



# The Quivira Coalition 2002 Annual Report

2002 was a year of significant growth and transition for The Quivira Coalition. It opened with our highly successful First Annual Conference, which drew over 300 ranchers, environmentalists, scientists, public land managers, and others to Albuquerque; and it concluded with an important adjustment to our mission statement. In between was an exhausting whirlwind of educational programs, meetings, publications, lectures, travel, and administrative highs and lows – all against a backdrop of a faltering national economy whose local effects were felt keenly in the office.

All in all, it was another watershed year for The Quivira Coalition, but one with certain elements we would rather not have to repeat.

Most importantly, 2002 saw The Quivira Coalition make the transition from an organization focused on the promise of progressive ranch management and the debate over the proper role of livestock in the Southwest, to a group focused on the broader questions of land health, sustainability, and ecological and economic restoration, of which good grazing is just one element. At the same time, we remain an organization devoted to ideas and practice of good stewardship on public and private ranchlands, and will continue

## The Quivira Coalition: 2002—A Year of Transition

to move in this direction, principally through our work with ranchers and their supporters, even though our work now en-



compasses broader stewardship goals.

Here are a few examples of this new effort:

### Forest Restoration

In 2002 we became involved with Prof. Melissa Savage and her non-profit organization, the Four Corners Institute, in a 300+-acre forest restoration demonstration project on the Valle Grande Grass Bank, located on Rowe Mesa, east of Santa Fe. Melissa asked us to handle







the educational aspects of her project, which is federally funded through a bill sponsored by Sen. Jeff Bingaman. We produced a brochure and a newsletter focused on her innovative ideas of ponderosa pine forest restoration, organized a tour of the project site, and assisted with the resto-

ration work itself.

### **Riparian Restoration**

Our budding interest in restoration work was significantly reinforced by our involvement with Bill Zeedyk and his ideas for riparian restoration. Although we had worked with Bill in the past, 2002 saw a sharp increase in the number of our projects and workshops that featured Bill as the main instructor. In fact, we worked at seven different sites around New Mexico with Bill, doing everything from building one-rock dams in small arroyos (Blue Horse Ranch in La Cienega), to inducing meandering in a badly eroded drainage (Las Huertas Creek in Placitas) to new riparian work on Comanche Creek and the Dry Cimarron River, to old

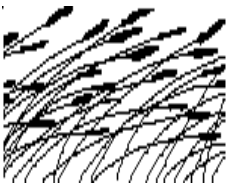
work along the Galisteo, south of Santa Fe. We even hosted a three-day “train-the-trainers” session for Bill Zeedyk “wannabees” at Largo Creek, in Catron County.

We did all this work with Bill for two reasons: first, his innovative ideas for restoring riparian function through low-cost, low-tech techniques that “let nature do the work” fit nicely with our philosophy on progressive ranch management - how critical it is to work WITH nature’s principles, not AGAINST them. This has been the staple of Kirk Gadzia’s work with us for many years. Second, without good grazing management Bill’s work is a waste of time, i.e. why restore a riparian area to health if the cows are just going to trash it? Vice versa too – if a rancher is willing to change his management, why not help him or her “speed up” the riparian recovery process at the same time?

It is also for these reasons that Bill has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Quivira Coalition.

### **Rangeland Health Mapping**

We also began a restoration project near Taos with the BLM, a grazing association, and a group of private landowners with the aim of restoring a degraded range landscape back to health, principally by the effect of animal impact. Our contribution to this project came mostly in the form of a major mapping project. Using the new “rangeland health” qualitative protocol published recently by the



federal government, we surveyed over 18,000 acres of sageland and produced a GIS map demonstrating its overall health – at the level of soil, grass and water – that will serve a multitude of purposes, including facilitating the NEPA process. Most of the rangeland rated at moderate to poor condition, despite having been rested from livestock grazing for more than forty years.

According to a knowledgeable scientist, this GIS map of land health (see map on page 7) is the FIRST produced in the entire state of New Mexico, possibly even the Southwest.

