



AMIGOS BRAVOS 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2024 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

AMIGOS

BRAVOS

From the Executive Director

The staff and board of Amigos Bravos have been very busy again this past fiscal year. The organization has been laser-focused on both existing threats to New Mexico's watersheds, and emerging new threats.

On the existing threats front, we were successful in the 2025 legislative session to persuade the New Mexico legislature to enact legislation for the state to create a state surface water permitting program. Given the vagaries and lack of commitment on the part of the federal administration, we viewed this step as a "must do," since adverse rulings from the US Supreme Court and a federal administration with no commitment to conservation meant that New Mexico was losing federal water quality protections on up to 96% of our waters. We expect the rulemaking process to commence in the summer of 2026.

Another existing threat is from the oil & gas industry, with collaborators within the state administration, to legalize the use of "produced water," i.e. oilfield wastewater, to discharge into our rivers and streams and irrigate our crops. Ostensibly, the O&G lobby says the water will be "treated," without specifying how, with what constituents, and to what standards. Given that the industry doesn't wish to disclose the contaminants in fracking fluid and other oilfield waste streams since they are "trade secrets," we have been pushing back hard in multiple sessions of the Water Quality Control Commission. The political difficulty is compounded because many believe that "produced water" is an exciting new source of water in New Mexico. Amigos Bravos will do all we can to hold the line against this ill-conceived scheme until the water is demonstrably fit for use and not harmful to our communities and environment.

On the subject of emerging threats, the hot topic that emerged in FY25 is the subject of data centers, for example the enormous "Project Jupiter" data center proposed near Las Cruces. The scale of these constructions is breathtaking, as well as their consumption of water and energy, which is equivalent to the usage of New Mexico's largest cities.

In addition to all these struggles on water policy, Amigos Bravos continues to monitor and improve the health of our watersheds with on-the-ground work. Wetland restoration, beaver and other wildlife cohabitation work, and water quality sampling in rivers and streams across the state continue to be in our portfolio of work. Behind the scenes, we plan to add to our capabilities with more staff and infrastructure.

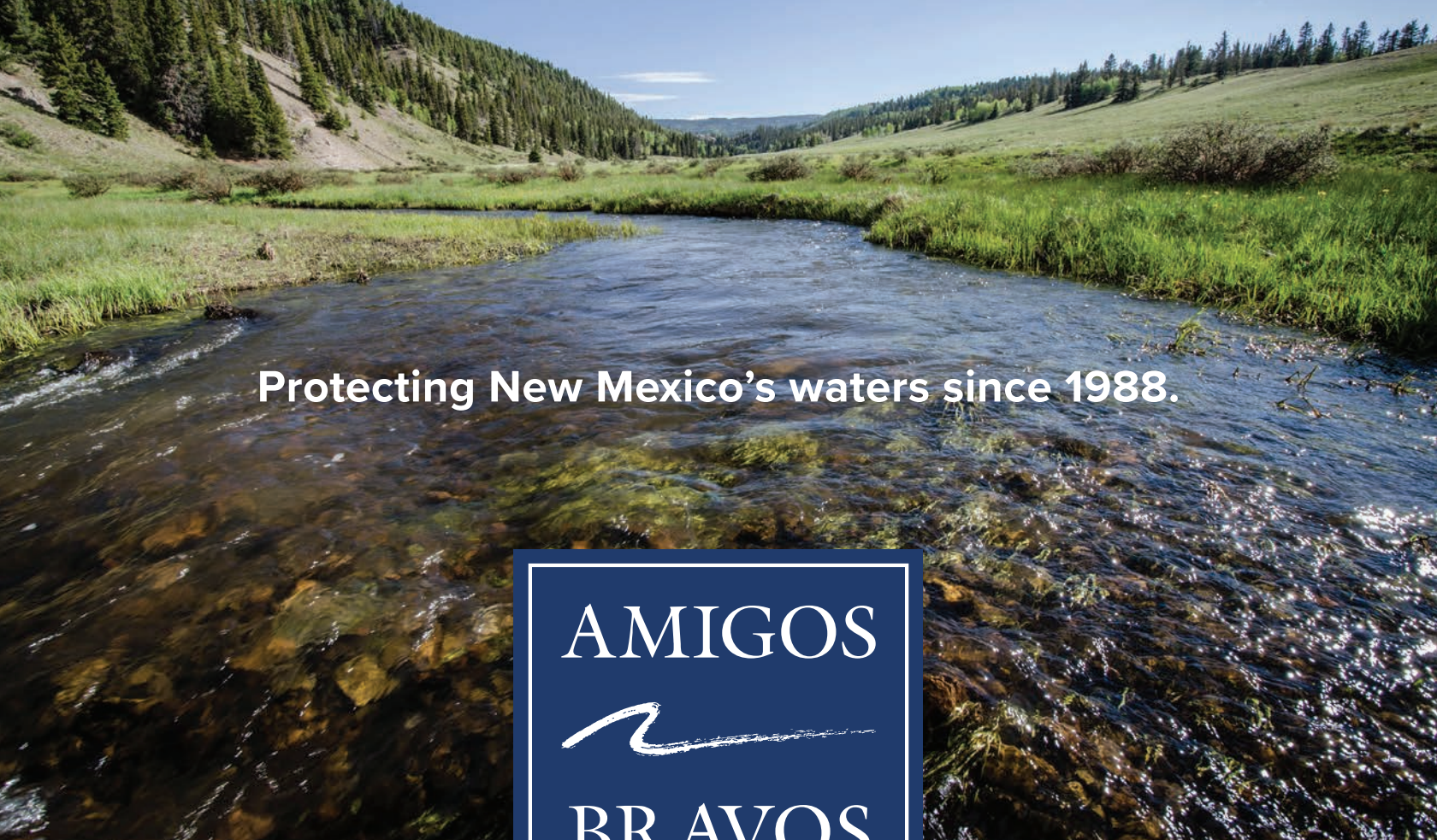
We will continue to work on these challenges and opportunities - we all feel fortunate to work for an organization that is making a difference!

