



Amigos Bravos Targets Toxics in White Rock Canyon: New Evidence Identifies Pollutants from LANL Reaching the Rio Grande

On April 30, Amigos Bravos Board member Jon Klingel and Executive Director Brian Shields participated in a three-day investigative trip to White Rock Canyon organized by Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (CCNS).

The purpose of the trip was to take water and vegetation samples at a number of springs along the Río Grande and in the tributary canyons down-gradient from the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) facilities. Those taking samples included CCNS consultant Norm Buske, Director of The Radio Activist Campaign, staff from the DOE Oversight Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department, and water quality specialists from LANL.

CCNS had undertaken a similar trip last October, at which time they found a new spring on the west bank of the Río Grande – now known as the CCNS spring. That new spring showed traces of perchlorate and other poisons associated with LANL's activities. The April trip was organized to confirm the findings from the October trip and to further study the uptake of the poisons by the plants near the springs. Results from the most recent trip will not be known for a while.

What is known is that, from 1944 to 1964, more than two million gallons of untreated radioactive liquid waste were dumped in the Pueblo Canyon system – leaving behind a plutonium legacy of major proportions. We also know that PCBs are a concern in

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Surviving the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto

New Mexico's social and environmental justice community was well represented at the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan.

Longtime supporter and former Amigos Bravos Advisory Council member Jean-Louis Bourgeois sponsored a delegation that included Amigos Bravos Executive Director Brian Shields, Richard Deertrack of Taos Pueblo, and Taos resident and award-winning filmmaker Gabriel Morgan. Other New Mexican activists attending the conference included Southwest Organizing Project Executive Director Michael Guerrero, New Mexico Acequia Association Board member Harold Trujillo and his wife Lucile, and attorney Simeon Herskovits of the Western Environmental Law Center.

Working with over 100 community activists from all over the world, Amigos Bravos went to the conference to promote the concept of a Global Water Commons, and to counter the tide of corporate interests promoting the worldwide privatization of water. Our message was simple and clear: Water is a human right and should be held in common for all. To a great extent, we were successful. We intervened in a number of the over 300 concurrent sessions, and were able to take the stage in a large demonstration during former IMF Director Michel Candessus' report promoting the privatization of large water storage and delivery projects. However, as newsworthy as the debate over control of water can be, the topic was overshadowed by the launching of the war in Iraq – and our efforts received virtually no press coverage.

The Forum was organized by the World Water Council, a self-defined, industry-sponsored 'think-tank' with a strong pro-privatization bias, and designed to promote the investment of public money in private water-development schemes – all under the guise of providing water to the poor. Like the World Trade Organization, the World Water Council – established in 1996 by the World Bank – is an undemocratic institution promoting worldwide policy initiatives. For human rights activists, the Forum provided a disturbing window into industry's plans for privatizing the world's water.

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Defending the Mining Act

In the 46th New Mexico Legislative session, mining interests led two major attempts to weaken the New Mexico Mining Act (Mining Act). The 1993 Mining Act is viewed as one of the most progressive and stringent bodies of law regulating mining activities in the United States. Senate Bill 473, introduced by Senator Ben Altamirano of Silver City, would have gutted the Mining Act and the Ground Water Quality Act, essentially giving mining companies the right to pollute New Mexico's waterways and aquifers at will. Senate Bill 902, introduced by Senator Carlos Cisneros of Taos, would have provided an exemption for humate mining. Both of these blatant attempts to pollute our state were defeated by the conservation community.

Senate Bill 473, titled "An Act Relating to Mines; Providing for the establishment of Mining Districts; Amending and Enacting Sections of the New Mexico

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Clean Water Circuit Rider Attends Clean Water Act Training Session

In February, Clean Water Circuit Rider Rachel Conn attended a four-day “train the trainers” workshop in Denver. Hosted by River Network, a national organization that assists river groups and offers Clean Water Act trainings to watershed and community groups nationwide, the workshop went one step further by providing training for organizations so they too can teach others about how to use the Clean Water Act to protect their rivers. Given the in-depth training provided by this workshop, Amigos Bravos now plans to facilitate community efforts to participate in Clean Water Act issues such as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) – which are state cleanup plans for polluted rivers – and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) – which includes the permitting process for discharges to surface waters. *

In Memory of Jeanne Gauna: 1946-2003

On February 21, 2003, Jeanne Gauna passed away, and the New Mexico social justice movement lost one of its greatest leaders. Co-Founder and Co-Director of Southwest Organizing Project for over 23 years, Jeanne worked tirelessly to further SWOP’s mission to *empower our communities to realize racial and gender equality and social and economic justice*. She was a constant source of wisdom and inspiration to everyone in New Mexico working for justice.

