

The Quivira Coalition's 2007 Annual Report

In addition to the many activities that took place this year, 2007 marked the successful conclusion to our first official five-year plan. Titled *"The Next Step for The Quivira Coalition,"* this plan was composed in the fall of 2002, shortly after the staff and the Board of Directors changed the mission statement of the organization to read: *"To foster ecological, economic and social health on western landscapes through education, innovation, collaboration, and progressive public and private land stewardship."*

This was an important revision to the original goal of The Quivira Coalition, which had been to offer "common sense solutions to the grazing debate," principally by broadcasting the principles of ecologically sensitive ranch management through workshops, publications, and demonstration projects.

As we wrote in the new plan, our original goal was "not only to create a neutral place where people could explore their interests, instead of argue their positions, but also to explore collaboratively the new knowledge, new methods, and emerging values that were rushing rapidly toward all of us. We intended to be a vehicle for information as well as a catalyst for change—not a debating society. In the beginning, the question was not whether sustainable ranch management was possible, but rather how to spread the news."

As an example, our First Annual Conference, held in January 2002 in Albuquerque, drew over 300 people, a third of who were ranchers, with the rest divided between public land managers, conservationists, researchers, and others.

"We believe we have been influential in changing the rhetoric of the grazing debate in the Southwest," we wrote in the plan. "A middle ground, or 'radical center,' has been staked out by The Quivira Coalition and other organizations, and the public is now aware

of an alternative to constant brawling."

"At the same time, and not coincidentally," we continued, "as the grazing debate began to wind down a new conservation movement in the West began 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. It asks not what the land has done for you, but asks



instead what you can do for the land."

In the five-year plan, we determined to maintain our "core" educational program—the workshops, Outdoor Classrooms, tours, speaking engagements, and articles—so that we could continue to "spread the news" about sustainable livestock management, riparian restoration, land health, and collaboration to diverse audiences. But we also decided that we needed to get to the "next level" as well. This meant focusing our efforts on two objectives: 1) reaching more people; and 2) affecting more land.

"It is no longer enough to announce that ranchers and environmentalists can get along," we wrote, "we

need to do it—on more acres, with more people, and with more results.”

We proposed to accomplish these goals by: (1) The creation of the New Ranch Network, which included a pool of ranchers, consultants, scientists, conservationists, and landowners willing to “make the leap” to new management; the creation of a small grant program; the organization of targeted educational programs, such as low-stress livestock clinics, range schools, etc.; and the ability to provide in-house monitoring, assessment, mapping, and archaeological services to ranchers and other landowners.

(2) Expansion of our publications and outreach Programs, which included reaching a wider audience with our newsletters (eventually to become a Journal) and other periodic publications (including the Bulletin); publishing new books; substantially expanding our current web site; expanding the quantity and diversity of workshops; and growing the Annual Conference.

(3) Expansion of on-the-ground demonstration Projects, which eventually included Comanche Creek, Cedro Creek, the Dry Cimarron River, and numerous other smaller projects; taking control of the

Valle Grande Grassbank and running it like a ranch; restoring The Red Canyon Reserve; and conducting outreach activities for each.

These elements composed approximately 90% of the original plan and all were accomplished successfully to varying degrees.

Elements that did not come to fruition over the five year period, for one reason or another, included: a Catalog of rural goods and services (though elements of this will be incorporated into our web site); a lecture series entitled “Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide” (though this became the theme of our Fourth Annual Conference); and various books (though substantial progress on an Induced Meandering book has been accomplished).

In 2007, our success included:

- The Sixth Annual Conference
- Land and Water Projects
- The New Ranch Network and Land Health Services
- The Valle Grande Ranch and Grassfed Beef
- Public Education and Outreach Events
- The Development of a New Five-Year Plan

The Quivira Coalition's 6th Annual Conference, featuring Wendell Berry

Between January 18 – 20th, 2007, over five hundred ranchers, farmers, conservationists, academics, public land managers, and others attended The Quivira Coalition's 6th Annual Conference, titled “*Fresh Eyes on the Land: Innovation and the Next Generation*,” held at the Marriott Pyramid in Albuquerque.

