



Environmental Justice Planning Committee Appointed

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has embarked on an Environmental Justice project that will conduct *listening sessions* around the state to obtain input from constituents on this timely issue. The Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the NMED have appointed Albuquerque Projects Director Cynthia Gomez to the newly-formed Environmental Justice Planning Committee (EJPC), which will be responsible for designing the public *listening sessions* and for promoting an authentic participatory process.

The Alliance for Transportation Research (ATR) Institute at the University of New Mexico will provide technical and staff assistance to both NMED and the EJPC, who will design the format for the public hearings. It is anticipated that there will be four public listening sessions:

- Northern New Mexico
- Southern New Mexico encompassing US/Mexico Border areas
- Northwestern New Mexico for Indian Country
- Southeastern New Mexico

The EJPC will also work in collaboration with the US Environmental Protection Agency and the NMED to plan for a State-wide public listening session in Albuquerque.

With direction and assistance from the EJPC and the NMED, the ATR Institute will develop a strategy for those who have participated in the listening sessions to provide feedback.

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Molycorp Watch Update

Amigos Bravos Expands Work in Red River Watershed Linking Restoration, Community Development, and Human Health

Increasing river flows, recycling mine water, closing and reclaiming a tailings facility, putting a permanent end to tailings spills to the Red River, establishing a mine reclamation education center and nursery, restoring water quality, and developing a plan for alternative energy production are all part of an ambitious and visionary new strategic plan developed by Amigos Bravos to link river restoration, community economic development and human health concerns along the Red River in Northern New Mexico.

The culmination of thirty-five years of struggle by community activists, sixteen years of work by Amigos Bravos – and some good luck – have resulted in a major breakthrough in reversing environmental impacts from the Molycorp molybdenum mine in Questa, the largest mine in the Rio Grande watershed. Namely, there is now a state-mandated mine reclamation plan in place, a federally-supervised river and community restoration process established, and over \$150,000,000 in financial assurance to do the work. Mine reclamation activities began in 2003 and will, due in part to the Stability Review Board (see side-bar on page 6), accelerate in 2004.

During the past sixteen years, Amigos Bravos has become increasingly invested in the Red River watershed and the Questa community. Consequently, in the fall of 2003, Amigos Bravos assembled a team of community activists, Advisory Council members, and professional consultants to develop a new long-term strategic plan that would build on past victories and continue to hold Molycorp accountable for impacts to the health of the Red River and Questa community.

The result of conversations among the Molycorp Watch team surprised all. On the afternoon of the second day, under a crisp fall sky at the edge of an aspen grove, the participants realized that the upcoming challenge was no longer to hold the mine accountable – we had achieved that – but rather to create a new, forward-thinking vision that would link river restoration, community economic development, and human health concerns, providing the basis for a post-mining future that could be replicated in other communities impacted by mining operations.

The new Molycorp Watch plan is very ambitious – not that that is new to Amigos Bravos!

The first cornerstone of the plan is the goal to replace the existing tailings facility in Questa with one that would place dry tailings in the open pit. This action alone would have an amazing number of human health and environmental benefits:

- it would put a permanent stop to new tailings spills in the Red River and the Questa community;
- it would provide more water for the river – thus further reducing pollution level, putting an end to air pollution in town from tailings dust storms;
- and, by turning the tailings facility into a wind or solar energy producing farm, it would create an important new source of community economic development.

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Antidegradation – Keeping Clean Waters Clean

Antidegradation is the least-known of the three components of water quality standards. The first two, *designated uses* and *water quality criteria*, provide minimum standards for a water body whereas *antidegradation* provides a process for keeping waters clean once they have met the minimum standards. Antidegradation also provides a process for protecting waters that have always been clean.

Federal Clean Water Act regulations outline a three-tiered approach for implementing an antidegradation policy. These three tiers assure that: 1) No activities are permitted that would result in water quality standards being exceeded; 2) Lowering of water quality in water bodies that currently meet or exceed standards is avoided or at least held to a minimum, and; 3) Waters that are of outstanding or exceptional value are strictly protected. To ensure that these three tiers are adequately implemented, each state is required to draft an antidegradation implementation policy.

As part of the State's Triennial Review of Surface Water Quality Standards, Amigos Bravos submitted comments to the state questioning the adequacy of what the state has been currently calling its antidegradation implementation policy. As a result of our pressure, the state completed a more detailed draft antidegradation implementation policy.

