

The Quivira Coalition 2003 Annual Report

2003—A Year of Steady Growth

2003 was a year of steady growth for The Quivira Coalition. We worked hard to maintain the high quality of our programs, while transitioning to a new office, inheriting a small property, and fundraising in a sluggish economy.

We believe that in our nearly seven years of existence, we have been influential in changing the rhetoric of the grazing debate in the Southwest. A middle ground, or “Radical Center,” has been staked out by The Quivira Coalition and other organizations.

In fact, we believe that the debate over livestock grazing on western land, especially public land, is drawing to a close as certain issues have been resolved: whether livestock can be managed in an ecologically sustainable manner on western landscapes—they can; whether ranches play a critical role in the maintenance of our open spaces—they do; whether ranchers and other landowners can take the lead in restoring land to health where it needs it—they are; and whether cultural diversity should be considered as important as biological diversity in the West—it must.

At the same time, and not coincidentally, as the grazing debate begins to wind down a new conservation movement in the

West is beginning to coalesce. This new conservation movement emphasizes collaboration over conflict, restoration over protection, land health over land segregation, watersheds over Washington, and prosperous



communities over perpetual crisis. It values work on a par with play, subjecting both to the same high ecological standards.

The Quivira Coalition is a leader in both of these trends.

Reflecting these developments, in 2002 the Board of Directors adopted a new mission statement, which reads: “The mission of The Quivira Coalition is to foster ecological, economic, and social health on western landscapes through education, innovation, collaboration, and progressive public and private land stewardship.”

In 2003, we worked hard to put this new mission statement into effect.

Our Second Annual Conference

In 2002, we initiated an Annual Conference in order to create a “neutral” ground where ranchers, environmentalists, scientists, public land managers, and others could meet to listen and learn from one another. We felt the timing was right for a

Gary Nabhan, Dan Kemmis, Duke Phillips, Tweeti Blancett, Rick Knight, and Lt. Governor Diane Denish. Topics ranged from goats to beavers to farmer’s markets to mine reclamation. The Conference received good press coverage and the Proceedings will be published in 2004.



Our Second Annual Clarence Burch Award, given out at a banquet concluding the Conference, went to rancher Sid Goodloe and riparian specialist Bill Zeedyk for their innovative strategies in riparian recovery.

The principal sponsors of the event were the EPA, the New Mexico Environment Department-Surface Water Quality Bureau, the McCune

“comingtogether” of individuals and organizations who were interested in discussing their common interests—and we were right! Over three hundred people packed the ballroom at La Posada, in Albuquerque.

In 2003, we took a gamble that our “neutral ground” might need to grow to accommodate more people, so we shifted the Conference to the Hilton Hotel, in Albuquerque. We were pleasantly rewarded when nearly four hundred people attended, including many ranchers.

Entitled “Ranching at the Crossroads,” speakers included

Charitable Foundation, and the Thaw Charitable Trust. This year, in addition, we received a Challenge Grant from the Sanders Foundation to seek out additional sponsors—a challenge which we met. Additionally, we began to sell vendor tables at the event as another way to bring in extra income.

The Conference was a major success in every way. We believe it is well on its way to becoming a substantial vehicle for change in the region. The chance to network among groups that normally don’t rub elbows alone makes this a unique and important event.

An Invitation to Join The Radical Center

Just prior to our Second Annual Conference, we organized a Retreat for twenty scientists, ranchers, and conservationists at La Posada. The goal of this gathering was to mobilize what we are calling “The Radical Center”—a term employed by rancher Bill McDonald, of the Malpai Borderlands Group, to describe a confluence of interests over natural resource management in the West.

Participants in the Retreat included Ed Marston, Bill McDonald, Jim Brown, Kris Havstad, Teresa Jordan, Dan Kemmis, Bill deBuys, Bob Budd, Gary Nabhan, and others.

At the conclusion of forty-eight hours of intense discussion, and some debate, the participants published an “Invitation to Join the Radical Center” which, among other things, declared an end to the grazing wars. In doing so, the authors wrote: “We know that poor management has damaged land in the past and in some areas continues to do so, but we also believe appropriate ranching practices can restore land to health. We believe that some lands should not be grazed by livestock; but also that much of the West can be grazed in an ecologically sound manner.”