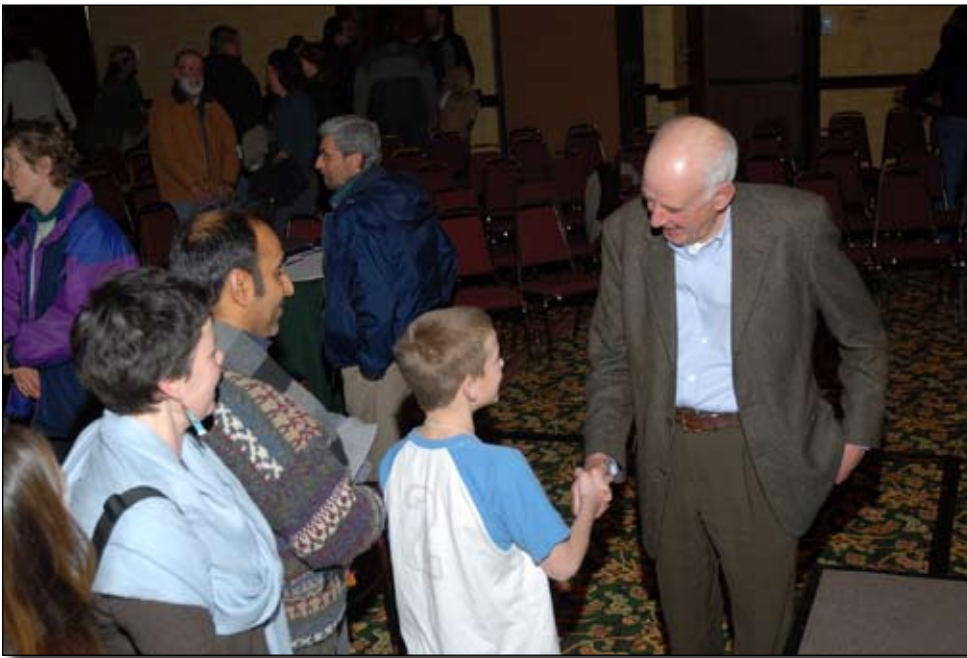
This year we decided to tackle the important question of the Next Generation. Whether you live in the city or the country, own a large ranch or a small lot, are involved in agriculture or not, the issue of how to encourage the Next Generation to pick up where we leave off is a daunting and vital one.

We wanted to use “fresh eyes” to explore innovative ideas, practices, and relationships that give hope to, and receive inspiration from, the next generation.

Creating hope and options for the future is the key to all our efforts. Whether the goal is staying on the land, exploring and understanding nature, or simply ‘going home again,’ the next generation needs new opportunities to achieve their dreams. To accomplish this goal, the Conference featured ‘take home’ ideas for ranchers, conservationists, and public land managers alike.

We sought speakers who could not only explain WHY this work is critical to our future, but HOW to do it too. Of course, this included hearing from members of the Next Generation.

Ranchers Pat and Sharon O’Toole brought their son Eamon to the podium with them, kicking off the Conference, to explain his plans for staying on as



the sixth generation. Miguel Santistevan, of the New Mexico Acequia Association, brought four teenage farmers and ranchers-to-be with him, each of whom introduced a short video they had made on why they wanted to stay on the land. And Taylor Selby, director of Earth Care International, in Santa Fe, brought five young people to tell the large audience about their hopes and fears for the future.

It was a remarkable, and emotional sequence of presentations – each of which ended in a standing ovation.

The hopefulness continued after lunch. David Kline – minister, Ohio Amish farmer, and publisher of Farming magazine – provided an inspirational Keynote address on the challenges confronting traditional agriculture in America. He was joined by his son Tim and daughter-in-law Katie, who have taken over a worn-out dairy in Kansas and are successfully making a go of it.

Plenary talks continued on Saturday morning with fascinating presentation from Estevan Arrellano on the concept of ‘querencia’ (love of home); rancher Jim Stone and biologist Greg Nuedecker on the successful effort to keep the upper Blackfoot River watershed intact for agriculture and conservation (and keep out subdivisions); San Miguel (CO) county commissioner, Green Party member, poet, and performer Art Goodtimes talked about his transition

from radical environmentalist to radical centrist collaborator; and rancher Sheldon Atwood presented a visionary new model of profitable conservation

Concurrent sessions on both days covered issues as diverse as Conservation Easements, Protecting Water Resources for Future Generations, Custom Grazing on Leased Land, Family Dynamics, Outdoor Educational Opportunities, Five Ways to Value Working Landscapes, Intergenerational Dialogue, and Story Telling.

And despite the threat of a major snowstorm, we were delighted to see so many attendees stay all the way to the end of the Conference, which concluded with a Town Hall discussion where event participants had an opportunity to express their opinions on what they had just seen and heard.

We were blessed to have Remelle Farrar and Bob Rogers, of Canadian, Texas, as our Conference-long moderators. Under their capable direction, the presentations flowed seamlessly.