For the Rio,



Joe Zupan
Executive Director





Protecting New Mexico's waters since 1988.

AMIGOS



BRAVOS

BECAUSE WATER MATTERS

Amigos Bravos protects and restores New Mexico's waters, partnering with communities to ensure clean, healthy rivers sustain ecosystems, cultures, and future generations through restoring watershed health, holding polluters accountable, and building a waters movement.

PROJECTS INCLUDE:

River Otter Reintroduction
Native Species Protection
Water Policy Advocacy
Mining Reform
Water Quality Monitoring

Beaver Restoration
Youth Leadership
Watershed Restoration
Wetland Jewels
Technical Assistance

RESTORING WATERSHED HEALTH

Photo by Western Resource Advocates

AMIGOS BRAVOS BELIEVES THAT RESTORING WATERSHED HEALTH HELPS PRESERVE THE ECOSYSTEM AND PROVIDE NECESSARY BALANCE.

This past year, we achieved some big wins, or ¡BRAVOS!, in progressing our efforts to restore watershed health.

Water Policy | Surface Water Permitting - Passed SB 21:

In March 2025, after decades of advocacy by Amigos Bravos, New Mexico passed SB 21, a New Mexico State law that provides critical protections for New Mexico waters. Following rollbacks to federal clean water protections in recent years, up to 96% of New Mexico's streams and up to 88% of New Mexico's wetlands have lost protection once provided under the Clean Water Act. SB 21 ensures federal clean water protections that had existed in New Mexico for 50 years are continued at the state level. In addition, it provides authority for the state to take over permitting from the federal government for the waters still federally protected, streamlining the process and bringing oversight into the hands of New Mexicans

Water Policy | Outstanding Waters Victory:

In December 2024, the Water Quality Control Commission designated 250 miles of additional New Mexico streams as Outstanding National Resource Waters. The newly designated streams were identified as being important Trout waters. Amigos Bravos and Trout Unlimited, represented by Western Environmental Law Center (WELC), were parties in the proceeding. We generated over 1,500 public comments in support of the designation. With this new designation, we

now have 1,729 miles of streams, 8,300 acres of wetlands and over 30 lakes protected as ONRWs in New Mexico! Amigos Bravos has been either a petitioner, party, or technical witness in support for all 6 nominations, including being the petitioner for the first ONRW back in 2001.

On-the-Ground Restoration | Cruces Basin

Wilderness Clearances: Amigos Bravos, working in close partnership with the Forest Service, has received the approval to begin restoration in a Wilderness Area. This is the first time an approval like this has been given for work in the Cruces Basin Wilderness. Wetland restoration will launch in summer 2027.

