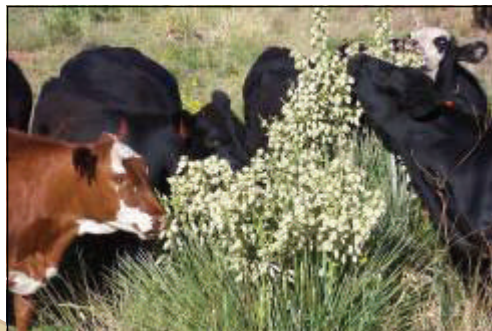




The Quivira Coalition

Education, Innovation, Restoration...One Acre at a Time



2004 Annual Report

Cover Photo credits:

Upper right: Craig Conley with noxious weed, Valle Grande Grassbank, courtesy of Kirk Gadzia

Lower center: Cows eating yucca flowers, courtesy of Jim Thorpe

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The Quivira Coalition—2004:

A Non-Profit Coming of Age

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.

The organization was founded by a rancher and two environmentalists in June, 1997, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to offer “common sense solutions to the grazing debate,” primarily by broadcasting the principles of ecologically sensitive ranch management.

We call our approach *The New Ranch*. Elements include progressive ranch management, scientifically-guided riparian and upland restoration, land health assessment and monitoring, and bridge-building among ranchers, environmentalists, federal and state agency personnel, academics, and members of the public. We promote the principles of The New Ranch through workshops, outdoor classrooms, lectures, publications, site tours, consultations, collaborative demonstration projects, awards, regular newsletters, and an Annual Conference¹.

In 2004, The Quivira Coalition made significant strides in “walking the talk” on New Ranch principles. In fact, we passed a significant milestone: we became landowners! And not just once, but twice – the 320-acre Red Canyon Ranch, and 240 acres connected to the Valle Grande Grassbank, a 36,000-acre federal grazing allotment. Both of these properties represent major challenges and opportunities for us, and we are eagerly embracing both.

Meanwhile, three long-term demonstration projects have borne substantial fruit. Two are EPA-funded, one on the Carson National Forest, and the other on private land near Folsom, New Mexico; the third is the Williams Ranch Project, located near Quemado, in northern Catron County. All three have blossomed ecologically and socially, even in the middle of a prolonged drought.

Our Outreach program continues to grow as we reach new audiences and spread the word. Our Third Annual Conference drew 435 participants, 35% of whom were ranchers; we hosted eleven educational workshops around the state, which drew over 370 people; held or participated in several outreach events; spoke at Conferences from Montana to Nevada; and we continued to garner good press.

We also designed and secured funding for two new programs, one a restoration project with high school students on a creek near Albuquerque, and the other a program of outreach to ranchers and other landowners called The New Ranch Network.

On a more sober note, we continued to be bedeviled by the difficulty of raising funds in a post-9/11 world. Although we continue to enjoy the steady support of our friends, our financial needs continue to rise, requiring new sources of funding. To that end, we crafted a comprehensive fundraising strategy this summer – one that we feel confident will carry us to a more secure financial future.

In other words, it was quite a year, and we’re looking forward to another banner



Red Canyon Ranch, June 2004
Photo courtesy of Steve Carson

year in 2005.

Red Canyon Ranch

Thanks to the pro bono hard work of our good friend Cullen Hallmark, we completed the paperwork and gained title to the 320-acre Red Canyon Ranch, located in the eastern foothills of the San Mateo Mountains, in central New Mexico.

This beautiful property was willed to us by Michael Belshaw, a Quivira member who died in the fall of 2002. He stipulated that the ranch be used as a wildlife sanctuary, educational outpost, and grazing demonstration site. We think the property has enormous potential for all that and more.

However, we had to first repair access and ranch roads to make Red Canyon Ranch accessible to the public. The condition of these roads was poor and the potential for major erosion was serious. Additionally, there were some major headcuts and gullies near the windmill that were in dire need of restoration attention.

Fortunately, our friends were willing to tackle these challenges, just as they do on our other demonstration projects. In the spring, a team led by Bill Zeedyk reviewed the road and erosion “opportunities” and came up with a plan that fit our budget. In May, Steve Carson of *Rangeland Hands*, who had already made a substantial contribution to



Access road to Red Canyon Ranch through East Canyon, June 2004



*Water flowing down wildlife drinkers
September 25, 2004*

the ranch with the donation of a custom-made outhouse, directed and implemented the restoration work pro-bono; which was an in-kind donation of \$18,500.00.

In September, Bill Zeedyk brought the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation to the Red Canyon Ranch for a weekend of work constructing “drinkers” for wildlife in an ephemeral stream channel. We have seen all manner of wildlife on the ranch, including a mountain lion Steve Carson nicknamed “Red Tom.”

And in the fall we began talks with ranching neighbor, Tommy Bickle about a grazing plan for the property.

Next steps include cultural and biological inventories, more roadwork, and the construction, eventually, of an education facility on the property.

We would very much like for the Red Canyon Ranch to become a field station for writers, researchers and other visitors.