Two pre-Conference workshops focused on livestock commodities and grassfed niche marketing. Both events drew both 100 participants, most of whom were ranchers.

Another pre-Conference event explored farms and





ranches as Outdoor Schoolyards. It also drew over 100 participants, a significant number of whom were students.

We were also honored to host famed agrarian and author Wendell Berry on Thursday evening for an informal discussion and reading that included questions from the audience. Over 550 people attended this event – which was also a fund-raising event for The Quivira Coalition.

Wendell stayed for a full three days, participating in many portions of the Conference. He was moved by what he heard and saw and thanked us for hosting what he called “an important event.”

Land and Water Projects

- **Comanche Creek Rio Grande Cutthroat**

- **Trout Habitat Restoration:**

Our 2007 season of Rio Grande Cutthroat trout habitat restoration work began in May with a volunteer willow planting day on the 19th. Willows were taken from 12 year old exclosures with willows busting through their “seems” and planted in exclosures built in 2005 along the lower reach of Comanche Creek. From July 23–26, Bill Zeedyk, Tamara Gadzia, Steve Carson, Avery Anderson and Rebecca Watters (two volunteer college interns), walked both reaches of the creek to assess the function and state of previously installed vanes. During this assessment, vanes for installation during the workshop were prioritized, each treatment site was re-evaluated and sites for additional vanes and those needing repair or re-built were documented. Seventy post vanes would be installed to refine the treatment of bank erosion along Comanche Creek. The first 26 exclosures along the lower reach were assessed for flood damage, elk utilization and willow survival. Elk were able to get into some exclosures, but forage assessment indicated they were not staying long. Survival of willows was dependent on the number of cuttings planted in each hole and where on the bank they were planted. Planting too low or too high on the bank, lowers survival.

Overall, the willow planting was a success and the exclosures are doing their job.

A three-day educational and work weekend lead by Bill Zeedyk with logistical support from Rangeland Hands, Inc. and Dryland Solutions, Inc. was held July 27–29, 2007. Sixty-nine volunteers, 5 Quivira Staff and 4 dedicated riparian restoration specialists installed 24 post vanes along the middle reach of Comanche Creek. Maintenance was completed on several structures built during previous years. Volunteers came from the Sierra Club, Taos Soil and Water Conservation District, NM Trout, Trout Unlimited – Truchas chapter, Boy Scouts of America and the general public.

During the afternoon of Friday, July 27, Bill Zeedyk led a tour of the Holman wet meadow Restoration project. Six educational posters showing various induced meandering and erosion control structures were created to use during workshop project tours. These posters have been used for other presentations and outreach efforts by The Quivira Coalition. Many of the photos used are from the Comanche Creek Project area and from the East side of the Valle Vidal.

Also during this weekend, Comanche Creek Educational and Project description signs were placed at the confluence of Costilla Creek and Comanche

Creek and at the Chuckwagon parking area by Rebecca and Avery.

During the week of September 2nd, seven upland and four Riparian Monitoring site transects (33 in all) were re-read. Baseline data for these transects were collected in 2001; a second reading took place in 2004, along with a visual assessment of the condition of the watershed.

In 2007, The Quivira Coalition also wrote, submitted and received a New Mexico River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (RERI) grant to continue the restoration work on Comanche Creek.

A comparison of the three sets of monitoring data, the workplan for the RERI grant and the visual assessment of the watershed report (October 2007 Quarterly Report) can be found on the Comanche Creek Website (www.comanchecreek.org) under Reports.

From September 7-9, 2007, Abe Franklin, Art Vollmer, Ryan Weiss, George Long, and Greg Miller repeated data collection for all of the geomorphology surveys sites along the middle and lower reaches of Comanche Creek. Analysis is on going; Ryan Weiss is planning to use some of the data for his graduate work at the University of New Mexico.

A final volunteer work weekend was held Sept 19-23 along the middle reach of Comanche Creek with 16 people participating. During these 5 days, 418 posts were trimmed, 18 new post vanes constructed,



and 6 vanes were reconstructed with 388 posts utilized. To date, **105** vanes have been installed along the middle reach, **10** structures are left to complete and 36 structures need some form of maintenance.

To date, along the lower reach (21,237 ft), 64 instream structures and 46 exclosures have been constructed with 7,823 feet of channel length being treated and 169,721 sq. ft. being enclosed for willow and riparian vegetation protection from browsing. Along the Middle Reach (19,830 ft), 105 instream structures and 3 exclosures have been constructed along 4,202 ft. of channel length .