In November 2003, the Surface Water Quality Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) released this draft antidegradation implementation policy as an amendment to the Continuing Planning Process Document. Comments on this policy were due January 12th and are currently under review by the Surface Water Quality Bureau. A final proposal will be submitted to the Water Quality Control Commission for review and

Otter Update

Otters Make a Splash at Audubon Chapter Presentation

In November 2003, Amigos Bravos and New Mexico Friends of River Otters spoke to the Sangre de Cristo Audubon Chapter in Santa Fe and attendees met two furry visitors from Colorado. Melissa Magetts, Director of the Rocky Mountain Ark animal refuge, traveled from Telluride with two resident river otters. The otters made their appearance after a slide show on the history of river otters in New Mexico and the status of restoration efforts. They were beautiful and playful – and smelled just a little bit fishy. Amigos Bravos and New Mexico Friends of River Otters offer educational slide shows upon request. For more information call the Amigos Bravos office at 505-758-3874.

New Mexico Game Commission Learns about Otters

In January, New Mexico Friends of River Otters, of which Amigos Bravos is a founding member, helped prepare and then support a presentation about river otter restoration to the State Game Commission. As a result of this presentation and the overwhelming public support in favor of investigating river otter restoration in New Mexico, the Department of Game and Fish is preceding with a feasibility study on otter reintroduction, the first step in bringing back this charismatic mammal to New Mexico's rivers.

Santa Fe Children's Water Festival

On February 18th and 19th, Amigos Bravos participated in the Santa Fe Children's Water Festival by presenting a slide show and an educational activity on river otters. Twenty-six 4th grade classes (520 students) participated in the festival. The students were very excited about otters and especially enjoyed looking at a river otter skull, a plastic otter scat, and a mold of otter tracks. Many of the classes took a "We Support River Otter Restoration" sign to hang in their classroom and plan to write to the Department of Game and Fish or the Game Commission in support otter reintroduction. Each teacher was given copies of our otter education packet comprised of many otter-related educational activities. *

approval at a regular public meeting later this year.

Amigos Bravos submitted detailed comments outlining our approval of *parts* of the policy and deep concerns over others. Amigos Bravos was pleased that the Department places the burden of proof (collecting the data to prove that no degradation will occur as the result of a proposed action) on the entity proposing the potential degradation, thus protecting limited resources. At the same time, Amigos Bravos expressed serious concern over many parts of the proposed implementation policy – especially the State's five-page list of exemptions which essentially provides a detailed guide on how to avoid antidegradation review.

The draft policy and all the comments NMED has received, including those of Amigos Bravos, can be viewed on the NMED website at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/cpp/>

The Water Quality Control Commission will hold a hearing in the coming months to debate the proposed policy and solicit public comment. Amigos Bravos will attend the hearing to promote our position and we encourage the public to attend and voice their support as well. Information about the date and location of this meeting will be posted on our website – www.amigosbravos.org. *

Legislative Update

The 2004 Legislative Session will be remembered as one of the strangest and most difficult in New Mexico's history. With the Governor using the session to further his political agenda, and the legislature trying to get things done in the usual fashion of rendering pork and a bit of legislation, it was a contentious session at best.

Facing political disagreements and stalling tactics, the environmental community saw two important bills die on the Senate floor in the closing minutes of the session. **Strategic River Reserve (HB 312)** would have established a fund allowing the Office of the State Engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission to purchase or lease water rights and provide water for endangered species during drought conditions. After getting through some tough committee hearings, the proposed bill was tabled and then revived, then revised through compromise with the agricultural community into a much better bill, before it eventually fell victim to a Republican filibuster on the floor of the Senate in the final minutes of the session.

A bill to regulate **Domestic Wells in Critical Management Areas (SB 89)** also saw the clock run out on the Senate floor. The bill would have given the Office of The State Engineer the authority to deny a domestic well in a designated critical management area. A critical management area is an area experiencing severe ground water shortage, resulting in a significant drop in the hydrostatic head-well water level, or an area experiencing ground water pollution. The development community fought against this bill and found a proponent in Representative Rhonda King, whose amendment effectively gutted the bill. The Senate, which had passed the original bill, failed to concur on the amendment, sending it back to the House and a conference committee to iron out the differences. The House sent the bill back to the Senate floor, where they passed the concurring amendment, but failed to pass the final bill in time.