Demonstrating that this was not simply a “feel good” document, the Invitation set out seven bullets for membership in the Radical Center:

- The ranching community

accepts and aspires to a progressively higher standard of environmental performance.

- The environmental community resolves to work constructively with the people who occupy and use the lands it would protect.
- The personnel of federal and state land management agencies focus not on the defense of procedure but on the production of tangible results.



- The research community strives to make their work more relevant to broader constituencies.
- The land grant colleges return to their original charters, conducting and disseminating information in ways that benefit local landscapes and the communities that depend on them.

- The consumer buys food that strengthens the bond between their own health and the health of the land.
- The public recognizes and rewards those who maintain and improve the health of all land.



in the Radical Center generated by the Invitation, we organized a two-day event in Tucson, Arizona, in April entitled “Ranching in the Radical Center.” The goal of this conference was to highlight collaborative and innovative efforts in Arizona that are effective at resolving natural resource disputes through progressive management.

Over one hundred and forty people attended the one-day conference, which was funded in large part by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Nearly fifty people attended a follow-up tour of the Empire Ranch the next day. We received a nice story in the local newspaper, and good

The Invitation debuted at our Second Annual Conference and was quickly signed by many individuals. Over time, the “sign up” list has grown to include: Wendell Berry, Nina Leopold Bradley, Linda Hasselstrom, Wes Jackson, Alvin Josephy, Jr., Bill Kittredge, Patricia Limerick, Bill McKibben, Curt Meine, Peter Raven, Theodore Roosevelt IV, Don Snow, Steve Trimble, Stewart Udall, and Charles Wilkinson

We think that the Invitation might very well prove a turning point in the region.

A Conference on “Ranching in the Radical Center”

Following the interest

feedback on the event itself.

It suggested to us that a series of “Ranching in the Radical Center” events around the West would be productive.



Publications

In Spring, we debuted our latest book entitled *Forging a West That Works: An Invitation to the Radical Center*. It is a compilation of our “greatest hits” from five years of Quivira Coalition newsletters. It is divided into three sections: ranching, science, and conservation—representing our efforts to balance all three in our work.

The book features an Introduction by Dan Kemmis and received a nice plug by Gary Nabhan. Not long after its publication it was picked up for distribution by the University of Arizona Press and featured in its Fall catalog, along with *The New Ranch Handbook*.

Early sales results indicate the book will sell well.

Other Publications

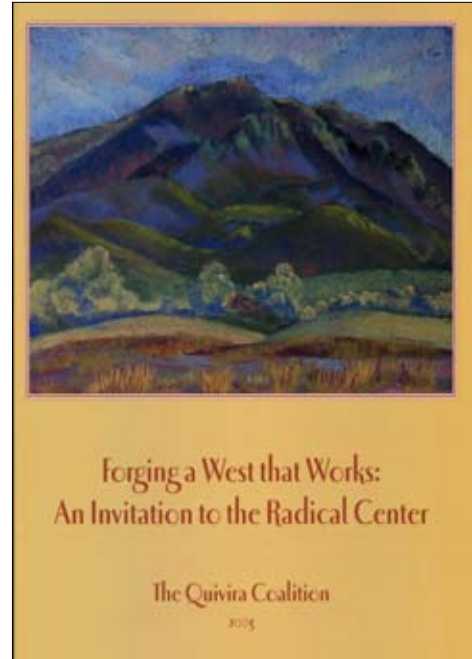
In early 2003 we published the Proceedings to our First Annual Conference, entitled *The New Ranch At Work*. It is our intention that these events not “vanish” into thin air—but instead remain available for reading many years afterward. Eventually all Proceedings will be available on our web site.

In conjunction with Earth Works Institute, a Santa Fe-based nonprofit organization that works to restore ecological and economic health to the Galisteo Basin south of town, we published two field guides: *Rangeland Health and Planned Grazing* and *An Introduction*

to Induced Meandering: A Method for Restoring Stability to Incised Stream Channels.