• ***Cedro Creek Restoration Project***

Our three-year collaborative education and restoration project EPA Wetlands project came to a close in 2007, finishing with a busy season. We thank Cibola National Forest, Sandia Ranger District, NMED-SWQB Wetlands division, Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, NM Museum of Natural History and Science, Van Buren Middle School and local residents for all their volunteer efforts for this project

- June 29, 2007 project partnership meeting
- March 17 & 18, 2007 vegetation planting workshop along Stevens, ZEC, Tamara, Mt. Lion, and Quarry Reaches – cottonwoods, NM olives, coyote willows, black willows, Wood's roses, bulrush, box elders etc.
- June 23rd, 2007 volunteer workday was attended by 20 volunteers from the Albuquerque Wildlife





Federation, local residents, state and federal employees. They helped build larger rock structures along the Sandia Prep Reach.

- August 4th, 2007 volunteer workday was attended by 40 volunteers from PNM, local residents and the general public. Structures were installed along Sabino and Sandia Prep Reaches.
- March 15, 2008 – 20 Albuquerque Wildlife Federation volunteers built 9 rock structures between the confluence of Sabino Creek and the first machine built filter dam on Boundary Reach. Willows, Box alders, NM olives, roses, and cottonwoods were also planted along Boundary Reach. (120 volunteer hours)

Over a three year period and with the help of 199 volunteers (1,286 volunteer hours) and contractual labor, 163 treatments (practices or structures) have been installed along 11,315 ft. and 11 reaches of Cedro Creek (~17 acres of wetland will have been affected by treatments) that will lead to increased capacity to store water and nurture and grow wetland vegetation along the creek.

- ***The Valle Grande Ranch:***

The 2007 grazing season moved the Ranch closer to achieving the goals of the business plan we started implementing in 2006. This plan strives to lower costs, raise earned income, improve land health and use the ranch for education and outreach. Highlights

of ranch operations for the season include:

- Grazing 298 yearlings for five months
- Growing our herd from 18 animals to 57
- Sponsoring our first Range Rider intern, Lee Johnson
- Increasing our beef sales from 6 animals to 15
- Transitioning to a new ranch manager, Mike Archuleta, who lives in Rowe.

We also developed our 5-year strategic plan for the ranch which goes beyond the original business plan that focused on budgetary matters. The VGR is serving as a testing model for the concept of a conservation ranch with a business plan. In this process, we developed a mission statement and holistic goal for the ranch which puts the ranch program in clearer perspective with the rest of The Quivira Coalition's restoration and education programs.

The Valle Grande Ranch Mission Statement: To support The Quivira Coalition's mission of building resilience by reversing ecosystem service decline, creating sustainable prosperity, relocalizing food and energy, and by becoming a model for public land stewardship. All ranch program activities are now evaluated in light of the mission. Establishing a holistic goal also gives us some real targets to aim for over the next 5 years.

Holistic Goal: *in five years, the Valle Grande Ranch will be a financially stable, holistically managed ranch*

owned by the newly developed, local Valle Grande Grazing Association. The Association will provide an opportunity for young people to get a start in public lands ranching and learn progressive ranch management methods. Its base property and Forest Service allotment land will be vibrant and healthy with diverse species of forage for cattle and wildlife, well maintained roads, a functional, reliable water system and infrastructure. The cattle will be acclimated to the mesa, easy to handle and provide consistent, high quality, locally produced grassfed beef to customers in Rowe, Pecos and Santa Fe. This activity will support a prosperous business and in turn support economic development in these local communities. The ranch will also provide a place for a variety of interests including urbanites and area school children to learn about ranching, wildlife, land health, resource management and healthy foods; and, provide forage for neighboring Forest Service permittees to use as a grassbank and facilitate restoration activities on their allotments. We will have a positive, collaborative relationship with the Forest Service from the District to the Regional level.

As a conservation organization running a livestock operation, The Quivira Coalition aims not only to demonstrate that conservation and agriculture are compatible, but that a fusion of the two is necessary for a resilient and sustainable future on this planet.



As Courtney likes to describe it, the Ranchy gives The Quivira Coalition the opportunity and challenges of walking the talk.

The CFRP 2 restoration project finally got off the ground. Administration of the project was transferred from the Conservation Fund to The Quivira Coalition in August, 2007. Almost 250 of the planned 500 acres to be treated were thinned and prepped by the Forest Guild for burning by the Forest Service at a future date. Approximately 100 acres of meadow clearing were also implemented. Additional restoration and outreach activities are planned for 2008.