Clean Water Act Workshop in Las Vegas

On March 22, Amigos Bravos held a Clean Water Act Workshop in the community of Las Vegas. Co-hosted by the Rio Gallinas Watershed Partnership – a new Las Vegas area watershed group receiving start-up assistance and ongoing support from Amigos Bravos – the workshop attracted 18 participants and covered the basics of the Clean Water Act. Specifically, participants learned about the designated uses and associated water quality criteria established for the Gallinas River and the State as a whole.

Two representatives from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Surface Water Quality Division – Nina Wells and Scott Hopkins – presented at the workshop. Nina covered the Federal 319 Grant

Program that NMED administers, while Scott discussed the water quality monitoring that he has carried out in the Gallinas watershed. Additionally, Highlands University Professor Mike Meyers demonstrated a new monitoring system, recently purchased with grant monies, to conduct a stormwater monitoring project in the area.

Following the presentations, the group brainstormed about possible projects for which the Rio Gallinas Watershed Partnership could pursue 319 grant monies. Some of the ideas included erosion control in arroyos, riverbank restoration projects with youth, road paving to reduce sediment and runoff, reseeded old logging roads, forest thinning projects, stormwater control, and beaver restoration. *



Board President Michael Coca, Rachel Conn, River Network’s Gaby Stokes, Betsy Wolf, and Mike Sweeney at the Clean Water Act Workshop in Las Vegas

CWA Update – More Than 800 Comments Generated

In response to the Administration’s attempts to gut the Clean Water Act, Amigos Bravos staff, board, and volunteers conducted an intensive community outreach effort aimed at informing the public and generating tangible opposition to the proposed changes. From information tables set up in Taos and Albuquerque, concerned citizens completed more than 800 postcards and letters urging Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to counter efforts to alter this important legislation.

Amigos Bravos submitted a five-page comment to the EPA describing the devastating impacts the proposed policy would have on New Mexico’s waters. In denying Clean Water Act coverage to “isolated” waters and wetlands, the proposed change would effectively remove 20-40% of New Mexico’s rivers and streams from CWA protection. *

The River Rally 2003 and the Need to Take Action

By Brian Shields, Executive

With over 100 sessions to choose from, in addition to regional caucuses, impromptu discussion groups, and numerous improvisational late-into-the-night music jams, there was no lack of inspiration for the over 400 river activists who gathered for the 2003 River Rally on the Lower Columbia River Gorge in Washington state.

Amigos Bravos was well represented by Albuquerque Projects Director Cynthia Gomez, who made three presentations on how to involve youth and diverse populations to protect rivers, and Clean Water Circuit Rider Rachel Conn, who made a presentation on using the Clean Water Act to develop watershed restoration plans. I, on the other hand, had the extreme luxury of sitting in on whatever session took my fancy, and getting involved in conversations with Executive Directors of river advocacy groups from all over the country.

I was pleased to hear about – and celebrate – some great victories and breakthroughs in the movement to restore rivers, and I learned about some new tools and approaches to our work. At the awards banquet and in the halls, Amigos Bravos was recognized as a leader in the field. As always, I came away from the River Rally re-energized and ready to take our work to the next level.

Nevertheless, under all the celebration and comradery, what I heard was very disturbing. With the economic downturn, the difficult funding climate, the Bush Administration's rollbacks in regulations, and the government's lack of funding and will to enforce environmental law, the environmental movement is suffering from a crisis of disempowerment.

With every crisis comes opportunity, and I came away from the River Rally realizing that we need to find creative ways to further our mission – ways that capture people's imagination and that inspire the general public with the realization that our health and our future are linked to the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the water we drink.