It is extremely well positioned – bounded on three sides by National Forest Land – to offer a range of recreational and scientific opportunities. Perhaps it could even generate revenue!

In 2005, we will draft a Master Plan for the property, keeping in mind the wishes of Michael Belshaw and the goals of The Quivira Coalition.



*Red Tom's Paw Print
March 2004*

Valle Grande Grassbank

In the spring, Bill deBuys approached The Quivira Coalition with an opportunity to purchase the Valle Grande Grassbank – a combination of private property and a federal permit for livestock grazing on forest lands on Rowe Mesa, located thirty miles east of Santa Fe.

Bill had created this innovative Grassbank in 1997 when he pulled together a collaborative team that included The Conservation Fund, the Forest Service, the Northern New Mexico Stockmen's Association and the NMSU Extension Service. The goal of the Grassbank is to provide forage for livestock in exchange for a tangible conservation benefit – thinning and prescribed fire on participating federal forest allotments. It is literally “grass in the bank” for conservation and economic use.

The idea of a Grassbank originated with the Malpai Borderlands Groups in southwestern New Mexico. Today there are half a dozen Grassbanks operating around the West, mostly on private land owned by The Nature Conservancy. The Valle Grande “experiment,” however, is still the only totally federal lands Grassbank in the country.

Eight years after its inception, the “experiment” has proven to be a success. Despite the usual ups and downs associated

with managing land, including drought and perpetual infrastructure headaches, the Valle Grande Grassbank has supported livestock from nine grazing associations from two National Forests in northern New Mexico. It continues to enjoy the support of area ranchers and the US Forest Service.



*Valle Grande Grassbank Brand
Photo courtesy of Craig Conley*

In April, Bill deBuys and Courtney White flew to Washington, D.C. to talk with The Conservation Fund about the details of a deal for the land and the grazing permit. A very generous offer was made by The Conservation Fund which was placed before the Board of The Quivira Coalition in June during a

tour of the Grassbank. The Board accepted the offer to buy the land. We would very much like to thank The Conservation Fund and Bill deBuys for their generosity and considerable effort in making the transition a success.

While in Washington, Bill and Courtney also visited with various elected officials and agency folk about the Valle Grande Grassbank. All were supportive. We are cautiously optimistic that support for the concept will spread throughout federal land management agencies.

A key to our decision to buy the property was the availability of our friend Craig Conley to become the Director of the Grassbank. Craig owns a small ranch and is thus well versed in all the “opportunities” that come with land management. He jumped into the job with enthusiasm and sobriety (a necessary pairing on public land). He’s done a great job and we can’t thank him enough.

In fact, we have a great team: Catherine Baca came to us from The Conservation Fund and handles all the administrative details with wonderful aplomb; Cullen Hallmark handled all the paperwork on the transfer with great skill and patience; Virgil



*Valle Grande Grassbank, August 2004
Photo courtesy of Kirk Gadzia*

Trujillo, a Quivira Coalition Board member, provided an important link to the Northern New Mexico Stockman's Association; and Bill deBuys provided sage counsel throughout the transfer.

Armando Nieto, a Masters degree student from the Integrated Resource Management Program at Colorado State University, was the Valle Grande Grassbank's first summer intern. Although Armando was born and raised in Denver, Colorado, his family roots are deep in New Mexico including multiple generations of family ranching going back over 400 years in northern New Mexico.

Armando conducted a survey of grassbank users including grazing permittees and local wood cutters. His final paper, which served as his Masters' project, was titled **"Stakeholder Opinions of a Collaborative Forest Restoration Project on the Valle Grande Grass Bank: Implications for Managing the Federal Commons."** Armando's Conclusions:

The roots of ranching in New Mexico go deep. The first domestic livestock in what is now the United States passed through New Mexico with Spanish explorers in the company of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado in 1540. The first livestock that would remain as part of a permanent community arrived with Spanish settlers under Don Juan de Oñate in 1598, including between 6000 and 7000 head of sheep, goats, cattle, horses, mules and oxen (Wildeman and Brock, 2000, p. 3). The descendents of Oñate's colonists and subsequent settlers are the Hispano ranchers, farmers, and residents of Northern New Mexico today.

New Mexico has long been one of the poorest states in the Union, and the counties of the North the poorest in the state. The economic hardships of living in poor rural communities are amplified among those maintaining a herd of livestock in and out of droughts, on private lands, and on public lands that once belonged to their ancestors.

Despite the difficulty that such subsistence ranching presents in "making ends meet," the Hispano ranching community has persisted due to the additional cultural and social benefits that are associated with owning livestock. These include; maintenance of family and community cohesion; maintenance of ancestral traditions, cultural heritage, family values, and continuity of ties to the land; financial security for emergencies or large expenses such as college tuition; and even "freedom from the Saferway" (see Raish &



*Herding activity on the Valle Grande Grassbank
Photo courtesy of Don Usner*

McSweeney, 2003; Eastman, Raish & McSweeney, 2000; and McSweeney, 1995). As decisions are made on the Valle Grande and on CFRP projects, now and in the future, it would be wise to bear this cultural and historical legacy in mind. For the Valle Grande Grass Bank and the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program to continue functioning in a way that meets their goals and truly has a beneficial effect on their stakeholders, multi-party monitoring of socioeconomic and ecological effects should remain an integral part of all forest and range restoration projects. As an element of adaptive management, monitoring is the only way to know where to take the next step, and without effective monitoring, restoration projects run the risk of losing sight of their mission, neglecting their intended beneficiaries, and allowing the continuance of the socioeconomic and ecological trends they originally sought to halt.

