

A Raffle with a Twist!!! Win an acre of land or \$10,000 — Your Choice!

Currently in our sixteenth year, Amigos Bravos is confronted with daunting challenges...and a wealth of opportunity. Before us sits the chance to improve upon standards governing the quality of our surface and drinking water, to turn years of contamination and confrontation in the Village of Questa into positive community development for its citizens, to reach and empower youth to preserve and protect the ecological and cultural richness of New Mexico's rivers and streams, and to check the spread of oil and gas extraction before it changes the nature of the Valle Vidal forever. With a dedicated staff and supportive membership, we're prepared to seize this opportunity. Personally, we like our chances.

At this time, we would also like to offer you an outstanding opportunity — ***A Raffle with a Twist: Each \$100 donation to Amigos Bravos buys not only a share in our success, but carries a 1 in 500 chance of winning an acre of land or \$10,000 — your choice!!!***

Donate \$100, and this land could soon be yours. Located in the beautiful foothills of the Sangre de Cristo mountains, where sagebrush meets piñon north of Taos, New Mexico, you'll enjoy the Latir Wilderness to the east, Cabresto Canyon to the south, the Colorado border twenty miles to the north, with the stunning Rio Grande river as it flows through the gorge to the west. It's our way of saying "Thanks!" for your contributions to our collective future.

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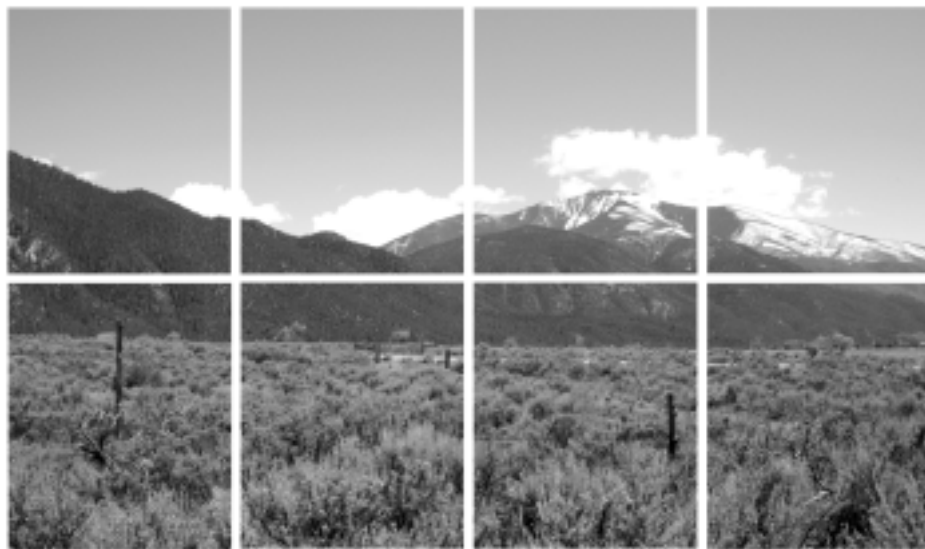


Photo by Cindy Hegger

Peace Action New Mexico Award to Amigos Bravos

At an April 3 ceremony at the Lensic Theater in Santa Fe, Peace Action New Mexico awarded Amigos Bravos the Grassroots Peace Activist Award for "their mission to protect and restore the ecological and cultural resources of New Mexico's rivers." Peace Action New Mexico is a statewide affiliate of Peace Action, the nation's largest grassroots peace and social justice organization. Peace Action is committed to the abolition of nuclear weapons, the redirection of military expenditures to domestic investment, an end to global weapons trafficking, and non-military solutions to international conflicts. The following is excerpted from the acceptance speech given by Executive Director Brian Shields.

Those of us working at Amigos Bravos are grateful for the honor bestowed on us by this award. We receive the award knowing that it belongs to everyone working for peace and justice throughout the world.

Amigos Bravos was formed in 1988 in response to a proposed tailings disposal facility for the Molycorp molybdenum mine near Questa. Since successfully stopping that controversial plan, Amigos Bravos has grown into a well-respected environmental and social justice organization working on behalf of the *Rio Grandé* watershed.

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1 in 500 Chance of Winning an Acre of Land or \$10,000 — your choice

Please fill out the form on page 4; include a check, money order, or credit card information, and return to: Amigos Bravos, P.O. Box 238, Taos, NM, 87571.