Funded by the EPA and the New Mexico State Environment Department—Surface Water Quality Bureau, the purpose of these guides is to give landowners an easy-to-read “snapshot” of two innovative land management strategies. A third guide on erosion control will be published in 2004.

We published three newsletters in 2003, including one entitled “Why Grassfed Is Best” that has become one of our most popular. In fact, it became part of an effort to get a new organization launched in the region dedicated to the production, consumption, and marketing of grassfed food. The organization, called the Southwest Grassfed Livestock Alliance, was loosely formed in April and formally launched in early 2004. We have high hopes that it will become a significant force in the region for healthy food and good stewardship, as well as helping to keep the family rancher on the land.



Workshops and Outdoor Classrooms

In 2003, three major overlapping grants from the EPA (one administered by Earth Works Institute), plus one small grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation meant that we conducted a very full, and hectic, educational program of workshops around the region.

Twenty events in two states were organized and conducted—see photos of these events on page 7.

Twenty to thirty people attended each event. They included ranchers, conservationists, land managers, county, state, and federal employees, and members of the “public.”

People planted willows, built Zeedyk “vanes” and “baffles,” learned about ranch road repair, studied the effects of too little and too much grazing by cattle, learned about water cycling, grass identification, and much more.

Most of all, we had fun.

We have discovered that one way to find “eager learners” is to provide educational opportunities that expose ranchers and other landowners to new ideas and methods of land management. Someone may not know they are in need of change, or know that they might be open to it, until they hear new ideas and see them in action.

This was the experience of Jack Hagelstein, a rancher from Roswell, New Mexico. After twenty years of being out of the business, Jack went back into ranching in 1999 when he purchased the Comanche Hill Ranch. Aware that he was somewhat “out of touch” with the cattle business, Jack attended a series of tours and workshops, including a three-day low-stress livestock handling clinic organized by The Quivira Coalition. As it turned out, not only was Jack open to new ideas, he went home and began implementing them right away.

Four years later, Jack’s operation is very successful—and he credits the educational opportunities provided by The Quivira Coalition for a major part of his success.

We recognize the need to maintain, and expand, these opportunities into the future.



**Ranching at the Crossroads:
Forging a West that Works**
Annual Conference
Albuquerque, NM
January 16-17



Tools for Land Management Goals
on the Conley-Byrne Rancho
Lindrieth, NM
July 19-20



**Riparian Restoration
along Comanche Creek**
Valle Vidal Carson NF
June 28-29
July 25-26
August 23-24
September 12-13



**Willow Planting &
Restoration
on the Dry Cimarron**
Folsom, NM
April 19-20
June 7-8

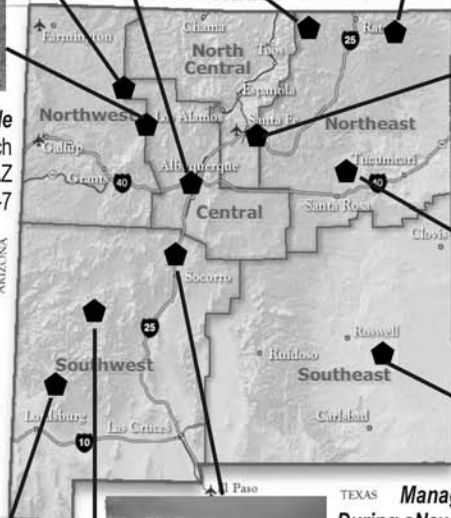
**San Pablo
Creek
Riparian
Restoration**
Cuba, NM
June 13-14



**Riparian Restoration & Induced
Meandering Field Verification
Workshop**
on the
Galisteo
River
Canoncito, NM
October 25



Rangeland Health on The Rio Verde
The Rio Verde Ranch
Prescott, AZ
June 6-7



**Water Harvesting from Low
Maintenance Ranch Roads**
on The Thorpe Ranch
Newkirk, NM
August 22-23



**Ranching in the Radical Center
Conference & Tour of the
Empire
Ranch**
Tucson, AZ
April 4



**Managing Rangelands
During a New Mexico Drought**
on Comanche Hill Ranch
Roswell, NM
April 25



Plant Id and Monitoring
On the U-Bar Ranch
Cliff, NM
October 4-5



**Is Rest the Answer
to the Grazing Debate?**
on the Sevilleta WR
Socorro, NM
September 20



**Riparian Restoration &
Induced Meandering along
Largo and Loco Creeks**
Quemado, NM
August 2-3
October 10-11



Demonstration Projects

In 2003, we maintained our commitment to our Demonstration Projects, including

- Riparian and grass restoration on the Williams



Ranch, located near Quemado;