### Goats

We also helped to bring Lani Lamming and her 600+ herd of goats to New Mexico in 2002. Lani has built a successful business by employing her goats as weed-eating machines in Colorado and Wyoming. With the assistance of Earthworks, Inc., Lani spent six weeks in New Mexico, herding her hungry goats across ranches, down highway right-of-ways, through parks, and around homes. Her philosophy is much the same as Bill Zeedyk's: let nature do most of the work. In this case, let nature transform noxious weeds into fertilizer and cashmere wool, while lots of little hooves churn up the ground for more grass regeneration.

We came to the conclusion that Lani's approach, like Bill's, holds out a great deal of promise for the future. And we found it all terribly interesting and exciting.

In the end, this new work, as

exhausting as it was, proved to be a natural progression for the Quivira Coalition. In fact, Jim Winder has argued for years that



this organization (as well as other groups and agencies) needed to get away from a "fixation" on ranchers and cows. Instead, he argued, we needed to be taking a "holistic" look at the region and all of its resources – people, water, grass, animals, livestock, etc.- and concentrate our efforts on the Big Picture. Cattle were just one part of the puzzle, Jim kept insisting.

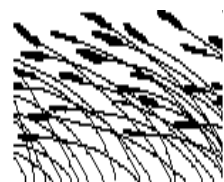
### "New" Mission

In 2002, we began to fulfill Jim's ambitious goal.

As a result of this new work, as well as the growing public awareness of the progressive ranching movement in general, the Quivira Coalition's Board of Directors voted unanimously in November to adopt a new mission statement for the organization.

It reads:

"The mission of the Quivira Coalition is to foster ecologi-



cal, economic and social health on western landscapes through education, innovation, collaboration, and progressive public and private land stewardship.”

“We call our approach to public and private land stewardship and education “The New Ranch.” Elements include progressive ranch management, restoration, monitoring and a focus on land health. Its principles are promoted through workshops, Outdoor Classrooms, lectures, publications, site tours, consultations, collaborative demonstration projects, awards, a regular newsletter, and an Annual Conference.”

Our new tag line reads:

“Working to achieve a harmony between humans and nature.”

This does not mean, however, that we are abandoning our previous effort to promote progressive ranch management, encourage collaboration, or bring good science to bear on thorny questions about livestock use of public and private rangelands. Far from it. What we intend to do from here on out is integrate the “New Ranch,” as we have called it, with efforts at broader-scale restoration and land health projects.

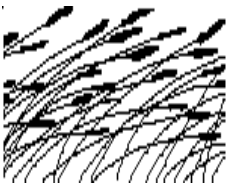
(our first major excursion outside of New Mexico). We were asked by a coalition of local ranchers and public land managers to put up an event similar to our Annual Conference, though obviously on a much smaller scale. We decided to organize the event around the idea of a New Ranch “toolbox.” The ranchers, in fact, wanted to ponder their options, so we had speakers talk about planned grazing, herding, grassbanks, riparian restoration, collaboration, and monitoring. We also included a session on Rangeland Health, featuring one of the authors of the new protocol.

One hundred and twenty-five people attended, most of whom were ranchers. If that weren’t enough, forty of them returned the next day for a roundtable discussion that was remarkable for its civility and the genuine desire of the participants to make progress. A number of environmental activists attended, including a national Board member of the Sierra Club, and the chair of the Club’s Grazing Task Force. When a sixth-generation rancher volunteered his land for a demonstration project, saying that he just turned down \$10 million dollars from a subdivider for his place, there was instant common ground in the room. Restoration, both economic and ecological, was on everyone’s mind.

In fact, it became clear during the course of the conversation that the concept of Land Health could be the glue that binds us all together. It is a way of employing a common language to describe the common



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## Moab

A good example of this integration took place at the very end of 2002, when we organized a two-day event for ranchers and others near Moab, Utah

ground below our feet. In any case, the event will likely become a role model for future educational forums.

[In another measure of the event's success, at a follow-up meeting of the Utah Range Coalition, which is what this group now calls itself, a call for volunteer demonstration projects drew thirteen responses! The Coalition is winnowing the list down now.]