We would also like to thank the Forest Service for their steady support, including Joe Reddan, Pecos/Las Vegas District Ranger, Charlie Jankiewicz, range staff officer on the Santa Fe National Forest, and Dave Stewart, range boss for Region Three.

Half of the budget for the Valle Grande Grassbank is provided by the Forest Service – and there would not be a Grassbank without it. Other support is provided by the EPA, the New Mexico Environment Department, the McCune Foundation, the Thaw Charitable Trust, and the Ford Foundation.

Lastly we thank Francisco Vigil and other Board members of the Northern New Mexico Stockman's Association for their support. The ultimate goal of this project is for the Association to purchase the Grassbank and put it to good use down the road.

In November, the title transfer was complete and The Quivira Coalition became

the official owner of the Grassbank (we will likely change its name to the Rowe Mesa Grassbank in order to dodge some confusion with the Valle Grande located in the Valles Caldera National Preserve above Los Alamos).

In December, we hired Michael Moon to be the Director of Ranch Operations. Michael comes to us from a similar position at the Matador Ranch, which is a TNC Grassbank located in northeastern Montana. We are very pleased to have Michael on board.

In 2005, we will face many new “opportunities” on the mesa, not the least of which will be the big job of finding additional funding. As a new model of land management, Grassbanks across the region are struggling to become financially sustainable (not owning the cattle means that a huge source of potential income – the sale of the animals – is not available to the land-owners). Thanks to the hard work of Bill deBuys our funding is secure for two years – but ONLY for two years.

There are also many challenges on the land itself. An aging pipeline system, thirty miles in length, supplied by a single, cranky well presents its own set of problems. Roads need major work, fences need to be mended, a grazing plan needs to be developed, monitoring data needs to be compiled, the base property needs a ton of elbow grease, and on and on; an all familiar problems to ranchers.

But we’re excited. We think Grassbanks have the potential to be a major new tool for public and private land management and we are pleased to be a part of this move-

ment. We also look forward to using the mesa as “home ground” for many educational events in the coming years.

The opportunities, as well as the challenges, are limitless.

Comanche Creek

Since 2002, we have been the chief organizers of a big collaborative restoration project focused on Comanche Creek, located in the western half of the Valle Vidal unit of the Carson National Forest, near the Colo-

rado state line. This project is funded by the EPA, under its Clean Water Act mandate, and includes the Forest Service, the NM Environment Department, NM Game & Fish, Trout Unlimited, NM Trout, the Valle Vidal Grazing Association, the Rocky Moun-

tain Youth Corps, Bill Zeedyk, Steve Carson, and others.

There are two principal goals for this project: to address persistent water quality concerns in Comanche Creek; and to assist in recovery efforts for the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, a native species that is struggling to remain viable. Not surprisingly, the two are linked.

After decades of hard use, the 100,000-acre Valle Vidal unit was donated to the Forest Service by a private corporation in 1981 for a substantial tax break. Much of the West’s recent history could be read into the condition of the land at the time of the transfer: massive overgrazing by 6000 head of cattle (there are only 800 today), heavy logging and road-building everywhere, and a historic gold mining district.



*A mini-elk enclosure along Comanche Creek
September 2004*

Since 1981, a concerted and innovative effort was made on the part of the Forest Service, the grazing permittees, and various conservation organizations to heal the Comanche Creek watershed. A herder was hired by the grazing association, willows were planted along the streambanks, and a mile-long elk enclosure was constructed on the creek.

These efforts helped, but the creek, and its fish population, continued to struggle toward recovery. In 2001, The Quivira Coalition was approached by the head of New Mexico Trout seeking our assistance in creating a larger project. We readily agreed to help.

Here is a quick list of the fieldwork completed by the team to date:

- Established baseline monitoring points throughout the watershed.
- Surveyed and GIS-mapped the creek, marking willow clumps and points of severe erosion.



Waterbars installed along a closed road near Gold Creek on the Valle Vidal September 2004

- Through workshops and under the supervision of Bill Zeedyk and George Long of the USFS, we constructed vanes (in the creek to protect eroding streambanks) and side channel erosion control structures to prevent sediment flow into Comanche Creek. Numerous headcuts in various drainages were repaired, also reducing erosion.

- With the assistance of the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps and volunteers from NM Trout, Trout Unlimited and The Quivira Coalition, over sixty mini-elk enclosures were constructed around key willow clumps

along the creek. This has allowed the willows to grow and shade the water, which is critical for the Cutthroat Trout.