National Watershed Health Project Brings Trainings to NM Groups

Amigos Bravos has recently joined forces with River Network, a national river organization, and Trees, Water and People, a Colorado based river organization, to implement the National Watershed Health Project. The goal of the project is to increase the skills of watershed partnerships to plan and implement successful watershed-level protection and restoration projects. Watershed partnerships are defined as *grassroots groups involved in identifying, reducing, or eliminating water pollution.*

The following is a list of the general areas in which training and services will be provided. These services are provided free of cost, either in a group training or through one-on-one assistance.

- Fundraising Training for Watershed Protection
- Using the Clean Water Act to Protect Rivers
- Watershed Data Collection, Watershed Assessment and Monitoring Techniques
- Collaborative Planning and Consensus-Building Techniques (including diversity training)
- Developing an Effective Public Outreach and Media Communications Program (including message development)
- Skills and Needs assessment for Long-term Projects

With the help of consultants from national and regional groups, Amigos Bravos will be organizing trainings/ assistance to New Mexico groups who work on water issues. If you know of a group or organization that addresses water pollution issues and could benefit from assistance in the categories above please contact Rachel Conn, Amigos Bravos Clean Water Circuit Rider at 758-3874. *

Water and Moss Sampling in White Rock Canyon

On April 15, Associate Director Joseph DiChiaro and Clean Water Circuit Rider Rachel Conn accompanied technicians from New Mexico Environment Department's Department of Energy Oversight Bureau, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (CCNS) and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) on a sampling event in White Rock Canyon. The sampling was done in response to evidence that springs and streams feeding into the Río Grande at White Rock Canyon show signs of contamination that could be linked to LANL. The event was significant in the history of contaminant sampling in New Mexico as technicians utilized a new process that involved gathering and analyzing aquatic moss. Aquatic moss was gathered at spring 4A and will be analyzed for total metals, total perchlorate, total isotopic plutonium, total isotopic uranium, total strontium and total Caesium 137. Water samples were also taken and will be analyzed for total metals, perchlorate, isotopic plutonium, isotopic uranium, strontium-90 and low-level tritium. *



Rachel Conn, Joseph DiChiaro and Louie Naranjo, Jr., 1st Lt. Governor of San Ildefonso Pueblo and LANL Environmental Health technician

Summer Hikes in the Valle Vidal

On May 8th the Coalition for the Valle Vidal, which Amigos Bravos is coordinating, hosted the first in a series of hikes in the Valle Vidal wilderness area. The Coalition was formed last September to protect the Valle Vidal from coalbed methane development. Individuals, members, and groups in the Coalition will be sponsoring day hikes in the Valle throughout the summer. Wild Earth Llama Adventures, an outfitter that treks regularly in the Valle, sponsored the May 8th hike. Wild Earth Llamas carried a gourmet feast up the trail and the hikers enjoyed a leisurely brunch on the banks of McCrystal Creek, which would be impacted by coalbed methane development in the area. The hike was complete with views of the snow-covered Baldy and Little Costilla Peaks, and a visit to the historic McCrystal homestead.

Other scheduled hikes in the Valle:

July 17th Stephen Rose

August 7th Western Environmental Law Center

August 21st Amigos Bravos

Hikes are offered free of charge but donations are suggested. Proceeds from the hikes will go towards protection of the Valle. Please call the Amigos Bravos office at 758-3874 for more information or check out the Coalition for the Valle Vidal website at www.vallevidal.org. *

Gila River Threatened by Potential Reservoir Project

The Gila and San Francisco river basin is the last remaining free-flowing river system left in New Mexico. The upper Gila basin provides important wildlife habitat that supports a variety of flora and fauna, several of which are threatened or endangered species. The quality and integrity of the habitat is such that Amigos Bravos has been considering the Gila-San Francisco system as appropriate for reintroduction of the river otter.

The New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) is proposing a project to capture and distribute water from the Gila and San Francisco rivers via an off-stream reservoir in Mangas Creek. According to a report from the Gila Conservation Coalition, the “proposed amendment to the Arizona Water Settlements Act (S437), being considered in Congress, would appropriate \$150 million to New Mexico to contract for and capture Gila River water for Grant, Hidalgo, Luna, and Catron counties. The costs of this project could exceed \$220 million in capital expenditures and impose \$1-\$2 million in annual operating costs on this economically distressed region of the state.” A cost-benefit analysis to examine economic viability of the project has not been conducted, and “according to the Southwestern New Mexico Regional Water Plan, the area’s future water needs can be easily met by modest increases in efficiency and use of water rights that are projected to be idle.”