At this time, Amigos Bravos is developing a new Three-Year Strategic Plan – a plan that will guide us in these difficult times. The strategic plan offers us a unique opportunity to incorporate some new creative ideas. The Staff and Board of Amigos Bravos would like to hear from you, the reader: *What is the most effective course of action Amigos Bravos can take to restore rivers?* *



Standing: Kate Doyle (San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council), Robert Gomez (Taos Pueblo Environment Department), Brian Shields
Seated: Cathy Morin (SLVEC), Mariana Chew (Rio Bravo/Rio Grande Basin Coalitio), Rachel Conn, and Cynthia Gomez

Toxics in White Rock Canyon

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high explosive tests – including high levels of mercury and lead – are a major concern in Water Canyon.

Amigos Bravos is concerned that the pollution reaching the river at this time is only the smallest tip of the iceberg that constitutes the toxic legacy of the Manhattan Project. If it has taken sixty years for the pollution to reach the river, we can only expect the level of toxics to increase – this at a time when all metropolitan areas, including Albuquerque, are looking at the Río Grande as a source for drinking water.

Amigos Bravos is considering putting additional resources into investigating and dealing with the pollution in White Rock Canyon. To support this work, or for more information, please contact us.

Preliminary results from the October 2002 sampling trip can be found at <http://www.radioactivist.org/new.html>.

A New Mexico Environment Department analysis of groundwater pollution in the springs near the Río Grande can be found at http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/gwb/GWQ%20Atlas/Los_Alamos_County.html.

For more information about impacts from LANL visit the CCNS web page at

<http://www.nuclearactive.org/docs/RGWIndex.html>. *

3rd World Water Forum

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For more information regarding the people behind the World Water Council, see a report by the international Consortium of Investigative Reporters entitled "The Water Barons" at <http://www.icij.org/dtaweb/water>.

For more information on the campaign for a treaty to protect water as part of the global commons, visit the Blue Planet web site at:

<http://www.canadians.org/blueplanet/index.html>.

NOTE: Amigos Bravos has commissioned a report on the privatization of water in New Mexico. Stay tuned!
*

Member's Notes

Raffle for the Rio comes through for river projects

A few days prior to pulling the winning ticket on Earth Day, April 22, the Raffle for the Río team was worried. We were quite short of our raffle fundraising goals. A very last-minute BIG push by staff, board, and the community made for a dramatic “come from behind” ending. Interviewed on KTAO on April 17, Amigos Bravos Executive Director Brian Shields summarized the critical importance of our river conservation projects and goals. Members and local businesses responded. On the morning of the raffle, just before the 10am drawing, we reached our 600-ticket goal, helping to ensure the continuation of our river conservation projects by raising \$15,000!!!

And the winners are...(drum roll!)

5th prize – day passes for two at Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs and Spa went to Todd Thompson of Sunwood Design in El Prado.

4th prize – a beautiful drum handmade by Taos Pueblo drum maker, Phillip Martinez, went to Linda Thompson of El Prado.

3rd prize – a river run for two through the Rio Grande Gorge with Los Rios River Runners went to Bruce Burling of Arroyo Hondo.

2nd prize – a weekend stay for two at the Dobson House Bed and Breakfast on the Rio Grande Gorge near Taos went to Kiki Suggs and Johnny's Septic Tank Co. of Las Cruces.

And the **GRAND PRIZE**, a five-day trip for two to Maui, including airfare and accommodations, went to Gwen Wardwell of Santa Fe.

New raffle ticket purchasers, who thereby became new members, numbered 103 – including 20 new business members who purchased 5 or more tickets. That brought total Amigos Bravos membership to 1644!

A big thanks goes to all the members and supporting businesses who purchased raffle tickets, and to KTAO, Taos Travel, and Cid's Food Market for their support in making this river conservation fundraiser a success. A special thanks to: Hale Ho'okipa Inn of Maui; Dobson House, Pueblo Drums, and Los Rios River Runners of Taos; and Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs and Spa for donating the prizes for the raffle.