- Bill Zeedyk and Steve Carson inventoried the roads, including



One of many headcuts on La Belle Creek in the Comanche Creek watershed, September 2004

the main road, and prioritized them for repair according to how much eroded material they were pouring into the creek (this was a far more serious problem than many realized). In 2004, substantial repair of the worst roads was done by the Forest Service.

We believe that all of this work is having a significant positive impact – not only on the creek, and its native inhabitants, but also on the overall way we handle unhealthy land in the West. The usual route is confrontational – someone sues or threatens to sue someone, usually an agency, over a conservation crisis. Gridlock ensues, and as a result, very little changes on the ground, where it matters most.

The Comanche Creek approach has been entirely different. By putting together a “braintrust” and employing a great deal of muscle power, we put most of our energy on the land, targeted at real problems, such as badly designed and installed road culverts.

The key is the diversity of knowledge and opinion brought to the process – everybody looks at the creek from a slightly different perspective, causing creative energy to happen. As a result, we are making real progress on “the back forty” – the place where Aldo Leopold noted it mattered most.

We are pleased to report that the EPA has extended the Comanche Creek grant for another four years.

Dry Cimarron

This is another collaborative, EPA-funded restoration project – this time focused on a three-mile stretch of private farmland along the Dry Cimarron River, located a few miles west of Folsom, in northeastern New Mexico.

A significant watercourse for the region, the Dry Cimarron had become entrenched, due to historically poor upland management. Attempts by the owners of the Rainbow Ranch to correct the downcutting, which was threatening farmland and disrupting irrigation, by “straightening” the river artificially, among other strategies, while well-intentioned, had the effect of making things worse.

Looking for help with their dilemma, one of the landowners, Sunny Hill, approached The Quivira Coalition in 2002.

With the assistance of the EPA grant, and under the supervision of the NM Environment Department, we built a collaborative team that included Bill Zeedyk, Van Clothier, and Kirk Gadzia. Inventories were compiled, maps made, structures in-

A three-tiered erosion control structure installed on a side drainage of the Dry Cimarron, June 2004



Sunny Hill and Tony Benson on a meander of the Dry Cimarron, Folsom, NM, June 2004

stalled, dumps removed, meanders restored, willows planted, baseline up-lands and riparian monitoring completed, bird surveys conducted, a grazing plan created, and in-depth quarterly reports written.

As with the Comanche

Creek project, the goal on the Dry Cimarron is not simply to “fix” a stretch of degraded river, but to demonstrate how innovation, education and collaboration can work to heal land and people. The “old school” wasn’t working well on the Rainbow Ranch anymore.

New ideas, new strategies, new friends were needed to reverse the downward trend.

And by every indication, the strategy is working. We don’t pretend to have a silver bullet, but by the end of 2004, things were definitely looking up on the Dry Cimarron.

Due to the success of the lower reach project, in 2005 we will extend the restoration to a section of the upper reach. To prevent a headcut from rapidly migrating up the creek, an earthfill plug will be installed

A headcut on the Dry Cimarron August 2004



across an artificial cutoff channel, thus restoring flow to the natural channel. Boulder vanes and a boulder weir will be installed to stabilize the stream bed elevation and the streambank at a critical point. Following treatment, all disturbed areas will be mulched with hay and re-seeded. The streambanks will be planted with willow cuttings to re-establish woody components.

The Williams Ranch

This year marked our sixth year of involvement with Jim and Joy Williams, who ranch south of Quemado. In the early years, our work together focused on grazing issues – implementing a planned grazing system on the public and private land, dormant season grazing, workshops and tours.

In 2001, we began a riparian restoration project on Largo Creek under the direction of Bill Zeedyk. Volunteers from New Mexico and Arizona came to the Williams Ranch to dig holes in the mud and carry rocks. In 2003, work shifted to Loco Creek, an ephemeral tributary that is deeply incised and a major source of erosion.

In the past, Loco apparently flowed in a different location but was captured over time by a quickly eroding cattle or wagon trail. Fence posts that hang thirty feet up in the air, marking the boundary between public and private land, were once in-the-ground in 1935. This is a common story across the Southwest as many watersheds continue to degrade.

Loco Creek continued to be the focus of our work in 2004. In all, twenty-six

*An old fence hanging above where the ground used to be on Loco Creek and newly installed wicker weirs to help slow the flow of water
May 2004*



Volunteers install vanes in Loco Creek, May 2004

Induced Meandering structures – weirs, baffles, and vanes – were constructed within a one-quarter mile stretch of the creek. The goal is to slow water down by encouraging Loco to “remeander” itself naturally during flood events.

When water slows down, grass and riparian plants can become established which will stabilize the systems and reduce erosion. Eventually a new floodplain will be created.

In July, two months after the structures were completed, a small volunteer crew, under the direction of professional surveyor Ellen Soles, conducted a mapping survey of the project area using a Total Station, a state of the art surveying instrument. The de-

tailed map will serve as an accurate chronicle of the changes to Loco Creek’s meander. As far as we know, this was the first such map done in this detail on a Bill Zeedyk project.