On-the-Ground Restoration | Trout Creek

Wetland Restoration: Amigos Bravos, funded through the NMED River Stewardship Program, is in the middle of completing our first Wetland Jewel restoration project in the Gila watershed. Trout Creek Wetland Jewel is a high-elevation headwater stream and wet meadow system. Wet meadows and small headwater wetlands can be especially vulnerable to channel incision, grazing pressure, altered hydrology, and post fire erosion. We are currently focused on finalizing clearances and project designs for the implementation work that will begin restoring wetland health in fall 2026.

HOLDING POLLUTERS ACCOUNTABLE



Holding Polluters Accountable

WE CONTINUE TO WORK TO HOLD POLLUTERS ACCOUNTABLE AND KEEP OUR WATERS CLEAN.

Water Policy | Produced Water:

In 2025 we again were able to stop the oil and gas industry from dumping (discharging) their toxic wastewater (so-called "produced water," both treated and untreated) into our streams and rivers and onto crops. Amigos Bravos staff intervened with technical testimony in the Water Quality Control Commission hearing that created a rule banning the discharge of produced water for the next five years, as science and treatment technologies develop. The current rule also does not allow for industrial-scale use, such as data centers, of "produced water". It does allow for large scale pilot projects in order for continued scientific evaluation of treatment technologies. Likewise, in the 2025 legislative session, we were able to successfully advocate for removal of produced water from the Strategic Water Supply, preventing the state from using New Mexicans' money to subsidize the treatment of the oil and gas industry's wastewater.

Mining | New Mexico Mining Watch: We re-launched the New Mexico Mining Watch (NMMW) under the strategic guidance of elders who have been fighting mining contamination for decades, and the coalition watchdogging five new uranium permit applications, thousands of acres of copper exploration, and also monitoring several major remediation projects. NMMW also succeeded in getting Attorney General Raul Torres to sign on to multi-state guidance put forward by 14 Attorneys General affirming the continued legality and necessity of the principles of Environmental Justice, as well as a multi-state lawsuit against the Trump administration opposing its Executive Order on Energy Emergency, which attempts to speed up extraction of all kinds.

Watershed Cleanup | Taos County Cleanup

Efforts: Amigos Bravos and Taos County Solid Waste hosted a series of Rivers and Lands Stewardship cleanups through several clean up events across Taos County. These cleanups are in partnership with the New Mexico Tourism Department's Clean and Beautiful Program, the Breaking Bad Habits Campaign, and the Keep Litter out of my Neighborhood campaigns. The amount of trash and illegally dumped items collected contributed to the total state amount of over 10 million pounds of trash removed in 2025.

Los Alamos National Laboratory | LANL

Stormwater Victory: On December 9, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final designation decision that stormwater discharges from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and Los Alamos County are contributing to violations of water quality standards and that these discharges require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit under the federal Clean Water Act. The exceedances for some pollutants are tens of thousands of times greater than water quality standards. This action comes as a result of 10 years of advocacy and legal challenges brought by Amigos Bravos, represented by Western Environmental Law Center, to force the agency to address extremely high urban stormwater pollution in Los Alamos County. After almost a decade of advocacy we are pleased that EPA has responded to our petition and determined that toxic storm water discharges to tributaries to the Rio Grande on the Pajarito Plateau must be more strictly regulated.

Holding Polluters Accountable

Technical Assistance

Amigos Bravos receives multiple requests for technical assistance per year. In 2025, Amigos Bravos responded to several different requests for technical assistance ranging from illegal dumping issues to toxic pollutant and PFAS ground water contamination. Requests for technical assistance came from community members, state and local regulatory agencies, and national environmental science and engineering firms. Despite limited capacity, Amigos Bravos worked to build and maintain public trust, elevated community concerns, and helped develop public PFAS education materials.

PFAS In La Cieneguilla

As the Community of La Cieneguilla continues to experience highly toxic types and levels of PFAS in their groundwater and in their drinking water wells, Amigos Bravos continues to provide support through technical assistance and community liaison support. In 2025, Amigos Bravos provided support to the community through continued collaboration with the New Mexico Environment Department and the New Mexico Department of Health for drinking water filtration and championed community-wide PFAS blood sampling. Amigos Bravos also collaborated with two national science and engineering firms. Those firms contracted with both Santa Fe County and the Community of La Cieneguilla to sample, test, and work toward final determination of the PFAS plume source.

This is an ongoing project with multiple phases to find clean water resources and access to clean water for the community.