For the rivers, thank you. *

Defending the Mining Act

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Mining Act; Amending the Water Quality Act,” would have given mining companies the latitude to pollute properties within loosely defined ‘mining districts.’ Essentially, removing these so-called mining districts from State law would have allowed the companies to pollute at will. This bill arose from a proposal introduced by Phelps Dodge Corporation during a November 2002 meeting of the Energy and Natural Resources Interim Committee. Through pressure brought by conservation groups such as the Mining Impacts Communication Alliance (MICA), Amigos Bravos, the Sierra Club, and other environmental groups, Senator Altamirano withdrew the bill before it ever faced a committee hearing.

Senate Bill 902, titled “An Act Relating to the Peace, Health, Safety and Welfare; Amending the New Mexico Mining Act to Provide an Exemption for Humate Mining,” was a Senate Conservation Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 473. Humate is a locatable mineral known as ‘brown coal’ and is commonly used as a soil additive. It is ironic that the proponent of this bill also happens to be the only mining

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Farewell, Linda

The staff of Amigos Bravos is sorry to lose the great leadership of Assistant Director Linda Carlson. Linda has accepted a new job as Executive Director for Child Right - an adoption and placement agency for special needs children. We knew we would have a hard time holding on to Linda. She came to us wanting to “slow down” after eight years of heading up the largest and oldest women and children's counseling program in the San Francisco Bay Area. Now, her interests and energy have taken her back to fighting for her favorite cause – children's rights. Through her many years of experience as Executive Director in the non-profit sector, Linda helped Amigos Bravos' offices and staff develop clear channels of communication and accountability. Moreover, Linda was instrumental in initiating both of our new Circuit Rider programs. Luckily for us, Linda will be only a few blocks away and we hope to still have access to her great advice. We know Linda will do a great job in her new position, and we wish her well. *

Welcome to Joseph Di Chiaro III

The staff and board extend a hearty and warm welcome to Development and Research Director Joseph Di Chiaro III. Joseph joined the Amigos Bravos team in March 2003 and brings a combination of private and nonprofit sector experience to the organization. Prior to joining Amigos Bravos, he served for three years as an Associate Director of Marketing and Communications for KPMG LLP in that firm's San Francisco office. Joseph also spent more than eight years in the public/nonprofit sector researching, writing and advising on arms control and disarmament issues with the Center for Nonproliferation Studies (Monterey, CA), the United Nations (New York, NY), and the Bonn International Center for Conversion (Bonn, Germany). He holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations from Stanford University and a master's degree in International Policy Studies from the Monterey Institute of International Studies. In his spare moments, Joseph officiates, coaches, and plays the Native American sport of lacrosse, is a member of the Santa Fe Concert Band, and is an avid cyclist and runner. *

Amigos Bravos Strategic Planning Retreat

In the magical setting of Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu this past March, *Amigos Bravos: Friends of the Wild Rivers* met for three days to determine the priorities of the organization for the next three to five years. With the help and guidance of a 40-member Advisory Council and input from our entire staff and board, Executive Director Brian Shields sought direction in establishing the intended goals for continuing our work in protecting and restoring the Rio Grande watershed and the rivers of New Mexico. The Advisory Council – consisting of community members, professional environmentalists, tribal representatives, *acequia pariantes*, ranchers, lobbyists, scholars, elected officials, biologists, hydrologists, editors, journalists, community organizers, funders, volunteers, organized labor, health professionals, and teachers – traveled to the ranch from across the country and throughout New Mexico to gather and contribute to the future work of Amigos Bravos.

Brilliantly facilitated by Martha Quintana, Amigos Bravos Board Treasurer and an accomplished group facilitator, the Advisory Council reviewed the accomplishments of Amigos Bravos under the last three-year strategic plan, assessed the challenges and threats that lie ahead, and identified the strengths of the organization in confronting those challenges. With that knowledge in hand, the Advisory Council went to work in making recommendations for the next three-to-five year strategic direction of Amigos Bravos.