- Habitat improvement for the Cutthroat Trout on Comanche Creek, near Questa;

- Riparian restoration and Planned Grazing on the Rainbow Ranch, near Folsom;

- Supporting a range restoration project on BLM land west of Taos.

One long-term project, however, came to an unhappy conclusion at the end of the year. Our original riparian restoration effort on Macho Creek, located north of Deming, fell apart—a victim of drought and a lack of local oversight. An experiment in dormant season grazing, the project enjoyed a flush of success in the first three years.

But the rancher sold his land and moved away, leaving the project without a steward. The State Land Office was unable to secure a new permittee, and eventually trespass cattle moved in, eating much of the vegetation that had grown over the years. In December we called a halt to the monitoring efforts on Macho Creek.

For more information, see the February 2004 edition of our newsletter.

On the bright side, the other demonstration projects have all been successful. We are especially pleased with our work on the Williams Ranch, and our relationship with Jim and Joy Williams, which continues to grow. Many people outside The Quivira Coalition cite the Williams Ranch as a positive example of how ranching can succeed when emphasis is put on collaboration, instead of conflict, and land health as the baseline of work.

We are also pleased that we could involve the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps for the first time on our Comanche Creek project. The Corps hires at-risk youth from northern New Mexico and employs them in various projects on public land. For three weeks in 2003, they worked to build elk exclosures as a way to improve habitat for the native Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, a species at risk itself.

New at The Quivira Coalition

New Office

Much of the early summer was consumed by a move to a new, and permanent, office. Fortunately, the move was a very short one—next door! Thanks to the very charitable efforts of the **Thaw Charitable Trust**—Eugene and Clare Thaw and its Executive Director Sherry Thompson, we were able to move to a



large, lovely, and unique building (see picture on page 1) called “Fortaleza Coyote.”

A generous arrangement allows us to manage the building for the Thaw Trust for a fee while enjoying the benefits of a permanent home. As a bonus, we were able to select our neighbors! The other tenants include the Santa Fe Watershed Association, Earth Works Institute, the Conservation Fund’s grassbank, and its director, Bill deBuys.

It is the hope of the Thaw Charitable Trust that the “Fortaleza” compound become a center of progressive and innovative conservation in the state. We believe that goal is well on its way to being realized.

From everyone at The Quivira Coalition, we wish to thank the Thaws, and Sherry, for their continued support of our work.