All of this leads us back to an original concern of the Quivira Coalition: how do we keep rural folks on the land and help them earn a living in a rapidly changing world? One answer that is beginning to emerge from our experience in 2002 is the possibility that economic revitalization in rural New Mexico can happen when society begins to compensate ranchers for providing ecological services, such as supplying clean and abundant water to urban and rural communities.

We hope to explore this important issue in 2003.

### **Financial Outlook**

On the downside, all this transitioning, combined with the usual heavy workload of workshops, tours, publications, and paying the rent, taxed the capacity of the Quivira Coalition to its limit. We were able to hire an Administrative Assistant in the spring of 2002, but due to an unexpected downturn in funding and giving nationwide, we had to let him go in October.

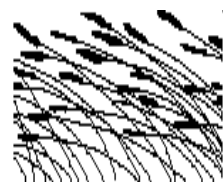
Making matters worse, in addition to the complex juggling act required by our grants and other

projects, we faced a serious financial crisis in the fall when our reserves were tapped out to pay pressing bills. This caused the staff, and Board, to retrench and rethink priorities; clearly, more time and energy needed to be expended on brightening the financial side of the picture. Fortunately, this retrenchment paid off, literally, and the financial outlook for the Quivira Coalition improved as the year came to a close. We also conducted a voluntary, third party audit of our financial records to see how we were doing in the accounting department. According to the audit, we are doing great.

In the end, the staffing and money woes were a form of transition too. We learned from our mistakes, and now have a more "realistic" perspective on our priorities. We enter the New Year with renewed optimism that we will be able to grow the organization financially and administratively in a sound and stable manner, focused on our revised mission and eager to teach, learn, listen, and help people, land, and communities.

We look forward to another year of growing and transitioning as we try to keep up with rapidly changing times ourselves. With luck, there will not be a need to adjust our mission statement again for a few years yet.

At least we hope so!



# Projects Overview

We have several on-going on-the-ground projects and are in the preliminary stages of others:

•**Macho Creek:** Three miles of overgrazed riparian area are being managed under the principles of the New Ranch. The project is being intensively monitored by the Jornada Experimental Range, under the supervision of Dr. Kris Havstad. A bird survey being conducted by HawksAloft has found several rare birds in the recovering area.

•**Quemado:** We began working with a Catron County rancher, at his request, and the U.S. Forest Service to develop

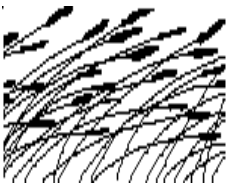
gave us money to conduct a bird survey along the rancher's Largo Creek riparian area. We have been working with Bill Zeedyk to restore Largo and it has improved quite a bit.

•**El Valle:** We have been working with the residents of El Valle, on the Pecos River, to develop a grazing plan for the private land there. The traditional Hispanic communities of this beautiful valley feel threatened by sprawl, drought, loss of grasslands due to tree encroachment, and overgrazing. They are attempting to "unionize" in order to fight off these threats. We are currently in discussions with them about the feasibility of a grassbank and a grass-fed beef operation.