The project will have significant biological impacts, doubling the current quantity of water removed from the Gila and San Francisco rivers. “Based on a United States Fish and Wildlife Service report,” says Gila Conservation Coalition representative, Allyson Siwik, “withdrawal of water from the Gila will interfere with the natural cycle of flows upon which native fish and wildlife and their habitats depend.” According to a fact sheet prepared from the 1986 USFWS Report on the BOR Upper Gila Water Supply Study, an estimated 254 species

of birds have been recorded in the Gila river valley. This is 60% of the total number of bird species observed in New Mexico. Up to 116 of these species are breeding riparian birds which form the highest breeding riparian bird community in the lower Colorado River Drainage, and probably in the southwest. The Cliff-Gila Valley also provides important habitat for a great variety of wintering migratory bird species. Gila-San Francisco riversides are extremely valuable habitats of cottonwood-sycamore-willow and riparian deciduous broad-leaf, which are dependent on stream flows for regeneration and growth. These habitats require the proper timing, duration, and magnitude of winter flow and spring runoff as dictated by nature.

As a result of the river’s relatively unmodified condition and uncontrolled flows, it currently supports one of the most intact native fish communities in existence in the Lower Colorado River drainage. Long fin dace, Sonora sucker, and desert sucker are the most widely distributed and common native fishes, while the largest population of spiked ace is found in the Cliff-Gila Valley. As with tree populations, the natural, uncontrolled flood flows of the Gila River are probably the major factor contributing to the maintenance of the native fish populations.

A letter regarding Environmental Parameters addressed to the Interstate Stream Commission and written by attorney Todd M. Lopez — on behalf of the Gila Conservation Coalition — suggests the following for inclusion in the ISC’s stated plans: “The ISC shall work in consultation with the Southwest New Mexico Water Study Group to assess feasibility of a diversion project, including but not limited to study of environmental impacts and instream flow needs to maintain downstream wildlife and their habitats. Any proposed water development shall not impair the ecological integrity of the Gila and San Francisco rivers and their associated riparian corridors

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Amigos Bravos Gains New Mining Reform Campaign Manager and Projects Director for the Albuquerque Office

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information-sharing with area churches as well as with public and private high schools. The outreach plan will include a Youth Symposium. Information-sharing and technical support will focus on water quality and quantity issues, as well as issues of historical, spiritual, and daily survival in relation to rivers.

Like Varela, Sanchez is a natural fit for the duties of her new position. She was born in Hatch, New Mexico to a farming family. In 1959, when Sanchez was six years old, her family moved to the south valley in Albuquerque. Sanchez is married to Deacon Leroy Sanchez and has three grown children and eight grandchildren. She brings to Amigos Bravos twenty-one years of union organizing and membership development experience. Sanchez explains, “Everyone should be treated with dignity and respect and no one should be afraid to go to work due to environmentally unsafe conditions.” She served as Vice-president for the Albuquerque Educational Assistants Association Local 4129, sat on the Executive Council, and was (PSRP) Paraprofessional School Related Personnel at the state level. In 2002 she received “Brindis a la Mujer Hispana” for her work on behalf of the Hispanic community.

Sanchez’s concerns for the working and living conditions of the people of New Mexico extends to the natural environment, especially in regard to water and air. “When you see yourself and others around you getting sick, because of pollution of the environment — you know you have to do something. You have to educate yourself and get involved. I feel I can make a difference working with Amigos Bravos because I bring a wide range of experience from working with youth to adults, and I am also involved at the church level in the area of social justice. I feel social justice and environmental justice do go hand-in-hand.” ✱

Amigos Bravos Gains New Mining Reform Campaign Manager and Projects Director for the Albuquerque Office

Janice Varela was hired in June of 2004 as the Mining Reform Campaign Manager. The Campaign Manager develops working relationships and builds the political and hands-on restoration capacities of communities, groups, and individuals dealing with mining impacts in New Mexico. In addition, the Campaign Manager coordinates efforts to educate legislators regarding comprehensive mining reform at the national level.



