jean Stevens
Jeffrey W. Sussmann
Jane Swift
David C. Thompson
Molly Magnuson &
Curtis Thomson

Membership Levels: WE COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU

Iris Thornton
Jeff Toomey
Valery Varble
Holly Wright
Mara Christine Yarbrough
Caryle & William Zorumski

WATER ADVOCATES \$100 TO \$249

JJ Aaron
Nina Anthony
Dara B. Arons
Janice J. Arrott
Mary Bacchus
Sally N. Bachofer
Robert Barnaby
Pelle & Lauren Bjorkman
Tara Bloyd
Martha Worthington &
Hamilton Brown
William T. Burgin
A. Janine Burke

Andrea Frost &
Joseph Caldwell
Frankie Chamberlain
Polly Raye &
William Christmas
Lori & Robert Crouch
Melissa Haye-Cserhat &
Alex Cserhat
John Clary Davies
Dale Marie Doremus
Julie & James Drennan, M.D.
Jane & Roy Dunlap
Fred C. Durham
Christoph Engle
James C. Faris
Meryl Fateman
Peter C. French
Peter & Lyn Hagen
Karin Bergh Hall
Claire Haye
Larky Hodges
Chrys & Susan Jaschke
Kristen Johnson
Lydia Johnston
Mark & Susan Kalin
Ken Gallard Photographics
Randall LaGro

Jane Lear-Myers
Leroy & Shelby Leonard
Cliff Loucks
Linda & Arthur Lynch
Monica Maes
John Bard Manulis
& Liz Heller
Nancy Lee Marquis
Pauline Marx
Scott McCloy
Carrie & Stephen Miller
James P. Morgan
Anne Sigler &
George Muedeking
Brian & Sharon Mulrey
Richard B. Neuman
Betsy S. Nichols
Audrey K. & David A. Northrop
Susan & James Oberlander
Mary Humphrey &
Connie Ode
Rev. Robert A. Patterson
David & Therese Patton
Margaret M. Page &
J. Michael Pearce
Jeannie Pearle
Yvonne Pesquera

Membership Levels: WE COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU

Meg & Bruce Peterson
Robert Reinke
Linda L. Restifo
Richard & Jane Padberg
Jean Pearson Richards
Sheryl Roller & David Armijo
Jessica Schwarzenbach
Pamela Shepherd
Dudley Maurita Slade
Dolores Spontak
Unitarian Congregation
of Taos
Daniel L. Veirs
Susan Verkamp
Carol E. Weaver
Dorothy Wells & Gary Grief
Verner S. Westerberg
Peter Thomas White
Terrell A. White
Marcus Whitson

WATER STEWARDS \$250 TO \$499

Daniel R. Abramson
Anne & Thomas Blog
Bolene Charitable Trust
Rose & Robert Chappell
Kathy A. Claunch
Robert Corroon, Jr.
Jan Cross & Jai Saul Cross
Les & Eudice Daly
Brent Alan Faulkner
Elizabeth Greenlee
Steve Harris
Marilyn Holtz
Tracy Hughes
Susan N. Lanier
Elizabeth & Harry Linneman
Don McPheron
Virginia Mudd & Clifford Burke
Megan, Andy, Bernice &
Olin O'Reilly
Marie & Roger Peterson
Kip Price
Ramon & Betsy Sanchez

Carol Raymond
Donald Romig
Diana Rushing & Lewis M.
Rosenthal
Lili Rusing
S&P Global Foundation
Laura Sanchez & Del Alex
David Schwentker
Clare Castiglia &
Lawrence Shore
Robert Strell
Daniel Veirs
World Cup, Inc.
Emelie Olson & Glenn Yocum
Helen Zagona

WATER GUARDIANS \$500 TO \$999

Betty & Cid Backer
Katherine Bartter
Sandy Buffett
Laurie Mitchell Dunn
Reed Family Foundation

Membership Levels: WE COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU

Jana D. Gunnell
Don & Pat Jochem
James Kinney
Joan O'Connell &
Stephen Lecuyer
Greg Lower
Caitlin McHugh
The Mumford Family Foundation
Richard Sayre
Shannon & John Poynter
Barbara McAneny M.D. &
Steven Kanig, M.D.
Dorothy Gail Wells
Michael & Julie Zimmer

WATER ANGELS \$1,000 TO \$2,499

Anya & Henry Bagley Fund
Jay Barasch
Shelly Catterson
Linda Fair
Martha & Christopher Flanders
Mi-Lai & Kerry Heubeck

Deborah & Jonathan Hutchison
Richard Kuhn
Alex Kurtz
Nancy Levit Rev Trust –
NM Dyke Dollars
Lines/Rimbeaux Charitable
Fund
James Ludden
Judy Macfarlane
Sayan Mukherjee
Peggy Nelson
Nora & Eric Patterson
Bonnie Payne & Roger Tobin
R. Ruth Foundation
Barbara Zaring & Stephen Rose
Mary Anne & Al Sanborn
Scudder Family Foundation, Inc.
Victoria L. Seale
Sulica Fund
Taos Community Foundation,
Inc.
Kristin & Ross Ulibarrí

WATER BENEFACTORS \$2,500 TO \$4,999

Sheila & Michael Hannah
Donald Hurst
Alasdair Lindsay
Charlotte & Bruce McArthur
Foundation
Bette Myerson
Paul & Virginia Cabot
Charitable Trust
Santa Fe Community
Foundation
John Wood

WATER SPIRITS \$5,000 TO \$9,999

Albuquerque Community
Foundation
Annette McClure
Anonymous Donors

Membership Levels: WE COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU

Northern Rio Grande National
Heritage Area Inc.
Grand Rapids Community
Foundation
Georganna Robinett &
Dirk Murchison
New Mexico Community
Foundation
Sam (Hugh) Rychener
SB Foundation
Schwab Charitable (Anonymous
donor advised)
Lenita & Henk Van Der Werff
Vapour Beauty

WATER KEEPERS \$10,000 TO \$49,000

Jonathan & Kathleen Altman
Foundation
Lineberry Foundation
Ronald E. Rinker Charitable c/o
Jay Geiger
Andrea M. Rosen



“Amigos Bravos has been protecting our waters for more than three decades. They are our local water defenders who have earned statewide respect and clout. We’ve been enthusiastic supporters since the beginning!”

– *Ross and Kristen Ulibarri,*
Amigos Bravos Water Benefactors

Membership Levels: WE COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU

WATER VISIONAIRES \$50,000+


Water Foundation
Estate of Wes Patterson



*Amigos Bravos was deeply saddened by the passing of our friend and long-time donor, **Wes Patterson**, in the summer of 2020. We would like to extend our condolences to Wes' widow, **Stacy Patterson**, and thank both Wes and Stacy for endowing Amigos Bravos with a generous bequest.*

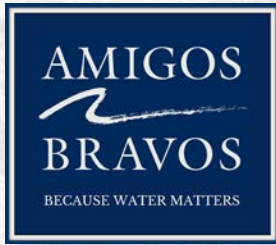


(Far Right) River Photo: Nina Anthony



“If there is
magic on
this planet it
is contained
in water.”

— Loren Eiseley



Together, we can protect the sacred waters on which all life depends.

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. To learn more about work and to become a part of it, please visit our website, www.amigosbravos.org.

Donations can be made online at <https://www.amigosbravos.org/donate> or mailed to:

Amigos Bravos, Inc.
P.O. Box 238
Taos, NM 87564

Please feel free to stop by our offices if you have questions about our work and/or would like to learn about ways you can help support it. We're located at 114 Des Georges Place in the historic district of Taos, New Mexico.

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