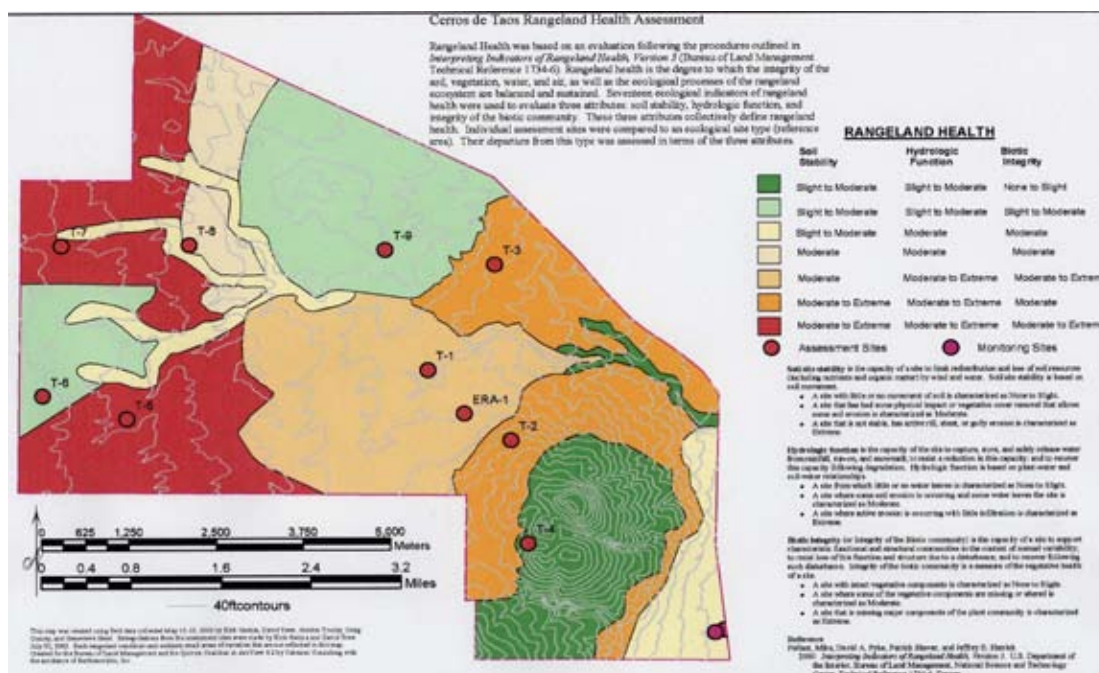
•**Comanche Creek/Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Restoration:** The goal of the stakeholders is to cooperate and collaborate on restoring and securing native Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout populations and their associated fish and benthic assemblages within the Comanche Creek watershed. This includes providing opportunities to educate the public about the importance of the whole watershed to its native trout population and associated aquatic assemblages; and, if successful, serving as a demonstration forum showcasing the type of management which is effective in restoring and maintaining wild trout populations on public lands. The lessons learned here will be made available for application throughout the Rio Costilla watershed and in similar areas of northern New Mexico.



a new management plan for his ranch. That grazing plan for a progressively managed ranch has now been completed and is being implemented, much to the delight of the rancher and the Forest Service, which has agreed to restore his use of their land to 12 months a year. Audubon







•**Cerros de Taos:** This involves the Taos office of the BLM, area ranchers, and handful of private (non-ranching) landowners, to restore 7,000 acres of degraded sagebrush country west of Taos to health by innovative livestock activity, principally by herding, while carefully monitoring the results.

•**Dry Cimarron:** This is an educational and collaborative demonstration project with the the Rainbow Ranch section of the Dry Cimarron, centering on grazing management and riparian restoration using the techniques described in our Riparian Restoration workshops and newsletters. The idea behind this project is to: show grazing and riparian health are compatible; emphasize a collaborative effort using non-profit organizations and the private ranching community to encourage

cooperation in riparian conservation and education; implement a grazing system compatible with riparian vegetation regeneration and growth requirements; monitor the effects of the grazing system and modify it based on the findings; reduce erosion; educate ranchers, public land managers, environmentalists, and others about riparian restoration methods; increase channel stability, raise groundwater levels, and increase habitat for riparian-dependent and aquatic species.

•**Rio Puerco:** We are working with the Rio Puerco Management Committee to educate area residents on rangeland health, riparian restoration, and roads management.





## Collaboration

We have always been willing to talk with anyone, anywhere about watersheds, restoration, and stewardship. Our partners include:

Amigos Bravos • Bionomics Southwest • U.S. Bureau of Land Management • Catron County Citizens Group • Cerros de Taos Grazing Association • Earth Works Institute • EcoResults! • The Farm Connection • Farm to Table • Four Corners Institute • HawksAloft • Malpai Borderlands Group • National Riparian Team • Natural Resources Conservation Service • Navajo Nation • New Mexico Department of Game and Fish • New Mexico Environment Department • New Mexico State Land Office • New Mexico Trout • Partners Land Trust • Resources Management Services • Rio Pueblo/Rio Embudo Watershed Coalition • Rio Puerco Management Committee • Santa Barbara Grazing Allotment • Santa Clara and Santa Ana Pueblos •