Janice Varela

Varela is ideally suited for the job. She is a native of Pecos, where she learned to swim in the Pecos River from her mother, who shared her love of nature with Janice and her four brothers. The Varela family spent their summers in the nearby mountains, camping, fishing, swimming, picking berries, and gathering firewood in the fall. Janice Varela is mother of two — Kiko, 22 and Ursula, 17 — whom she taught to share the family love of mountains and rivers.

In the early 1990's, Varela became active in the local environmental movement, tackling issues that threat-

ened both her family's and neighbor's way of life, and their relationship to the Pecos River. "Mine waste" Varela explains, "from the abandoned Terrero lead and zinc mine, where my paternal grandfather worked as a miner in the 1930's, was polluting the Pecos, causing massive fish kills in the local trout hatchery and river. I knew I had to do something." Varela, as leader of La Gente del Rio

Pecos, spearheaded the reclamation effort of the abandoned mine and mill site in her community. Working with expert chemists, hydrologists, and hydro-geochemists inspired Varela to earn her degree in political science, with a minor in environmental science, from New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU). While attending NMHU, Varela became an AmeriCorps volunteer and began work with issues concerning acequia and land grant communities. In 2000, she was named a fellow in the

national Environmental Leadership Program, a program designed to build a more diverse future of environmental leaders

On the same day that Varela joined the Amigos Bravos staff, Amigos Bravos was lucky to find Lucy Sanchez who is the new Projects Director for the Amigos Bravos Office in Albuquerque. The Project Director for the Albuquerque Office is charged with primary implementation of the "Environmental Justice, Diversity, and Youth Initiative" as described in the Amigos Bravos Three Year Strategic Plan 2003- 2006. Sanchez's responsibilities include participating in coalitions linking river



Lucy Sanchez

health and sustainability to human health and economic justice issues; providing political and technical assistance to environmental justice groups dealing with water quality issues; and, building relationships with marginalized groups and communities dealing with water pollution issues.

In support of these goals Sanchez will design and implement an outreach plan for education and

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A Raffle with a Twist!!!

Yes! I want a 1-in-500 chance to win an acre of land or \$10,000.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

I would like ____ ticket(s) @ \$100/each = \$ ____ Or improve my chances! 5 tickets = \$450 10 tickets = \$800

Enclosed is my check, payable to **Amigos Bravos**

Charge my credit card: VISA MasterCard Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Mail to: Amigos Bravos, P.O. Box 238, Taos, NM 87571

Raffle tickets may also be purchased online at www.amigosbravos.org/Raffle.html or by calling (505) 758-3874.

Calendar of Events

July 26 (Monday).....Radio Río, coalbed methane development in the Valle Vidal

August 7 (Saturday).....Valle Vidal Hike, sponsored by the Western Environmental Law Center, call the office for details, or go to www.vallevidal.org

August 21 (Saturday)...Valle Vidal Hike, sponsored by Amigos Bravos, call the office for details, or go to www.vallevidal.org

August 30 (Monday).....Radio Río, restoring river otters to the rivers of New Mexico

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 for emergency capital outlay. There are strict guidelines regarding when and how money from the fund can be used. Any money withdrawn 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 March 1, 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 Sanborn, and Marion Gurewitz, the interest bearing account now has a balance of \$37,994. Please consider making a contribution to the 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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Best time to call _____

Help us save the Río Grande Join Amigos Bravos!

- Limited Income/Student \$100 River Protector
- \$25 General Membership \$120 Business Member
- \$50 River defender \$500 River Savior
- \$1000 River Preserver

Please send information on how 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.
Your membership donation is tax deductible.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Charge my credit card: VISA MasterCard

Card #: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Mail to: **Amigos Bravos, P.O. Box 238, Taos, NM 87571**

505-758-3874 • Fax 758-7345

email: bravos@amigosbravos.org • www.amigosbravos.org

Citizen's River Agenda

The inauguration of Annual River Lobby Day took place on May 25, 2004 in Washington, D.C.. Representing Amigos Bravos in the halls of Congress were Executive Director Brian Shields and Clean Water Circuit Rider Rachel Conn. Also in attendance were representatives from eighty river protection organizations representing twenty-nine states nationwide. All of them are community leaders. All of them are tireless advocates for river protection and restoration of their home watersheds. This is the first time a growing national rivers movement has gone to Congress with a united front: the Citizen's River Agenda.