A partial victory can be claimed in the area of salt cedar eradication and the highly controversial use of herbicides. In the past, the environmental community has questioned the use of herbicides and their effects, as well as called for effective restoration of the treated area. This year's **General Spending Bill (HB 2)** was drafted to include language that would make treatment "subject to a statewide phreatophyte (salt cedar)/watershed strategic plan to be developed by the departments of agriculture, energy, minerals and natural resources, state engineer, environment and Indian affairs" and includes a \$2.5 million restoration appropriation to cover monitoring, revegetation/rehabilitation, and long-term strategic planning. Last year's session provided money solely for aerial spraying of the salt cedar. This year's bill will provide for standards to be established and a study conducted to judge the long-term effects of the herbicide application on the environment. Opponents argued for standards covering spraying only, not for any studies, and which would have provided little or no notice to the landowner!

In all, the session was a busy one resulting in very little new legislation and even less positive change. As if we needed a reminder, the session underlined the importance of public participation in the legislative process and the perils of leaving politics to the politicians. ✱

Welcome, Tom!

We are pleased to announce that Albuquerque Attorney Tom Griego joined the Board of Directors in January 2004. His family has been in New Mexico since the arrival of the Oñate expedition. His father, whose family is from Pecos and Santa Fe, grew up working in the mining and logging industries. With the onset of WWII, he left New Mexico with the Army Air Corps for Scott Field, IL, where he met and married Tom's mother in St. Louis, MO. Tom was born there on March 31, 1954. The family followed the aircraft industry to Southern California where Tom grew up, maintaining a close connection to New Mexico. Graduating from California Lutheran University in 1976, Tom returned to Santa Fe and worked for the City of Santa Fe and the New Mexico State Parks administering federal conservation grant money. The State Parks position took him all around the state and he developed a deep appreciation for its unique natural beauty. After obtaining a Master of Arts degree in Public Administration from UNM, he moved his family to Albuquerque to attend law school in 1980. He obtained his Juris Doctorate from UNM in 1984 and since then has been practicing law in Albuquerque, representing workers in labor and employment issues including discrimination and worker's compensation claims. Although he has had his own practice in the past, he currently works for Bill Gordon and Associates. ✱

L. to r.: Board Members at January 23, 2004 meeting: Mary Humphrey, Miguel Santistevan (guest), Michael Coca (President), Martha Quintana (Treasurer), Tom Griego, Kimi Green, Ross Ulibarrí, Hope Buechler (Secretary), and Jon Klingel



Member's Notes

Raffle 2004

Each spring Amigos Bravos holds a raffle with the grand prize being a trip to Hawaii or Mexico. This year we have decided to raffle off an acre of land we own worth \$12,000 in the Questa foothills on the road to Cabresto Canyon. The grand prize winner will also have the choice of taking home \$10,000 instead of the land. Traditionally, we have sold raffle tickets for \$25 each in an unlimited quantity. For this raffle, we are going to sell 500 tickets for \$100 each. That's a one-in-500 chance of winning an acre of land or \$10,000! We plan on starting the raffle in late May or early June and running it until all tickets are sold, when we will be holding an event on the land to choose the winners – you need not be present to win. We are seeking donations for the second and third prizes from local businesses so if you are interested in donating, please call Angela Scarlata at 505-758-3874. Just so you know, this raffle and associated event will replace our annual Paint-a-Thon and Art Auction. *

What's Funny About Climate Change?

Please join Amigos Bravos and the Taos community for a humorous, yet thought-provoking look at climate change and the state of our environment. "What's Funny About Climate Change," will be performed by a three-person comedy troupe at 8:00pm on Friday, April 2nd at the Taos Community Auditorium, 145 Paseo del Pueblo Norte. The show is a production of Human Nature, a northwestern California company that has toured shows about environmental and social issues throughout the United States and in Europe. The event is being co-sponsored by Amigos Bravos, the Western Environmental Law Center, and the Taos Land Trust. An additional show for local area school children, generously underwritten by the Taos Community Foundation, will also be performed on Thursday morning at the Auditorium.

Tickets for Friday's show are \$12 and can be purchased at *FX18 Gifts & Jewelry* or charged by phone at (505-758-2052). *

A Word on Membership, Renewals, and Special Appeals

As a nonprofit, community-based organization, Amigos Bravos relies heavily on our membership to provide both guidance and fiscal support for our many activities and programs. As a member, you are entitled to play an active role in the direction of our organization, define its priorities, and join a group of concerned citizens effecting positive change in their own communities. Members also receive our quarterly *Bulletin*, are kept informed of opportunities to take direct action through our email *Action Alerts*, and receive priority invitation to Amigos Bravos' special events.