BUILDING A WATERS MOVEMENT



AMIGOS BRAVOS OFFERS PROJECT-FOCUSED INTERNSHIPS THAT PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE AND PATHWAYS TO CAREERS IN WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY.

Peyton Frady served at the Amigos Bravos Field and Watershed Outreach Intern in the summer of 2025. Peyton conducted a detail plan survey of a wetland restoration site on the Rio Fernando in the La Jara wetlands. The internship provided hands-on experience with ecological restoration and plant conservation. Peyton learned how to identify native and invasive species, conduct field surveys, and analyze biodiversity using tools like the Shannon-Wiener Index and density matrices. She gained a better understanding of the challenges that come with restoring disturbed land, especially the importance of managing invasive species early, choosing the right native plants for replanting, and working with natural processes like succession and water flow. Peyton was a pleasure to work with and we wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.



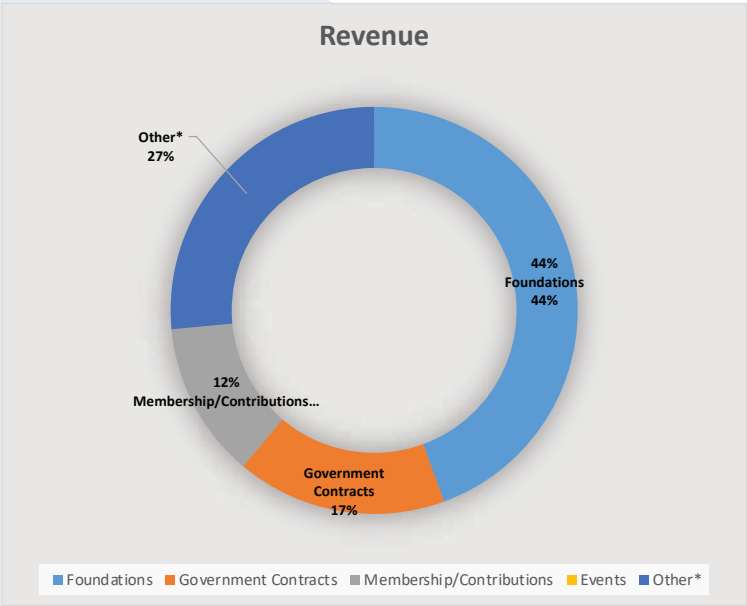
FISCAL YEAR 2025 (OCTOBER 1, 2024
TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2025)

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 Foundation and Taos Community Foundation.

REVENUE:

Foundations.....	880,806
Government Contracts.....	331,228
Membership / Contributions	245,740
Program Services	139,008
Other*	525,117
Total:	1,982,891

*Investment returns, etc.

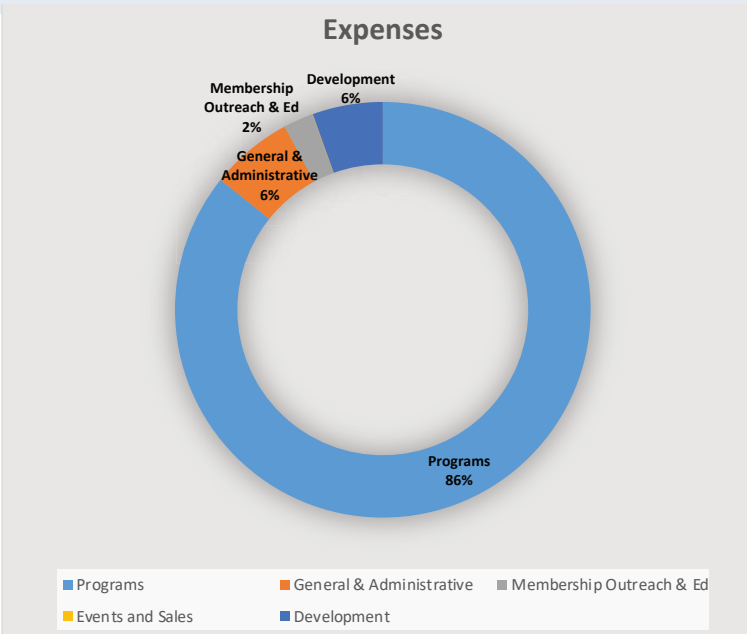


FISCAL YEAR 2025 (OCTOBER 1, 2024
TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2025)

EXPENSES:

Programs.....	1,303,529
General & Administrative	97,627
Membership Outreach & Ed	36,007
Development	83,062
Total:	1,520,225