Amigos Bravos Executive Director Brian Shields explains, "There are so many different communities throughout the country dealing with their own local issues. Each group from each state or region or watershed goes to their own state congressional delegates as well as to federal delegates to discuss their concerns. The Citizen's River Agenda was conceived as a way to pool efforts. We realized we'd have a better chance of making real change happen if we went to the U.S. Congress as a united front. River Lobby Day was an extraordinarily powerful event. River activists are not just environmentalists but folks representing a really broad range of diverse constituencies. We all came with the essentially the same concerns, the same dreams, and the same demands."

The Citizen's River Agenda focuses on three primary threats occurring in communities across the country: threats to water quality, threats to water quantity, and threats created by urban sprawl. For each threat, the Agenda suggests three specific legislative or legal solutions. In addition to this "threats and solutions" approach, the Citizen's River Agenda for 2004 describes and supports two specific legislative actions: the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act, and the Stormwater Discharge Mitigation Program (Section 1620 of S.1072).

Initial planning for both the Citizen's River Agenda and River Lobby Day was initiated two years ago. River protection activists attended the Annual River Rally, sponsored by River Network, and began making a plan. A steering committee, comprised of eleven different organizations, met each of the last two years to gather and share information, and to hammer out details of the agenda. The steering committee is composed of Amigos Bravos and eleven other organizations, including River Network and American Rivers.

Amigos Bravos is looking for other groups to sign-on to the Citizen's River Agenda. The Citizen's River Agenda is available in an easy-to-read brochure form. For more information and a copy of the brochure, call Amigos Bravos: 758-3874. ✱

Clean Water Authority Restoration Act

(H.R. 962 and S. 473)

The Clean Water Authority Restoration Act will reaffirm Congress' original intent to protect all U.S. waters to meet the Clean Water Act's goal of restoring the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. The bill does not impose any new regulatory requirements and does not affect current regulatory exemptions (such as ongoing farming or silvicultural activities). Rather, it ensures protection for the nation's rivers, streams, and wetlands by clearing up confusion caused by a 2001 Supreme Court decision and by negating subsequent administrative attempts to redefine the scope of waters covered by the Clean Water Act.

History:

In 2001, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an extremely limited decision that prevents federal agencies from protecting non-navigable, intrastate, so-called "isolated" waters based solely on their use by migratory birds. In January 2003, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers issued new guidance for the Clean Water Act jurisdiction. The guidance directs field staff to stop protecting so-called "isolated" water even though the term "isolated" appears nowhere in the Clean Water Act, and no waters are truly hydrologically isolated. The guidance also suggest that some tributary streams not be protected. EPA estimates that the 2003 guidance removes protections for 20 million acres of the nation's wetlands. A huge number of streams that do not flow year-round — more than 60% of the nation's stream miles — could also lose protections. This will harm human health and wildlife habitat, and may result in huge new costs to states and local communities to clean up water pollution that escapes federal limits. ✱

The Clean Water Authority Restoration Act (H.R. 962 and S. 473):

- Adopts a statutory definition of "waters of the United States" based on the longstanding definition of waters in agency regulations (at 33 CFR 328.3).
- Reasserts Congress' original intent when the Act was passed that all waters be protected to ensure clean water for all Americans. The bill would delete the term "navigable" from the Act because the legislative history is clear that the term "navigable" was not to limit the waters covered by the Act.
- Explains the factual basis for Congress' constitutional authority over all of the nation's waters and wetlands.

Peace Action New Mexico Award to Amigos Bravos

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Board President Michael Coca and Executive Director Brian Shields at the Peace Action New Mexico Awards

With offices in Taos and Albuquerque, a staff of seven, and a membership of over 1,500 households, Amigos Bravos is dedicated to holding polluters accountable, assisting individuals and communities to develop river restoration initiatives, and educating the media and the public on ways to protect and restore rivers.

Our work is rooted in the basic belief that environmental justice and social justice go hand-in-hand. It is not possible to have peace without justice, nor is it possible to have a clean and sustainable environment without a just society. We will never succeed in stopping pollution until we, as a society, uphold that to pollute is a crime against nature, a crime against humanity, and a crime against God.

Pollution created by private industries — as well as by the Departments of Energy and Defense — produce huge social burdens that are predominantly carried by the surrounding indigenous populations.