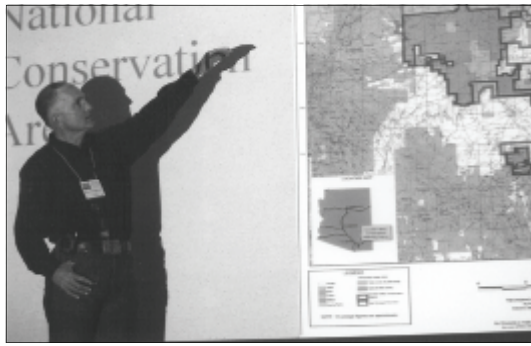
Jim and Joy Williams continued to support this work physically, financially, and emotionally (the work is on their private land). It was a pleasure to work alongside them and everyone became good friends in the process.

Although the grant money has run out for this project, we hope we can return to the Williams Ranch soon and continue our work there.

Annual Conference and Clarence Burch Award

Our Third Annual Conference, which took place over the Martin Luther King weekend in early 2004, was a big success. Entitled “Ranching in Nature’s Image: Fostering Social and Environmental Health in the West,” it drew over 430 people, 35% of whom were ranchers. Attendees came from every western state, representing a diverse cross-section of the ‘radical center.’

Dignitaries included Diane Denish, Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico, and Patrick Lyons, NM State Land Commissioner. Over forty speakers rounded out the busy schedule, which was changed this year to accommodate concurrent sessions on Friday and Saturday afternoons (some of last



Mac Donaldson of the Empire Ranch presenting a talk at The Quivira Coalition's January 2004 Conference, Photo courtesy of Gene Peach

year's participants asked for more detailed information).

Evaluations and on-site feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Many told us it was one of the best events they had been to in many years, and they encouraged us to keep up the good work. Many said it gave them hope for the future.

The 2004 Burch Award was given to the participants of the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership, including John and Mac Donaldson, of the Empire Ranch; Karen Simms, of the BLM; and Jeff Williamson, of the Phoenix Zoo.

This productive partnership is a model of collaborative public land stewardship (recognized nationally too). They have creatively faced a number of challenges, including endangered species protection, rising recreational pressure, rapid growth on private land in the area, and cattle management. We were very pleased to recognize their work with the \$15,000 award honoring Clarence Burch, the grandfather of Andrew Dunigan.



Mesteño Draw Ranch workshop, Mountainair, NM, August 13, 2004

Outreach

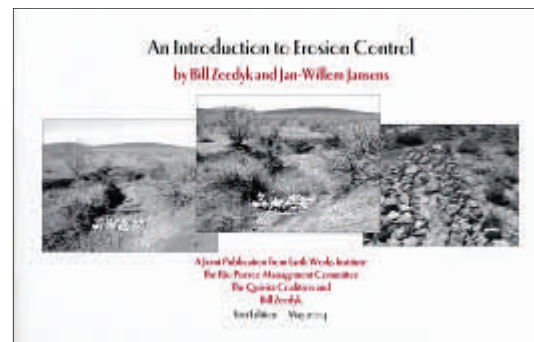
Publications

In 2004 we published 3 newsletters:

- *Grazing in Nature's Image;*
- *Watershed Management in Nature's Image: About Commitment to and Kinship with a Place;* and
- *Dances with Cattle: Collaborative Management on the Madison.*

In collaboration with Earth Works Institute, New Mexico Environment Department-Surface Water Quality Bureau, Bill Zeedyk and Jan-Willem Jansens, we produced and published a 24-page booklet entitled *An Introduction to Erosion Control*. Copies are being distributed free of charge.

Workshops



The staff of The Quivira Coalition conducted 11 educational workshops around New Mexico, which drew over 370 people. Many of these workshops were funded through Federal EPA monies, matching funds, and in-kind donations. These workshops included:

- **"Planned Grazing for Healthy Rangelands during a Drought"** – a seminar conducted by Kirk Gadzia and held at New Mexico State University, in Las Cruces, April 2-3.
- **"Riparian Restoration and Induced Meandering along Largo & Loco Creeks"** – a hands-on restoration workshop led by Bill Zeedyk and Steve Carson near Quemado, May 7-8.
- **"Every Acre Counts: Management and Restoration Strategies for Rangeland and Riparian Areas"** – conducted by Kirk Gadzia on the Schafer and Davis ranches, near Grants, May 21-22.

- **“Arroyo and Gully Erosion Control”** - a hands-on workshop led by Bill Zeedyk and Steve Carson along the Dry Cimarron on the Rainbow Ranch near Folsom, June 11-12.

- **“Riparian Restoration along Comanche Creek”** - a hands-on restoration workshop led by Bill Zeedyk, Steve Carson and George Long, Valle Vidal, July 30-31.

- **“Sight-Reading the Landscape: a Riparian Dialogue Workshop”** - with Bill Zeedyk, on the Mesteño Draw Ranch, near Mountainair, August 13.

- **“Induced Meandering and Riparian Restoration Field Verification Workshop”**— as part of a 2-day event in collaboration with Earth Works Institute with instructor Bill Zeedyk, *as part of the Galisteo Watershed Restoration Project*, on Arroyo Chorro near the Earth Works Ranch, Cerrillos, September 10.