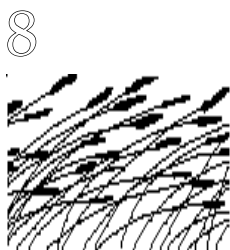
Taos County Alternative Weed Management Committee • Taos Soil and Water Conservation District • The Conservation Fund/Valle Grande Grass Bank • Trout Unlimited • U.S. Army Corps of Engineers • USDA Forest Service • USDA Jornada Experimental Range • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service • Utah Range Coalition • Valles Caldera Coalition • Valle Vidal Grazing Asso-

## Educational Program

We have held a series of highly acclaimed conferences: two Annual Conferences (2002 and 2003), one on *Grassbanks in the West*, one on *Collaborative Stewardship*, one on *The New Ranch* where we debuted our book *The New Ranch Handbook: A Guide to Restoring Western Range-*

*lands*. We continue to work collaboratively with many public and private organizations, as noted above.

We have set up a very ambitious schedule of educational events. The chart on page 9 is a partial list of the events we held in 2002 and will hold in 2003.

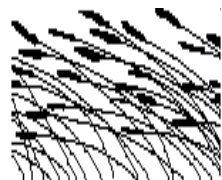


**Event**

Two Day Annual Conference—Albuquerque  
Drought Workshop—Socorro  
Herding Clinic—Ghost Ranch  
Goat Workshop with Lani Lamming—Taos  
Rest Workshop—Sevilleta  
Riparian Restoration Workshop—La Cienega  
Outdoor Classroom—CS Ranch  
Ranching 101—Lake Valley  
Riparian Restoration Workshop—Comanche Creek  
New Ranch Workshop—Cuba  
Outdoor Classroom—Carrizo Valley Ranch  
Tour at Sam Montoya's—Sandia Pueblo  
Using Cattle to Restore Land—Flagstaff  
Outdoor Classroom—Quemado  
Ranch Roads Workshop—Cuba  
Riparian Restoration Outdoor Classroom—Dry Cimarron  
Forest Restoration Workday and Tour—Rowe Mesa  
Restorative Grazing Workshop—Galisteo  
Basics of "Induced Meandering" Workshop—Galisteo  
Two Day Annual Conference—Albuquerque  
Radical Center Conference  
—Tucson, with Malpai Borderlands Group  
Willow Planting—Dry Cimarron  
Surviving a Drought Workshop  
—Comanche Hill Ranch, Roswell  
Riparian Workshop—Canoncito  
Forest Health Workshop and Workday—Rowe Mesa  
Rangeland Health Workshop—AZ  
Riparian Workshop—Rio Puerco  
Restoration Workdays—Comanche Creek  
Riparian Restoration Workshop—Largo Creek, Quemado  
Outdoor Classroom—Lindrith  
Restoration Workdays—Comanche Creek  
New Ranch Workshop—RCCLA, Amalia  
Roads, Water Harvesting Workshop—Newkirk  
Restoration Workdays—Comanche Creek  
Outdoor Classroom—UBar Ranch  
Riparian Restoration Workshop—Comanche Creek  
Workshop on Rest—Sevilleta  
Restoration Workdays—Comanche Creek  
Roads, Water Harvesting Workshop—Cuba  
Rangeland Verification Tour—Galisteo  
Riparian Restoration Verification Tour—Galisteo

**Year**

January 18-19, 2002  
April 26-27, 2002  
April 29, 30, May 1, 2002  
May 7, 2002  
May 11, 2002  
July 12-13, 2002  
July 13-14, 2002  
July 27, 2002  
August 3-4, 2002  
August 10, 2002  
August 24-25, 2002  
September 7, 2002  
September 14, 2002  
Sept. 14-15, 2002  
Sept. 20-21, 2002  
October 5-6, 2002  
October 19, 2002  
Oct/Nov. 2002  
November 8-9, 2002  
January 17-18, 2003  
April 4-5, 2003  
  
April 19, 2003  
April 25, 2003  
  
May 30-31, 2003  
May 31, 2003  
June 6-7, 2003  
June 13-14, 2003  
June 28-29, 2003  
July 12-13, 2003  
July 19-20, 2003  
July 25-26, 2003  
August 16, 2003  
August 22-23, 2003  
August 23-24, 2003  
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September 27-28, 2003  
October 3-4, 2003  
October 11, 2003  
October 25, 2003