Attracting and retaining members is no small task. Throughout the year, our staff sends out *renewal notices* to our over 3,100 current and lapsed members, and solicits new members through two *direct mail* campaigns to nearly 40,000 households in New Mexico and beyond. In addition to these membership solicitations and renewal requests, we occasionally send out *special appeals* to our membership. *Special appeals* are requests for contributions above and beyond general membership fees and serve two important purposes. First, they allow us to undertake important and pressing initiatives not accounted for in our annual budgeting process. Second, they serve as a gauge of our membership's interest in specific issues as they arise. Your response to our recent appeal on the Valle Vidal is a prime example: the emergence of potential coalbed methane drilling as a threat to the Valle caught us somewhat off guard and the voraciousness of its pursuit required immediate action. The overwhelming response to our appeal for support on this issue has not only allowed us to begin our defense of the Valle, but also has provided important affirmation from our membership that this was indeed a matter worth our every effort.

In spite of the foregoing, we sincerely apologize if the number of mailings you may receive from Amigos Bravos is either excessive or confusing. Though at times we find the process cumbersome, it remains our best means of attracting and retaining membership, as well as gauging the level of interest in specific pressing issues that may arise. *

We Want Your Email!

As part of our efforts to keep you active and informed, we need your e-mail address! Providing an e-mail address may allow us to reduce the number of physical mailings you receive, depending on your preferences, in addition to providing you with more timely, actionable information. You may also renew or become a member of Amigos Bravos through our web site at www.amigosbravos.org. Please forward your e-mail address to Angela Scarlata by e-mail (ascarlata@amigosbravos.org) or by calling 505-758-3874. *

Calendar of Events:

- March 14** (Sunday) **International Day of Action Against Dams and for Rivers, Water and Life** is the 7th annual celebration of this day. (see http://www.globalresponse.org/gra_index/gra0703.html).
- March 29** (Monday) **Radio Río**, a monthly radio program dedicated to promoting awareness of river protection and water quality concerns, enhancing informed public input into the decision-making process on these issues, and building a sustainable, grassroots river protection movement for the future.
- April 2** (Friday) **What's Funny About Climate Change**, sponsored by Amigos Bravos, The Western Environmental Law Center, and the Taos Land Trust, Taos Community Auditorium, 8:00 pm, see article on page. 4.
- April 3** (Saturday) **New Mexico Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting**, Albuquerque, agenda to include Valle Vidal
- April 22** (Thursday) **Earth Day Celebration**, at Kit Carson Park, Taos, at La Montanita Food Coop, Albuquerque, and elsewhere, call the office for details
- April 24** (Saturday) **Global Peace Walk**, meet at Taos Visitors' Center at 9:30am and walk to Kit Carson Park
- April 24** (Saturday) **Earth Day Celebration**, Kit Carson Park, Taos and elsewhere, call the office for details
- May 21-25** (Fri.-Tues.) **River Network's Annual River Ralley**, Charlottesville, VA

Amigos Bravos' Cash Reserve Fund is Amigos Bravos' insurance against hard times. The Cash Reserve Fund is money set aside to ensure that the organization can survive cash flow shortages in the annual operating budget. It can only be accessed for certain purposes, such as meeting payroll or for emergency capital outlay. There are strict guidelines on when and how money from the fund can be used. Any use of money from the Fund requires approval from the Board of Directors. This Fund is a hedge against hard times, ensuring that Amigos Bravos will stay healthy and able to pursue its mission.

Our Cash Reserve account was opened in March 1998 with a \$15,000 grant from the Ruth Mott Fund. Thanks to generous contributions of our members, the \$5,082 proceeds of *Brian Shields, Unframed*, the net cash flow surplus from FY 1999-2000, and generous donations from James Davidson, Allen and Mary Anne Sanborn, and Marian Gurewitz, the interest bearing account now has a balance of \$37,870.19. Our goal is to bring the balance up to \$50,000.00.

Please consider making a contribution to the Amigos Bravos Cash Reserve Fund. *

Where There's a Will, There's a Way

By including Amigos Bravos in your will....



...you could protect a river for years
CONFIDENTIAL REPLY

To explore a bequest to Amigos Bravos, please complete this form and return it, marked confidential, to Brian Shields, Executive Director, Amigos Bravos.

- I have included Amigos Bravos in my will.
- Please send information on how to include Amigos Bravos in my will.