Though the sessions were long and the work taxing, all participants were able to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Ghost Ranch. In the early evenings there were spectacular hikes and, not uncommonly, the strumming of a lonely guitar could be heard piercing the night air, backed by the slightly out of tune accompaniment of our colleagues and friends. In addition to the reinvigoration of song and good cheer, many of the members of the Council were able to strategize and collaborate on many levels to support each other's work in protecting our environment and local waters.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Amigos Bravos, we are grateful for the time and wisdom offered to us in developing our next three-year strategic plan. We have walked away from this retreat with the affirmation that our 15-year history in building a grassroots river movement in New Mexico has been successful. We plan to share our next strategic plan with our constituents early in the fall. With the collaboration, support, and guidance of our constituents and the communities we serve throughout New Mexico, Amigos Bravos is committed to protecting our rivers in the face of threats posed by our changing world.



Kimi Green, (New Cycle Foundation), Joni Arends (Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety), John Brown (New Mexico Water Dialogue), Brian Shields, Paul Chubbuck, Michelle Potter, Maceo Martinet (Jardines del Bosque), and Belle Morris on Chapel Rock overlook, Ghost Ranch

BLM Seeks Comments – Let Them Know What You Value

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Taos Office is seeking comments to help them develop a management plan for the newly acquired lands at the Taos Valley Overlook and the Orilla Verde Recreation Area.

Amigos Bravos is urging BLM to minimize new construction of recreational facilities and to enhance the opportunities for solitude and wildlife habitat. We ask that no livestock grazing, mining, hunting, discharge of firearms, or off-road vehicle use be allowed.

We are aware that BLM is planning to build a new “fully developed campground” near the Taos Junction Bridge. In addition, we fear that BLM is planning to develop a rest area at the Horseshoe Curve. In these difficult economic times, when financial resources are scarce, Amigos Bravos encourages BLM to abandon these development plans that will require constant maintenance. Instead, we ask that any additional available resources be used to restore the river corridor by taking out salt cedar and Russian olive trees – through non-toxic methods – and planting native cottonwoods and willows. This will enhance wildlife habitat, while providing a filter for sediment run-off from the highway, and will have long-lasting effects that future generations can enjoy.

Please take a moment to write BLM a letter expressing what it is that you value about the newly acquired lands. Write to: Randy Roach, BLM – Taos Office, 226 Cruz Alta Road, Taos, NM 87571. *

Public Health Assessment Botched in Questa

As part of Amigos Bravos' ongoing monitoring of the reclamation of the Molycorp mine, we have been closely following the site's Superfund process administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As part of that process, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is required to conduct a public health assessment. In early April 2003, the ATSDR re-opened the public comment period on its "Public Health Assessment for Molycorp, Incorporated, Questa, Taos County, NM." The events surrounding the extension of the comment period are instructive and warrant review.

The report, written without input from members of the Questa community or from those owning contaminated wells adjacent to the mine site, was first released in September 2002. The Agency misplaced the mailing list that included contact information for concerned citizens and, as a result, no one in the community received or was notified about the document when it was first released for public comment. Community members and Amigos Bravos first learned of this report in late February 2003, well after the first comment period had ended on November 13, 2002.

Curiously, the EPA failed to mention the report at a November 12 community meeting regarding the Superfund process at Molycorp. "It is unacceptable that we were not informed about this report when it was released. The end of the first comment period is listed on the document as November 13, EPA hosted a community meeting on November 12, at no point during that meeting did they mention the Public Health Assessment," commented Karen Douglas, a member and volunteer for Amigos Bravos as well as a member of the Rio Colorado Reclamation Committee, a group formed to provide community oversight of the Superfund process at the mine.

In the assessment, ATSDR reports that they found evidence of heavy metal contamination of groundwater, surface water, and soil caused by the mining

activities. Inexplicably, the report goes on to conclude that "the site is classified as *no apparent public health hazard* associated with current or future exposures to mining-related contaminants."

Understandably, the Village of Questa has expressed concern about the report. In the words of Questa Mayor Charlie Gonzales: "The Village of Questa has numerous concerns with the conclusions of the ATSDR report. The basis of their conclusions is not clear. The report is based on limited or incomplete information. The village has sent its comments to the Director of ATSDR."