- **“Sight Reading the Landscape: A Restoration Dialogue workshop with Sid Goodloe”** - a one day workshop on the Carizzo Valley ranch near Ruidoso, September 18.

- **“Rangeland Plant ID & Monitoring Techniques”** – an Outdoor Classroom with Kirk Gadzia, held at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, near Socorro, September 24-25.

- **“Water Harvesting from Low Maintenance Ranch Roads Workshop”** – an Outdoor classroom with Bill Zeedyk and Steve Carson took place on the CS Ranch near Cimarron, October 15-16.

- **“One Day Workshop: Restoring Your Land’s Health with Planned Grazing and Other Tools”** - in collaboration with Earth Works Institute with instructor Kirk Gadzia at the Earth Works Ranch, Cerrillos, October 23.

Other Events

- We held our first annual “shareholders” meeting on Saturday, July 24th at The Wheelwright Museum in Santa Fe. Courtney presented an overview of Quivira’s projects. Dr. Gary Nabhan, author and ethnobotanist, presented a talk on the benefits of local food production and singer and folklorist Tony Norris provided entertainment.



Steve Carson demonstrates the making of a rolling dip during the October 2004 Roads workshop on the CS Ranch, Cimarron, NM

- On August 28 at the Eldorado Community Center in Santa Fe, and in collaboration with the Southwest Grassfed Livestock Alliance, we held a free *Pastured-Finished Beef Tasting* event that featured beef from the Ranney and Ohler Ranches.

- On September 9, Courtney spoke at Expo New Mexico (The NM State Fair) during the Natural Resources Day in the Ford Pavillion.

- We manned an informational booth during the Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium (Sponsored by the Hubbard Museum of the American West) in Ruidoso, October 8-9.

Additionally, we accepted invitations to speak at major conferences around the region, including the Sierra Business Council’s Annual Meeting, in Reno, Nevada, a meeting of journalists in Montana, and a training seminar for young veterinary students in Florida.

In November, Courtney accepted an invitation to speak at RangeNet, the annual grazing summit hosted by Forest Guardians and other environmental groups. Courtney’s talk, which was titled “Four Reasons

Why We Are Looking At The Grazing Debate In The Rear View Mirror,” was politely received. Interestingly, it was rebutted by anti-grazing activist, George Wuerthner who asked, and received permission, to use Courtney’s slides to make his case for the abolition of public lands ranching. George was respectful and loquacious. RangeNet’s organizers invited us to have an informa-

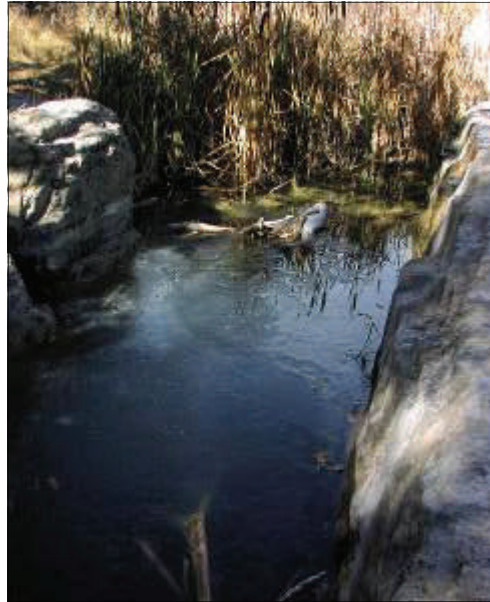


Left to right: Kristen Holmes, Tuda Libby Crews, Linda Decker, Christine Trigg, and Sally Trigg, October 2004 CS Ranch, Cimarron, NM

tional table in the back of the room.

Throughout 2004, we continued to garner good press. In the fall, two major publications, High Country News and Orion Magazine, assigned reporters to write feature stories on The Quivira Coalition, both of which will appear in 2005.

Additionally, Courtney began to write a regular column, "A West That Works", for Headwaters News an online newspaper (www.headwatersnews.org). The column will profile individuals and organizations doing innovative work around the region



*A pool on Cedro Creek,
Tijeras, NM, November 2004
Photo by Severn Thomas*

New Projects

In 2004, we were awarded two large grants, and inherited one more, that will bear substantial fruit next year, and for years to come.

Cedro Creek

This project involves restoration work along Cedro Creek in the Cibola National Forest, in the Sandia Mountains, with school children and their teachers from the Albuquerque area and other cooperators. The goal is to restore approximately two miles of stream and create approximately sixteen acres of wetlands and wet meadows.

The restoration is designed as an educational project. One of the attractions of this hands-on demonstration of innovative restoration techniques is that, over the life of the project, the creek should heal rapidly, adding to the sense of accomplishment that comes from working with Nature.

The restoration will include: identification of an appropriate beginning site along the nine-mile stretch of Cedro Creek and its tributaries; survey of the Creek and design of the restoration work by Bill Zeedyk; mapping of the project site with the

proposed structures; baseline monitoring; ongoing work by trainees and students, under the supervision of a trained foreman; ongoing monitoring of the restoration supervised by The Quivira Coalition but accomplished by volunteers.