In Santa Fe, our drinking water is threatened by a plume of radioactive and carcinogenic pollutants originating at the Los Alamos National Lab. During the Manhattan Project, thousands of gallons of toxic chemicals, radio nuclides, and explosives were dumped into the arroyos of the Pajarito Plateau. Now, sixty years later, we are beginning to see the first signs of that contamination reaching the *Rio Grandé*, threatening Santa Fe's Bukman well system — the primary source of drinking water for this community. As many of you are aware, the *Rio Grandé* is

also being proposed as a source of drinking water for Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and communities downstream.

Weapons manufacturing and wars over resources — such as the current war for global dominance and for oil in Iraq — produce environmental disasters. I would go so far as to say that a society that depends on war to maintain its status and identity cannot hope to maintain — much less restore — its environment. We were on the road to having some hard-won and fairly decent environmental laws in this country, but the current administration — with its preemptive strike philosophy — has embarked on a war against environmental regulations. Speaking as someone who works in the environmental arena on a daily basis and is dependent on environmental law to help him do his job — I am here to testify that the current administration is fast reducing clean air and water to a commodity rather than a right.

Society is made up of individuals. As individuals we can make choices and take action. If there are enough of us making the right choices we can create — and maintain — a just society. Recently, our *primos* in Spain made a brave choice — they decided that peace and justice are more important than war and dominance.

Tony Bend, the ex-British parliamentarian, and now a great leader in the peace movement, says: “Pessimism is a Prison.” He also reminds us: “Hope is Fuel.”

With that in mind, I close with a quote from Oren Lyons. Oren Lyons is a Faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan of the

Onandoga Nation. He says:

*The human being is not superior. The human being probably with his intellect carries a tremendous amount of responsibility. That is all you have — you have more responsibility. One of the things that you are supposed to do, we are told, is to look out for the welfare of the natural world. The natural world lives in a state of grace — they absolutely live in a state of grace. All the animals, all the birds, and all the trees, the plants and everything is doing precisely what the creator put them here to do. And they cannot do anything wrong. But we have options, human beings have options. And in those options are what you would call ‘an existential approach’ — you can direct what is going to happen. You can — by your actions — direct what is going to happen. That is a great deal of responsibility, a tremendous amount of responsibility which human beings possess.” **

Gila River Threatened by Potential Reservoir Project

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by degrading the rivers' physical, chemical and biological characteristics.”

Discussions of the proposed project to capture and distribute water have occurred for the most part outside of the public eye. Meetings with state and local officials regarding the project have not been given public notice. Moreover, descriptions of alternatives for capturing and distributing Gila River water and associated costs have been vague. The project poses a significant financial burden on the communities of southwestern New Mexico, yet the people of those communities have been kept in the dark about the economic implications of the proposals. Please take a moment to address your concerns on this matter to the Interstate Stream Commission by writing to: ISC, P.O. Box 25102, Santa Fe, NM, 87504-5102. *

All of the information and most of the language for this article were provided by the Gila Conservation Coalition, P.O. Box 878, Silver City, New Mexico 88062, 505-388-3763.



Friends of
the Wild
Rivers

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- Rachel Conn, *Clean Water Circuit Rider*
- Sean Larkin, *Membership & Outreach Coordinator*
- Lucy Sanchez, *Albuquerque Projects Director*
- Janice Varela, *Mining Reform Campaign Mgr.*
- Betsy Wolf, *Office Manager*

**GOVERNOR RICHARDSON SAYS,
“HERE’S THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT
IN NEW MEXICO ON DRILLING IN THE VALLE
VIDAL: WE’RE AGAINST IT.”** *(Press Conference; July 14, 2004)*



*Wild Earth Lama Adventure’s faithful alpha llama, Azul, and Marilyn Cox
enjoying the spectacular beauty of the Valle Vidal*

FACTS BY THE DROP

- The average person in the United States uses between 65 to 75 gallons of water (250 to 300 liters) per day for drinking, cooking, bathing, and watering their yard.
- The average person in the Netherlands uses only 27 gallons (104 liters) per day for the same tasks.
- The average person in the African nation of Gambia uses only 1.17 gallons (4.5 liters) of water per day.

*Anything else you’re interested in is not
going to happen if you can’t breathe
the air or drink the water.
Don’t sit this one out.
Do something.
You are by accident of fate alive at
an absolutely critical moment
in the history of our planet.
—Carl Sagan*