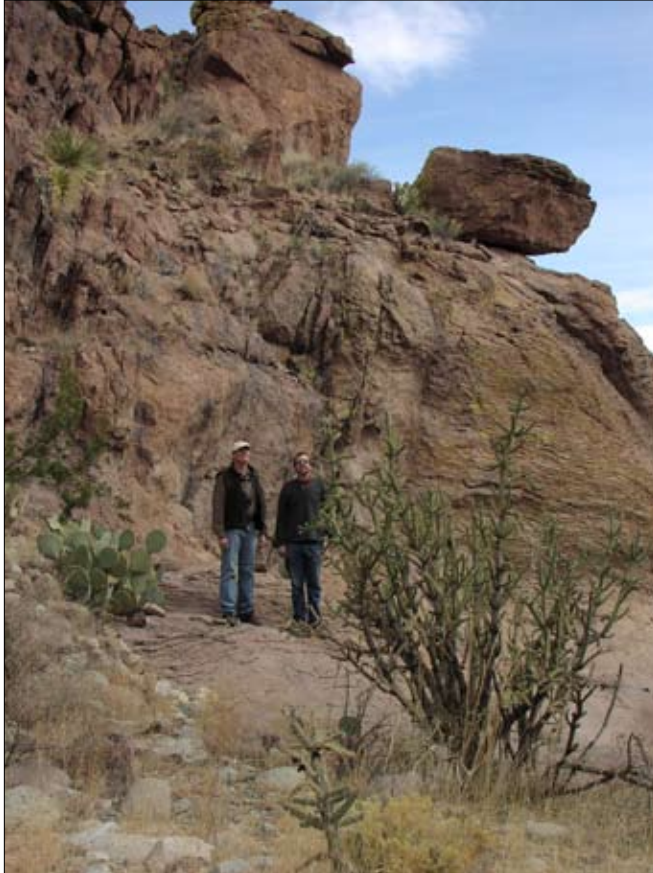
Red Canyon Ranch

In the fall of 2002, Mike Belshaw, a member of The Quivira Coalition, died. His will, which arrived unexpectedly in January, stipulated that his 320-acre property, called the Red Canyon Ranch, be entrusted to us. After a quick visit to the ranch, which is located in the eastern foothills of the San Mateo Mountains near Magdalena, we were eager to accept this lovely gift.

We spent most of the summer and all of the fall doing the paperwork. Many, many thanks go to our lawyer, **Cullen Hallmark**, for his diligence and skill. Cullen, too, was moved by the beauty of the property and wanted to see us become its steward. He put in countless hours—all pro bono—and not just doing the legal work. He

helped us survey the roads and fences, and devise a plan for the property.

From all of us at The Quivira Coalition, thanks Cullen!



the ranch can become a Retreat for writers and others. It is very inspirational country, and we look forward to many years there.

Going Forward

At its Fall meeting, the Board of Directors approved an outline of an ambitious new program of work for The Quivira Coalition in the upcoming years. With a new home, a new job as landowners, with large grants beginning to wind down, and with the nature of the grazing debate continuing to change, it was clear to us that the organization has reached a new plateau from which a new future can be reached. We won't be leaving our core mission behind—promoting and assisting good stewardship—but we will be trying new strategies and methods, alongside the tried and true, to accomplish our goals.

Our mission is still the same: education, collaboration, restoration, and innovation—one acre at a time.

The plan for Red Canyon Ranch, as stipulated in the will, is for the property to be managed for biological, cultural, and educational values. To that end, we intend to inventory the natural and cultural resources on the ranch, repair roads and fences, and give the land some rest from cattle for a little while. In the long run, it is our hope that



The Quivira Coalition Summary of Activities

For the year ending December 31, 2003 (Cash Basis)

Support and Revenue	2003
Membership	\$8,100.00
Foundations	\$182,849.00
Government Grants	\$99,760.00
Public Donations	\$66,230.00
Other Non-Profits	\$57,826.00
Product Sales	\$14,249.00
Registrations	\$17,576.00
Total Revenue	\$446,590.00

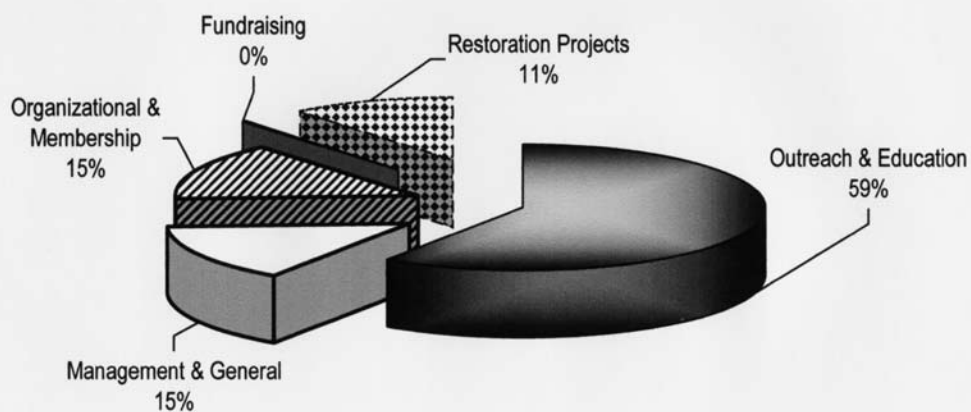
Expenses

Outreach & Education	\$270,915.00
Management & General	\$67,717.00
Organizational & Membership	\$66,771.00
Fundraising	\$1,412.00
Restoration Projects	\$49,364.00
Total Expenses	\$456,179.00