The training will disseminate innovative methods of wetland and riparian restoration

technology that will allow stakeholders to work to repair their watersheds without needing large amounts of money to do so. These include:

1. restoring channel stability
2. increasing sinuosity
3. halting downcutting
4. re-establishing appropriate meander patterns: pool/riffle ratios and flood plain dimensions
5. raising the alluvial water table
6. monitoring changes in channel morphology, groundwater, surface water quantity and quality, and vegetation.

We also want to disseminate information about these techniques to a broader audience who may have an interest in self-sustaining wetland and riparian restoration.

Cooperators include, the New Mexico Environment Department, Bill Zeedyk, Steve Carson, Steve Vrooman, and Van Clothier (who have been trained by Bill), the Cibola National Forest, Tree New Mexico, Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District, the New Mexico Riparian Council, New Mexico Natural History Museum, and children and teachers from various Albuquerque area

schools.

The New Ranch Network

The goal of this program is to create a network of ranchers, scientists, consultants, conservationists, volunteers and others who will be able to assist a rancher or other landowner in “making the leap” to progressive stewardship through collaboration.

This assistance will be in the form of Referrals, Coaches, Mentors, Specialists, a Grant Program, and a Web-based Directory.

Possible actions include: helping a rancher develop a planned grazing program; organizing a low-stress livestock handling clinic; finding a mentoring rancher for a landowner; linking a scientist with a rancher; finding an apprentice or a young rancher to work with a landowner; making small grants; organizing tours; or delivering monitoring or mapping services.

The first step, currently underway, will be to create a “bank” of ranchers, scientists, consultants, and others around the region willing to participate in the *New Ranch Network* at some level. The goal is to identify individuals and organizations with a specific set of skills and a willingness to share information with those interested.

The second step, beginning shortly, will be to seek out individuals or associations who want to participate in the *New Ranch Network* as eager learners. A key will be finding someone in a rural community to host an open meeting. A presentation on the “New Ranch” will be made by The Quivira Coalition, along with a partnering rancher. This will be followed by an interview of the eager learners to identify

their needs.

The third step will be to deliver the resource the eager learner requires, including Referrals. Individuals can contact The Quivira Coalition directly or go to a web site to seek assistance.

The heart of the *New Ranch Network* (NRN) will be a combination of Coaches, Mentors, and Specialists – a substantial structure of education that will be available for the land owner or manager who is serious about making changes.

Initial funding for the NRN has been provided by the U.S. Forest Service, the Sonoran Institute, and Environmental Defense. We thank them for their support.

Community Forest Restoration Project (CFRP)



*Forest thinning project on the Valle Grande Grassbank
Photo courtesy of Courtney White*

This project comes to us via the Valle Grande Grassbank. It was awarded to the Conservation Fund by the Southwest Region of the Forest Service through a competitive process. Its goal is to thin 600 acres of ponderosa pine forest on

Rowe Mesa as part of a forest restoration effort.

The treatment will reduce the threat of high-intensity fire and insect infestation, restore the integrity of the forest stand grassland mosaic, improve watershed conditions, and enhance plant and wildlife biodiversity.

The project will establish conditions that will sustain low-intensity fire on a regular, frequent basis, similar to those that occurred before historical fire suppression. Fuelwood will be provided for local users. Fuel wood collectors will be integrated into the project through forest restoration edu-



Valle Grande Grassbank pastel by Maryann McGraw

cation programs.

The project will also create training opportunities for youth crews who participate in forest restoration activities.

2004 Major Supporters

*Albuquerque Community Foundation
The Animas Foundation
Josiah T. and Valer C. Austin
Richard and Laurie Baish
Harold & Norma Brown
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Francis L. H. Wood
Bill Zeedyk*

***Special thanks to those who
donated their time and
professional expertise to
The Quivira Coalition.***

***Steve Carson
Kirk Gadzia***

***Cullen
Bill Zee-***

***Hallmark
dyk***



The Quivira Coalition 2004 Asset & Ordinary Income and Summary
Period ending December 31, 2004
(Cash Basis)

*All financial documentation is shown before 990 tax reporting and
a scheduled audit for the 2004 fiscal year.*

Total Vehicles	\$20,000.00
Total Fixed Assets	\$1,006,630
Other Assets	
Inventory	\$9,727
Total Other Assets -Inventory	\$9,727
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,268,057

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Total Current Liabilities	\$22,535
Total Long Term Liabilities	\$120,178
Total Liabilities	\$143,643

Equity

Permanently Restricted Asset	\$320,000
Net Assets	\$31,355
Net Income	\$773,059
Total Equity	\$1,124,414