Many Questa citizens are frustrated with the Agency for failing to notify the community about the November release of the report and with the actual findings of the report. In drafting the report, ATSDR obtained most of their information from Molycorp and the New Mexico Environment Department. They did not talk to downstream citizens who believe that their health has been severely impacted by water and air contamination from the mine site. According to Francisco Apodaca, Mining Reform Campaign Manager with Amigos Bravos, "This report should be completely retracted and rewritten with input from the people who are impacted by the contamination from the mine site."

In the spring of 2001, over 100 people attended a Questa community meeting organized by Questa Safe Environment Group, a community organization founded to address public health issues. Many in attendance expressed concerns about health problems that they believe are related to mining activities. None of the people who attended this meeting received the health assessment when it was first released. According to Brooke Tatum, a founding member of the Questa Safe Environment Group: "Based on the results of the health symptom survey and hair testing of children that our community group conducted, we have reason to believe that there are health problems in Questa related to environmental contamination. A proper assessment should be conducted that addresses the problems identified in our preliminary research."

"The report itself, as well as the fact that no one in the community was apprised of the comment period, is a classic example of the gross negligence practiced by government agencies where environmental health exposures are concerned. All we're asking is for government agencies to do their jobs to protect the health of people, not industry," added Tatum.

Amigos Bravos is pushing for a complete retraction of the current assessment and stressing the importance of community involvement in the process of assessing health issues in affected communities.

The document can be viewed by the public at Questa Town Hall or at the Amigos Bravos office in Taos. The new comment period ends June 19. Comments can be addressed to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Attn: Chief, Program Evaluation, Records, and Information Services Branch, E-60, 1600 Clifton Rd, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30333. *

Defending the Mining Act

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operator forced into closure by the Mining and Minerals Division of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department. The attempt was tabled in the Senate Conservation Committee by a unanimous vote in favor of upholding the Mining Act.

These two victories for the environmental community are indicative of the power of concerted action by concerned citizens and the strength of the alliance of several groups committed to upholding New Mexico's environmental laws. Still, these victories can be short-lived and assaults on the environment are all too common. We must remain

constantly vigilant in the face of continued attempts by large corporate interests and polluters to weaken our model laws. It is only through the ongoing efforts of groups like MICA and Amigos Bravos that successful campaigns can be mounted and maintained to protect our state's valuable resources for generations to come. *



*Friends of
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"A river seems a magic thing. A magic, moving,
living part of the very earth itself."
~ Laura Gilpin, *From The Rio Grande*, 1949

There Otta Be Otters!

Motivated by the vision of once again seeing the playful river otter swimming in our local rivers, New Mexico Friends of River Otters (NMFRO) is moving forward with river otter restoration efforts in the State. Working on a shoestring budget and largely through the generous time commitment of volunteers, the group has initiated a set of activities aimed at establishing the basis for, and generating further interest in, the eventual restoration of river otters to New Mexico. These group activities have included:

- Commissioning NMFRO member Melissa Savage of the Four Corners Institute to prepare a white paper on the natural history of river otters in New Mexico.
- Presenting an informative lecture and slide show on river otters at the March 13 Santa Fe Children's Water Festival. Amigos Bravos' Rachel Conn used her own knowledge of river otters and a slide show prepared by NMFRO scientific advisory board member Tom Beck to inform and entertain a youthful audience from area schools. A river otter puppet, and rubber tracks and scat were big hits.
- Working closely with the Department of Game and Fish to facilitate the planning and research process necessary for otter restoration. Biologist Jon Klingel, Amigos Bravos board member and a member of NMFRO, has been heading up the group's research efforts.
- Supporting the work of intern Megan Corrigan, from the University of Colorado at Boulder, who has been conducting a survey of experts who have participated in otter restoration efforts in other states in order to glean "lessons learned" from their efforts.

Looking ahead, the group plans to conduct river otter survey training, as well as a survey trip to the San Francisco River in southwestern New Mexico. Although the state considers the river otter extirpated – meaning that it is considered extinct in New Mexico – it is still necessary to extensively survey potential river otter reintroduction sites to clearly establish river otter status and determine whether there are any remnant river otter populations.

Amigos Bravos, a founding member of NMFRO, has assumed a leading role in river otter restoration efforts and takes the appropriately playful stance that – ***There Otta Be Otters!*** To support this work, please send a donation to the Amigos Bravos Otta Be Otters Fund *