Net Assets

Beginning of year	\$63,387.00
End of year	\$54,053.00

Analysis of 2003 Expenses

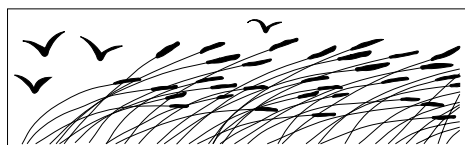


Board of Directors



Merle Lefkoff, Chair,
Facilitator and Environmentalist
Sid Goodloe, Vice Chair, *Rancher*
Virgil Trujillo, Vice Chair,
Manager, Ghost Ranch
Dutch Salmon, Secretary,
Author and Environmentalist
Bob Jenks, Treasurer,
*Deputy Commissioner,
New Mexico State Land Office*
Roger Bowe, *Rancher*
Ernest Atencio, *Executive Director,
Taos Land Trust*
Sterling Grogan, *Biologist, Middle
Rio Grande Conservancy District*
Kris Havstad, *Supervisory Scientist,
Jornada Experimental Range*
Frank Hayes, *U.S. Forest Service
District Ranger, Clifton, Arizona*
Mark McCollum, *Rancher*
Ed Singleton, *Albuquerque Field
Office Manager, U.S. Bureau of Land
Management*

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

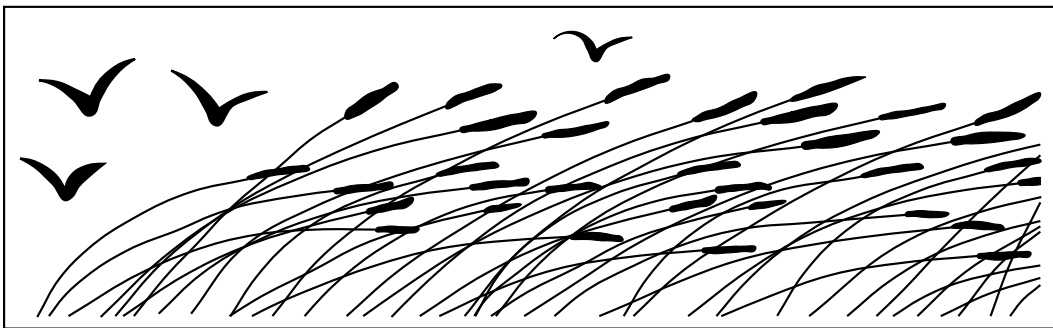


Staff

Courtney White,
Executive Director
Barbara Johnson,
Communications Director
Tamara E. Gadzia,
Projects Manager
Sheryl Russell,
Administrative Coordinator
Severn Thomas, *Grants and
Outreach Coordinator*

Photos

Front cover: Soils. (Graphic courtesy of Tamara E. Gadzia.)
Page 1: The Fortaleza Coyote Building. (All photos courtesy of Tamara E. Gadzia unless otherwise noted.)
Page 2: Second Annual Conference, main room. (Photo courtesy of Gene Peach.)
Page 3: [Top] Discussions among conference participants are frequent. [Bottom] Jerrie Tipton had them rolling in the aisles during her presentation. (Photos courtesy of Gene Peach.)
Page 4: [Top] Tour of the Empire Ranch in Arizona. [Bottom] Steve Carson examining microinvertebrate activity in cow dung.
Page 7: Photos courtesy of Tamara E. Gadzia and Courtney White.
Page 8: Building a “worm ditch” on Comanche Creek.
Page 9: East view of Red Canyon Ranch.
Page 10: [Top] Kirk Gadzia and Courtney White touring the riparian area on Red Canyon Ranch. [Bottom] Petroglyphs on Red Canyon Ranch.
Back Cover: Installing wickerweirs on the Dry Cimarron.



The Quivira Coalition

1413 Second Street, Suite #1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
505-820-2544
505-955-8922 (fax)
www.quiviracoalition.org