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY **\$1,268,057**

January - December 2004 Ordinary Income

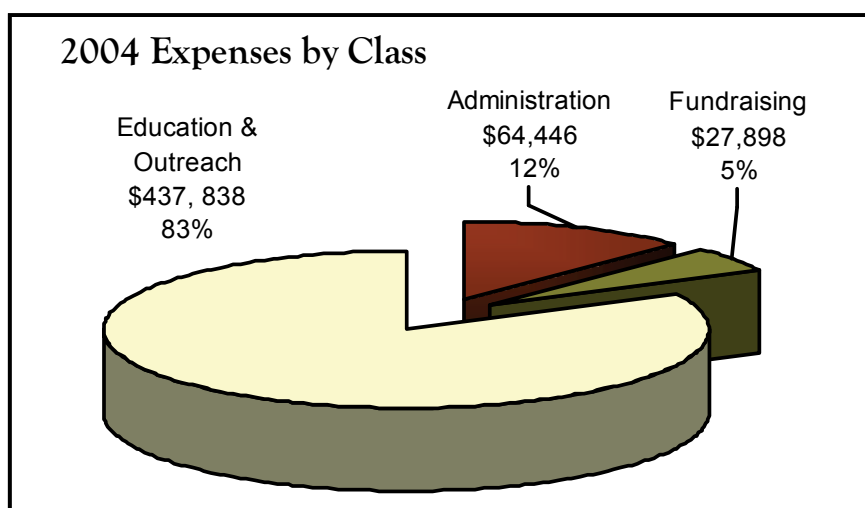
Income		Percent
Program Contractual	\$84,220	11%
Public Contributions	\$109,872	14%
Government Grants	\$133,512	17%
Foundation Grants	\$380,897	49%
Product Sales	\$23,151	3%
Registration Income	\$31,882	4%
Other	\$6,322	1%
Total Ordinary Income	\$769,857	

In-kind Professional Contributions \$42,944

The Quivira Coalition 2004 Expense Summary

Period ending December 31, 2004
(Cash Basis)

Advertising & Promotion	\$1,955	0.4%
Computer Hardware/Software	\$4,748	0.9%
Dues and Subscriptions	\$353	0.1%
Event Food	\$31,112	5.9%
Insurance	\$34,457	6.5%
Interest Expense	\$1,744	0.3%
Licenses & Fees	\$8,261	1.6%
Materials & Supplies	\$23,941	4.5%
Miscellaneous	\$954	0.2%
Office Supplies	\$2,304	0.4%
Payroll Expenses	\$206,553	39.0%
Postage and Delivery	\$10,565	2.0%
Printing and Reproduction	\$25,420	4.8%
Professional Development	\$339	0.1%
Professional Fees	\$123,566	23.3%
Office Rent	\$13,425	2.5%
Office, Venue & Equipment Rental	\$5,402	1.0%
Office & Equipment Repairs	\$1,788	0.3%
Resale Products	\$7,029	1.3%
Telephone	\$6,344	1.2%
Travel & Accommodations	\$18,887	3.6%
Utilities	\$1,034	0.2%
Total Expense	\$530,182	





The Quivira Coalition's 2005 Outdoor Education Schedule

(Dates and location subject to change)

April 22-23

Rangeland Health and Planned Grazing

Jemez Pueblo, NM

April 29

Riparian Baseline Monitoring Techniques

Cedro Creek, Tijeras, NM

May 6-7

*Erosion Control and Riparian
Restoration on the Dry Cimarron*

Rainbow Ranch, Folsom, NM

May 13-14

Ranching with Oil and Gas

Bloomfield & Gobernador, NM

May 20-21

*Riparian Restoration &
Erosion Control along Mesteño Draw*

Mountainair, NM

May 21

*One Day Tour of the
Rowe Mesa Grassbank*

Rowe, NM

June 24-25

*Harvesting Water from Low-Maintenance
Ranch Roads*

Rowe Mesa Grassbank, Rowe, NM

July 22-23

Low Stress Livestock Herding Clinic

Location TBD

August 5

*Reading the Landscape:
How & Where does the Water Move?*

Los Trigos Ranch, Rowe, NM

August 20

*Reading the Landscape:
Rangeland Health*

Ute Creek Ranch,
Buyeros, NM

September 23

*Monitoring For Planned
Grazing Utilization*

Rowe Mesa Grassbank, Rowe, NM

September 16-17

*Erosion, Roads and Restoration
in the Comanche Creek Watershed*

Valle Vidal, NM

October 19-21

*Riparian Restoration
Training Seminar #1*

Tijeras, NM



*Water harvesting from Low-Maintenance Roads
Workshop on the CS Ranch
October 2004*



*Red Canyon Ranch Sanitation Building donated by
Steve Carson of Rangeland Hands.
Unless otherwise noted, all photos
are courtesy of Tamara Gadzia.*

2004 STAFF

Courtney White

Executive Director

Barbara Johnson

Communications Director

Craig Conley

Director, Valle Grande Grassbank

Tamara E. Gadzia

Programs & Finance Manager

Sheryl Russell

Administrative Coordinator

Severn Thomas

Grants & Outreach Coordinator

Catherine Baca

Grassbank Administrator

Michael Moon

Grassbank Ranch Manager

Gen Head

Mapping and Assessment

*Steve Carson and Tamara Gadzia doing chores
on Red Canyon Ranch, March, 2004
photo courtesy of Kirk Gadzia*

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Albuquerque, NM

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



The Quivira Coalition

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