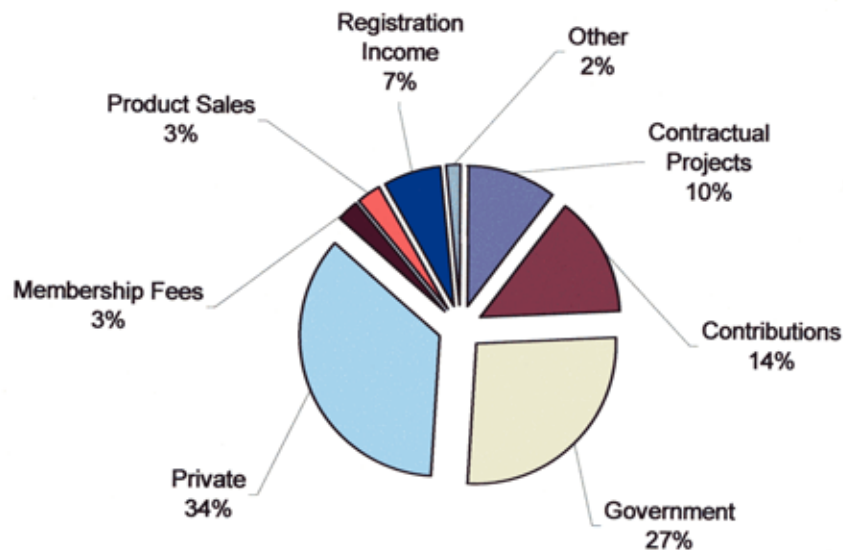


# 2002 Income and Expenses

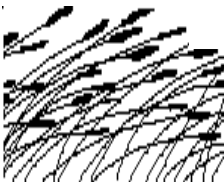
(cash basis)

## Income

<b>Private Grants</b>	<b>\$121,546.64</b>
<b>Government Grants</b>	<b>\$ 91,908.56</b>
<b>Public Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 47,262.00</b>
<b>Contractual Projects</b>	<b>\$ 35,463.86</b>
<b>Registration Income</b>	<b>\$ 22,840.00</b>
<b>Product Sales</b>	<b>\$ 8,968.23</b>
<b>Membership Fees</b>	<b>\$ 8,940.00</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>\$ 5,948.67</b>
<b>2001 carry over income</b>	<b>\$ 75,012.88</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$417,890.84</b>



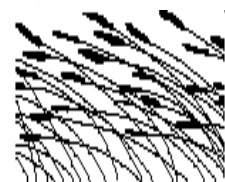
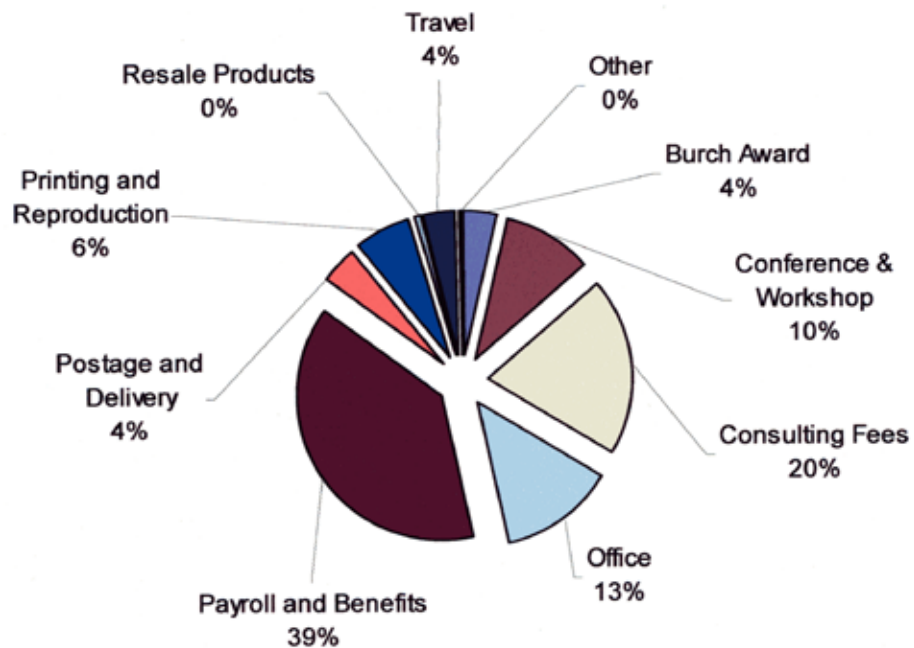
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**Note:** The Quivira Coalition had a professional audit done in 2002 by Sullivan & Morales. Copies are available on request.