Net Excess or <Deficit> 462,666



Amigos Bravos Staff

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Francisco "Cisco" Guevara, *President*

Peggy Nelson, *Vice President*

Nicola Ulibarri, *Treasurer*

Liliana Castillo, *Secretary*

Maria Nájera

Dan Roper

Chris Smith



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Joseph Zupan, *Executive Director*

Rachel Conn, *Deputy Director*

Shannon Romeling, *Projects and
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Elena Fernandez, *Projects Specialist*

Talavi Cook, *Project Associate*

Sarah Knopp, *Policy Specialist*

Steven Fry, *Restoration & Policy Specialist*

Nina Anthony, *Membership and Communications
Manager*

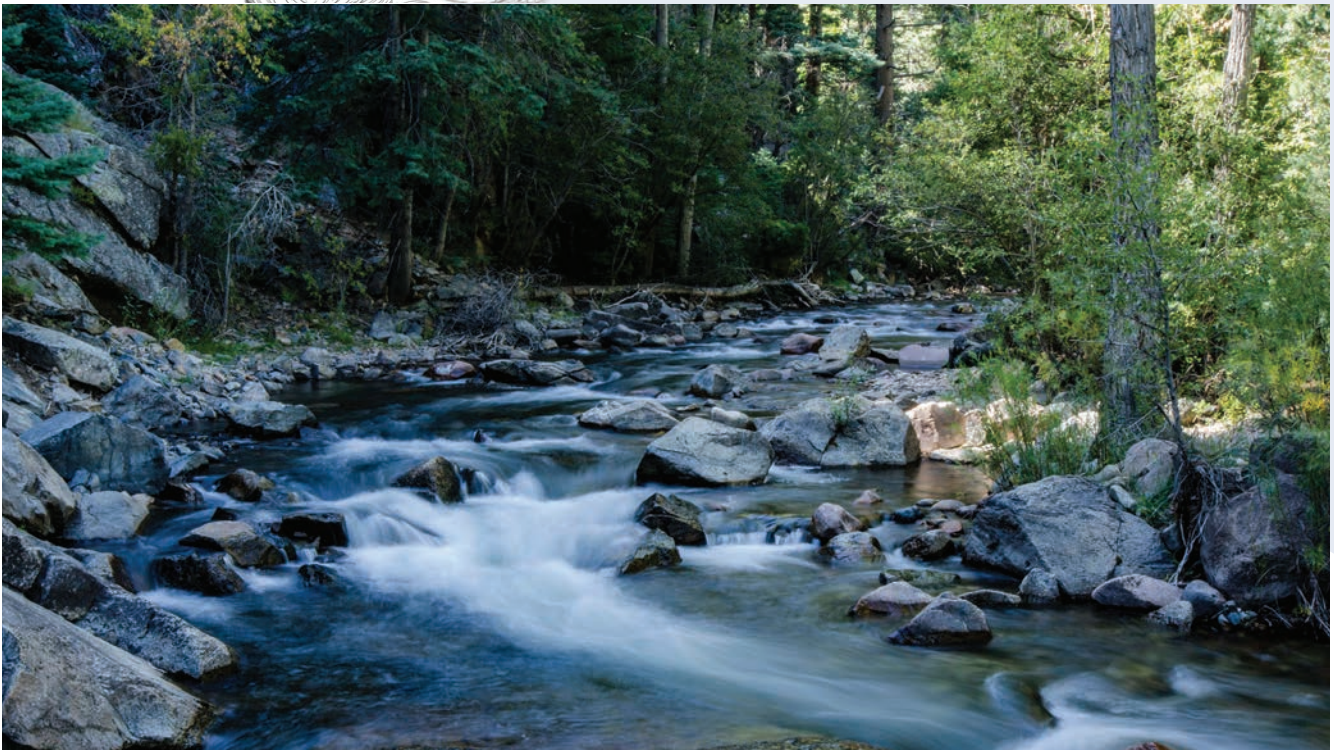


Photo Credit Jim O'Donnell. Otter illustration: MD-Rakib

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Your support gives us the resources we need to stand up for clean water. That includes the flexibility to respond quickly to emerging threats, advance critical restoration projects, and continue defending the waters that New Mexico communities, wildlife, and future generations depend on. Thank you for joining the fight.

Membership Levels: WE COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU.