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Help us save the Río Grande

Join **AMIGOS BRAVOS!**

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- Please send information on ways to include Amigos Bravos in my will.
- I want to make a donation to the **Amigos Bravos Cash Reserve Fund.**

Amigos Bravos is a 501 (c)(3) organization.
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 email: bravos@amigosbravos.org

Molycorp Watch Update continued from page 1

The technology and infrastructure are in place to accomplish all of this.

A second cornerstone of the plan – in recognition of the huge demand for mine reclamation at Molycorp and in other communities – is the goal to establish a state “Land Reclamation Institute”. This institute would train and certify workers on revegetation and steep slope work, undertake environmental restoration research, and establish native plant nursery areas for land reclamation markets. If located in Questa, this institute would provide the additional benefit of diversifying a sustainable post-mining economy.

A third cornerstone of the plan – in recognition that the Red River is suffering from sources of pollution other than Molycorp – is to initiate restoration projects throughout the Red River watershed. These restoration efforts will focus on stopping pollution from off-road vehicle use and abandoned mines, and where possible, restoring wetlands and native habitat for wildlife.

The fourth cornerstone of the plan is to continue the work of monitoring the existing regulatory permits to ensure that the progress we have made over the past sixteen years will not be compromised.

For more information on this plan and to participate in its implementation, please contact us. *



Red River

And I count myself more fortunate with each passing season to have recourse to these quiet, tree-strewn, untrimmed acres by the water. I would think it a sad commentary on the quality of American life if, with our pecuniary and natural abundance, we could not secure for our generation and those to come the existence of . . . a substantial remnant of a once great endowment of wild and scenic rivers.

-- William Anderson, Congressman from Tennessee

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This is the first time a state agency has addressed this important issue in a formal, yet collaborative way. Under NMED Director Ron Curry, Derrith Watchman-Moore will head up the initiative which promises to set protocols for “promoting an authentic environmental justice participatory process between NMED, communities, and Tribes.” *

Stabilizing Molycorp’s Waste Rock Piles: From Threat to Opportunity

In June 2003 a panel of world-renowned scientists concurred with the claim by Amigos Bravos consultants that the Goat Hill North waste rock pile at the Molycorp molybdenum mine is unstable and a threat to human health and safety. The waste rock pile is moving at a rate of two inches per month and a large rainstorm could set off a major landslide that would take out the highway and dam up the Red River. New Mexico Governor Richardson responded to the report by mandating that Molycorp and the State develop a mitigation plan to stabilize the rock pile.

As we go to press – eight months later and after numerous revisions – the State is set to approve Molycorp’s mitigation plan that should go a long way towards addressing human safety concerns. Although some concerns regarding long-term stability and worker safety as the earth moving begins on the steep slopes remain outstanding, Amigos Bravos is encouraged by the plan as it could offer the additional benefit of closing and reclaiming the 328 million tons of waste rock that are presently polluting the Red River. We look forward to the evaluation of the remaining waste rock piles.

The plan for stabilizing the Goat Hill North pile is ambitious and will require a considerable investment and added jobs. We hope that the work will begin in March and that Molycorp will commit the necessary resources to complete the work in 2004.

According to a 2001 report on the benefits of mine reclamation prepared for Amigos Bravos by two economics professors at the University of New Mexico and the Ecology and Law Institute, full reclamation of the Molycorp mine could generate \$671-932 million in total economic benefits over the next 20 years. To make the most of the potential for restoring water quality in the Red River and encouraging community economic development in Questa, Amigos Bravos has devised an ambitious new strategic plan for our Molycorp Watch Project (see accompanying article that begins on page 1). *

Intergenerational Movement Toward Health and Protection of Rivers and Communities

Recent research suggests that young and old alike identify less with the river than they did a generation ago. This is true not only regarding rivers, but crosses over to our relationship with all natural systems (often the source of water is identified by many young people as the faucet). The following is a story of visionaries investing their experience and knowledge to seed, within fertile young minds, the values of land-based experiences as the foundation to a science and technology relevant to both older and younger generations, traditional land-based communities and our modern urban societies, turning disadvantage into advantage for the benefit of us all.