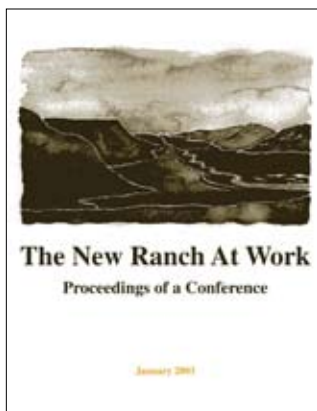
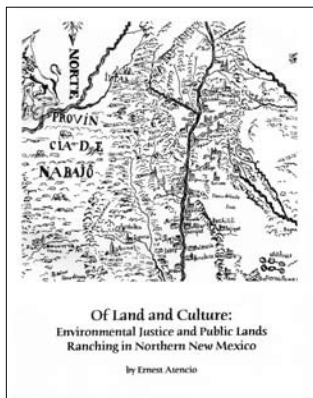
## Expenses

<b>Payroll and Benefits</b>	<b>\$150,911.29</b>
<b>Consulting Fees</b>	<b>\$ 77,099.41</b>
<b>Office</b>	<b>\$ 48,869.25</b>
<b>Conference &amp; Workshop</b>	<b>\$ 39,248.42</b>
<b>Printing and Reproduction</b>	<b>\$ 24,714.54</b>
<b>Postage and Delivery</b>	<b>\$ 16,807.86</b>
<b>Burch Award</b>	<b>\$ 15,000.00</b>
<b>Travel</b>	<b>\$ 14,308.69</b>
<b>Resale Products</b>	<b>\$ 1,864.50</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>\$ 809.09</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$389,633.05</b>



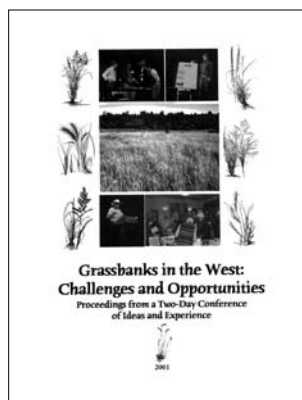


# Publications



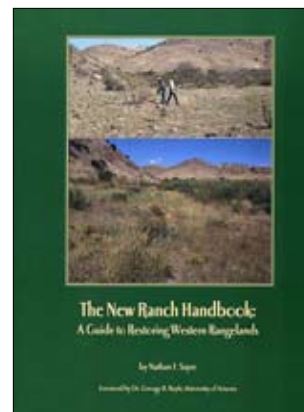
We have published proceedings from our 2002 Annual Conference, the Grassbank and Collaborative Stewardship Conferences, and *Of Land and Culture: Environmental Justice and Public Lands Ranching in Northern New Mexico*, which we co-commissioned with the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club.

We have just sent to the printer a new book, *Forging a West that Works: In-*



*itation to the Radical Center*, we are in the process of producing the proceedings from our 2003 Annual Conference, and we will debut at our 2004 Annual Conference a textbook on riparian restoration authored by Bill Zeedyk.

We have published 20 issues of our quarterly newsletter.