FRIENDS OF NM WATERS \$1 TO \$99

Dr. Mercedes Agogino
Swami Eric Albrecht
J. Amber Archer
Kenny Ausubel
Rose and Daniel Bauhs
Morrell Bean
Joe Becker
Alana Benjamin
Jean L. Bergeron and
Maureen Robins
Dwarka Bonner
Kathleen Burg
Timothy Burke
Nell Burrus
Andrea Castellanos
Orion Cervio
Dino Chavarria
Sonya Luz Costanza
Alan Covich
Neil Cozzens
Nancy and Steve Crochet
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Christine and Paul Drumright
Jane and Roy Dunlap
Ann Ellen
Kristina and Phil Fisher
Michael T. Flood

N. Paige Gerling and C.
Mahlon Murphy
Keith A. Grover
Meg Hachmann and William
Hutchinson
Harriett Harris
Gerilyn Gess Healey
Barbara Hill
Penny and Javier Holland
John Johnson
Ella and Richard Jones
Dylan Kenin
Marlene and Jon Klingel
Bette Korber
Jennifer C. Kruger
Lucy R. Lippard
Susan E. McIntosh
Sybil Merriman
Deborah Newberg
Charlotte Patrick
Jeannie Pearle
Judy and Randal Pierce
Ann and Mark Robertson
Steven Robinson
Dr. Julia Sankey
Joann and Fen Sartorius
Mary E. Schruben
Christina Selby
Joan and Lawrence Shandler
Holland W. Shepherd
Neil R. Shortlidge
Samuel Sloan
Squash Blossom Farm
Jean Stevens

Marilynn Szydlowski
David C. Thompson
Terry Timme
Jeff Toomey
Corey Tucker
Steve Verchinski
Katherine White
Peter Thomas White
Katherine Winslow-Pond
Teresa Workman and Karl
Beach

WATER ADVOCATES \$100 TO \$249

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Sharon and Robert Barton
Jerry Sue Bassalleck
Judith Bell
Mary Pat Bleesz
Catherine Boyle and Patricia
Heinen
Robert Burke
Mary Jo Carey
ClaireWorks Gallery
Kathy A. Claunch
Karen Cohen and Robert
Templeton
Brian Colon
Sally Corning and Edison
Buchanan
Courage Works
Wendy Cox

Membership Levels: WE COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU.

Jennie and Michael Crews
Lori and Robert Crouch
Charles de Saillan
Ms. Charly E. Drobeck
Kat Duff and Kathleen
Brennan
Karl Eschenbach
James C. Faris
Reta and Robert Fitch
Kay and John Foster
Peter C. French
Robin J. Gaupp
Steven Glass
Karin Bergh Hall
Rachel Hands
Melissa Haye-Cserhat and
Alex Cserhat
Dr. David S Henkel
Kerry and Mi-Lai Heubeck
John C. Horning
Tracy Hughes
Hummingbird Intermediate
Fund
Nancy Johnson and Kim
Buehre
Lydia Johnston
Dr. Laurance Johnston
Ken Gallard Photographics
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Bishop
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Johnnye Lewis and Verner
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Sally Mayer
Carrie and Robert Miller
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Kinesiology, LLC
Richard B. Neuman
Katherine Nydes
Moirra O'Hanlon
Susan and James
Oberlander
Rebecca Okun
Jane and Richard Padberg
Rev. Robert, Anne and
Michael Patterson
Margaret and Michael
Pearce
Pecos River Open Space
Teresa Pisaño
Barbara and Carl Popp
Melanie and Edward Ranney
Linda and Jack Ranweiler
Red River Brewing Company
Lori Remedio-Loges and
John G. Loges
Barbara A. Riedl
Becky Roh and Andrew
Leonard
Diana Rushing and Lewis M.
Rosenthal
Laura Sanchez and Del Alex
Jessica Schwarzenbach
Dudley and William Slade

Dolores Spontak
Joan and Donald Stehr
Rob Strell
Gwen and Michael Tennison
Julianne and James Turner
Unitarian Congregation of
Taos
Juan Andres Vargas
Susan Verkamp
Linda and Robert Vrooman
Laura Watchempino
Mary Whitcomb
Edith and Marcus Whitson
Marty and Richard Wilder
Karen Wright
Angie Wulfow
Gary Youngmans
Caryle and William Zorumski
Terry and Steve Zupan

WATER STEWARDS \$250 TO \$499

Daniel R. Abramson
Dara B. Arons
Janice J. Arrott
Sara and Bob Blair
A. Janine Burke
Clare Castiglia and Lawrence
Shore
Jan and Jai Cross
Eudice and Les Daly
Jane Farmer and Andy
Johnson

Membership Levels: WE COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU.