For generations, the homes and farmlands of Isleta families have been fed by the waters of the Río Grande and the habitat of the Bosque. At its northern edge, ancient jetting lava cliffs known as the “*Mal Pais*” (or “bad lands”) connect Isleta Pueblo to a cluster of communities that run north along the Río Grande. The connecting communities were originally deeded as land grants and include Los Padillas, Pajarito, Artisco and Arenal. A 200-year history between land-grant communities and the Pueblo of Isleta evolved as extended farming families and diverse cultures of Pueblo, and Mexicano/Indio/Hispano (and later immigrant Italian and German) farmers and herders collectively built upon common land-based value systems. Harsh winters and dry summers required a sharing of skill, knowledge, resources, labor and the trust necessary to survive. Cooperation was grounded in necessity and held together by the traditions of sharing river water through *acequia* systems, religious and community celebrations, yearly blessing of the water, and a fundamental respect and commitment of caring for the river and the creatures that lived as a part of a collective system.

Bartering systems enforced a natural

interdependence within and across these communities. Their insulation from fluctuating economic markets allowed these rural communities to remain relatively stable and strong during wartime and through economic depression. It was because of their cooperative lifestyle that these communities were self-sustaining when necessary and sustainable over time. However, over the past 40 years many of these activities have eroded with increased dependency on a money economy, increased poverty and isolation, the shift of local water management to the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, the weakening of traditional *acequia* systems, ongoing adjudication of water, an increase in subdivision developments, and an increase in water and air pollution permits, among other factors.

Today within the same reach of the Río Grande, a grassroots organization called the “Indio-Hispano Academy of Agricultural Arts and Sciences” operates on private and communal lands in the South Valley of Albuquerque and Isleta Pueblo. Expert farmers and growers from both Isleta and the South Valley, many of whom are also Master Gardeners and educators, make up the Indio-Hispano Academy Board of Directors. The organization has several goals including: to engage Indian, Hispano, and other resident youth through sustainable agricultural practices that include the protection and restoration of natural habitats, promote the preservation of culture, water, land, and history, and instill pride in the community. The benefits have been to generate profitable crops from semi-retired land, instill traditional values and practical skills, and stimulate a source of income for youth while working the land.

Increasing concern over water quality and quantity, the ongoing threat of fire in the Bosque, threats to the environment and to species, and an erosion of rural integrity and economic sustainability have prompted Indio-Hispano

Academy leadership to expand its resource base and expertise to participate in river and Bosque restoration and maintenance. At the recent invitation of the Indio-Hispano Academy and Catholic Charities, Amigos Bravos helped initiate a collaborative partnership that includes the Río Grande Community Development Center, the UNM Department of Community Planning, the Middle Rio Grande Bosque Initiative/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico *Voces*, and Río Grande Restoration. With the support of this partnership, the Indio-Hispano Academy plans to expand learning opportunities in the rural South Valley through science, technology, and skills training to protect and promote the care of the Río Grande and the Bosque. This initiative hopes to influence young people in their choice of higher education, instill pride and leadership, encourage a commitment to community health and environmental protection, and increase their earning potential.

As public support for, and a Congressional commitment to, Middle Río Grande restoration grows, proposed multi-million dollar projects will require experienced and skilled leadership to restore and maintain the integrity of river systems and affected communities. Building on traditional farming methods, the Indio-Hispano Academy will design a Physical Sciences Technician program for Isleta and South Valley youth, with the support and guidance of the aforementioned partnership. This model program will initially target 25-30 females and males, 15-25 years old, and focus on a five-mile stretch of the Río Grande, Bosque floodplains and wetlands, and *acequia* habitat.

The program will consist of 800 hours of training as a Physical Sciences Technician, resulting in the award of a certificate of completion. The proposed training will cover: restoration principles; native species of plants and animals;

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*Sit by a river.
Find peace and meaning
In the rhythm
Of the lifeblood of the Earth
—Author Unknown*

Intergenerational Movement Toward Health

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basic hydrology and water quality monitoring; soil science; fire science; sustainable river ecosystems; and an introduction to GIS. The classroom and hands-on learning will engage critical thinking, computer and calculation skills, and leadership skills. A Restoration Management track will include: the National Environmental Protection Act; the Clean Water Act; the Endangered Species Act; damage assessment; comprehensive environmental response; and compensation and liability. If successful, the Indio-Hispano Academy plans to replicate this project design among other Río Grande Bosque communities.

Combining current science, technology, and environmental legislation with the wisdom of traditional practices can help shift a new generation toward protecting the health and viability of our rivers and strengthen our river communities for the benefit of us all. For more information on this project, contact Cynthia Gomez of Amigos Bravos (505-255-0790) or Felix Mauro Torres of the Academy (50-247-0862). *