## Artwork

**Front Cover** [Clockwise]: Workday at Comanche Creek. (Photo courtesy of Tamara Sherburn.) Ranch Roads Workshop near Cuba. (All Photos courtesy of Courtney White unless otherwise noted.) Red Canyon Ranch near Magdalena. (Photos courtesy of Tamara Sherburn.) Riparian Restoration Workshop at Las Huertas Creek. Prairie dog. (Photo courtesy of The Gray Ranch.) Largo Creek, one and a half years after restoration work began. Sid Goodloe's cows. (Photo courtesy of Sid Goodloe.) Comanche Creek. Mike Boring monitoring at Comanche Creek. (Photo courtesy of Tamara Sherburn.) [Middle] Tony and Andrea Malmberg's Twin Creek near Lander, Wyoming, in a drought, evidence of the benefits of planned grazing.

**Back Cover:** Bill Zeedyk discussing induced meandering. (Photo courtesy of Tamara Sherburn.)

### Page 1

San Pedro Parks Wilderness.

### Page 2

Bill Zeedyk demonstrating his "toy" creek. (Photo courtesy of Tamara Sherburn.)

### Page 3

Lani Lamming's goats at the Earth Works ranch. (Photo courtesy of Tamara Sherburn.)

### Page 5

Bird tracks watercolor courtesy of Marty Peale.

### Page 6

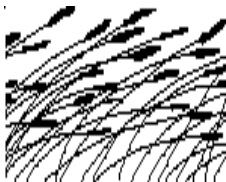
Riparian restoration on Largo Creek.

### Page 7

Rangeland health map courtesy of Gen Head.

### Page 8

Workshop at Sid Goodloe's. (Photo courtesy of Tamara Sherburn.)



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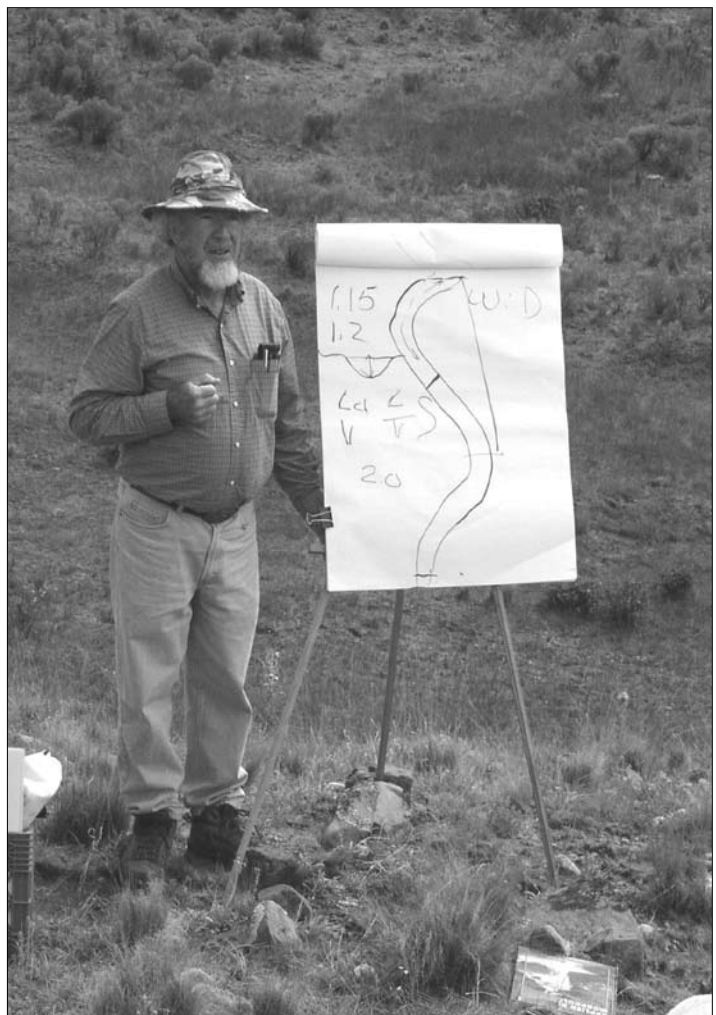
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**Virgil Trujillo**, *Manager, Ghost Ranch*

*Affiliations are listed to convey the breadth of experience that these individuals bring to the governance of The Quivira Coalition.*



## Staff

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**Barbara Johnson**, *Communications Director*

**Tamara Sherburn**, *Projects Manager*

**Sheryl Russell**, *Administrative Assistant*

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