Tobah Gass and Thomas Terwilliger
Eliza Gilkyson and Robert Jensen
Dave Grusin
Marilyn Holtz
Mary Humphrey and Connie Ode
Doug Jeffords
Shanti and Yale Jones
Linda and Arthur Lynch
Virginia Mudd and Clifford Burke
Betsy S. Nichols
Roger Peterson
Meg and Bruce Peterson
Robert Reinke
Sally and Donald Romig
Pamela Timmerman and David Juarez
World Cup Cafe
Martha Worthington and Hamilton Brown
Helen Zagana
Joseph Zupan

WATER GUARDIANS \$500 TO \$999

Charles Anderson
Betty and Cid Backer
Melinda Moffitt and Ann Dunlap
Leslie Eaton

Susan and Dick Evans
Martha and Christopher Flanders
Donald Hurst
Wendy Johnson
Susan and Mark Kalin
Alex Kurtz
Becky and Steve Kush
Greg Lower
Barbara McAneny and Steven Kanig
Kathryn Mutz
Maria Paroz and Anolyne Phillips
Laura Walton and Robert Pelak
Second Anonymous Fund
Stone Forest, Inc.
Taos Land Trust
Bonnie Payne and Roger Tobin
Daniel L. Veirs
Barbara Zaring and Stephen Rose

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

Sandy Buffett
Wheaton Byers
Edward F. Zimmer
Community Fund
Linda Fair
Brent Alan Faulkner

Elizabeth Greenlee
Harbor Oaks Foundation
Robert Hedrick
Alford Bunting Johnson
Jon Bourg Intermediate Fund
Richard Kuhn
Alasdair Lindsay
Lines/Rimbeaux Charitable Fund
Ronald Loehman
Los Rios River Runners
James Ludden
Meredith Mason-Garcia and Richard Harlan
Peggy Nelson
Joan O'Connell and Stephen Lecuyer
Martha Quintana
R. Ruth Foundation
Mary Anne and Al Sanborn
Timothy Sweeney
The Reed Family Foundation
The Scudder Family Foundation, Inc.
Rodger Thornton
Kristin and Ross Ulibarri
Zaring Rose Fund for the Earth

Membership Levels: WE COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU.

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

Anya and Henry Bagley
Fund
Sheila and Michael Hannah
Paul and Virginia Cabot
Charitable Trust
Veritas Endowment Fund
Leonlyn and John M. Wood

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

Lisa Freeman
The Frost Foundation
The Jonathan & Kathleen
Altman Foundation
Bette Myerson
Sam Rychener
The Sage Fund
Seymour, Virginia & EJ Levy
Family Fund
The Sulica Fund
Lenita and Henk Van Der
Werff

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

Anchorum Foundation
at Santa Fe Community
Foundation
The Anthropocene
Foundation
Just Woke Up Fund at Santa
Fe Community Foundaiton
Nancy Levit and Cathy
Underwood
Lineberry Foundation
LOR Foundation
McCune Charitable
Foundation
New Mexico Foundation
Pew Charitable Trusts
Sante Fe Community
Foundation
Water Foundation

WATER VISIONAIRES \$50,000 +

Anonymous Donors
Carroll Petrie Foundation
National Wildlife Federation
Thornburg Foundation
Tortuga Charitable
Foundation
Walton Family Foundation

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

New Mexico Environment
Department
Taos Community
Foundation
Taos Soil & Water
Conservation District
USDA Forest Service

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.

Scan to donate securely online or visit,
www.amigosbravos.org/donate



Donations can also be mailed to:

Amigos Bravos
P.O. Box 238
Taos, NM 87571

To learn more about our mission and the work we do,
please visit our website: amigosbravos.org.

Stay Connected:

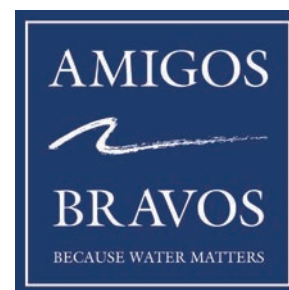
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Cover artwork, "Odisea", created by Taos artist and Amigos Bravos founder, Brian Shields.