New Ranch Network and Land Health Services

NEW RANCH NETWORK

The goal of the New Ranch Network is to respond to the specific needs of a landowner, association, or community – ‘willing participants’ – and give them whatever assistance we can through a network of ranchers, scientists, consultants, specialists, conservationists, volunteers and others. The purpose is to support a rancher or other landowner in ‘making the leap’ to progressive stewardship through collaboration.

Assistance is in the form of Referrals, Coaches, Mentors, Specialists, a Grant Program, and a Web-based Directory. All grants must be matched 1 to 1 by the local community or individual, either through a cash or in-kind contribution.

Public Service Company of NM Supported Projects:

- Navajo Nation Ojo Encino - Grazing Management Program and Anthill Restoration Project utilizing high school students from Rincon Marcus and the Ojo Encino Chapter to install low-tech sediment retention and meander inducing structures at head cuts to slow run off and stabilize gullies and streambeds.
- Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Farm and Ranch Enterprise – Conducted a Range Management Seminar for stakeholders from agencies and F&RE management and staff and neighboring

landowners. The area impacted includes NW New Mexico, SE Utah & SW Colorado.

Dixon Water Foundation Supported Projects:

- Water Harvesting from Low-Maintenance Ranch Roads Workshop in Hudspeth County, TX.
- Low Stress Stockmanship workshop with Guy Glosson in collaboration with Holistic Resource Management of Texas and the Oklahoma Land Stewardship Alliance, Aledo, TX.
- “Playa Lakes Education & Management Project” during the Playa Lakes Festival, Ogallala Commons, Friona, TX.

USDA Forest Service Supported Projectes:

- Saving the Ranch...Maintaining Grant County’s Culture and Your Estate public seminar, New Mexico Land Conservancy, Silver City, NM.
- Holistic Management in Practice Course taught by Kirk Gadzia, Mayer, AZ.
- Tio Grande Livestock Association Herder grant to support livestock and range anagement. Carson National Forest. Tres Piedras, NM. for the 2007 grazing season.



grazing management that resulted in a net financial gain for all participants while meeting the other objectives of the Valles Caldera Trust (VCT).

The Hagelsteins and Guy Glosson were responsible for managing the livestock. The Quivira Coalition monitored grazing impacts through Land Health Services. The injury of Guy Glosson mid-way through the season crated a major setback to the team. We all learned a lot how to manage a herd on the VCNP, the costs associated with that management, the challenges of high intensity herding, and the monitoring questions a grazing program on the VCNP effort should consider.

LAND HEALTH SERVICES (VALLES CALDERA)

In October of 2006, the Valles Caldera Trust (VCT) issued a Request for Proposals for grazing the Valles Caldera National Preserve (VCNP) in 2007. This was an innovative move by the VCT to turn the finances of the grazing program from red to black. Jack and Pat Hagelstein responded with a proposal to run 500 yearlings (mixed heifers and steers) for approximately four months (June 1 through September 30, 2007). The grazing program was intended as a pilot effort to not only test new grazing management approaches but to establish a new approach to



Outreach Event Calendar

Other activities included:

- ◆ Jan 31-Feb 1 – Local Foods, Grassfed Beef Presentation at Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Elko, NV.
- ◆ Feb 7-8th – Texas 18th Annual Southern Plains Conference.
- ◆ Bulletin
- ◆ Feb 27-28th – Colorado Forest Collaboration workshop, in Glenwood Springs
- ◆ March 1-2 NRN – NM Land Conservancy Saving the Ranch Seminar (where?)
- ◆ March 10 – Water Harvesting Workshop, Eldorado, NM
- ◆ March 17 – Cedro Creek Workshop, Tijeras, NM (Tamara & Staff)
- ◆ March 21 Presentation to Rincon-Marquez community in the Navajo Nation on erosion control methods
- ◆ March 22 – Speak at the Annual Meeting of the Gallatin Valley Land Trust, located in Bozeman, MT
- ◆ Journal #30 (Courtney, Tamara, Staff)
- ◆ March 25-26 – Dry Cimarron Photo Documentation
- ◆ March 26 – NRN – HRM class at Orme Ranch, AZ
- ◆ April 3-4 – Two-day conference at Colorado State University entitled “Land and People in the 21st Century”
- ◆ April 4 – New Administrative Assistant hired
- ◆ April 13-14 Case study on the Rowe Mesa Grassbank presented to a workshop entitled “Financing Community-Based Conservation of Working Land”
- ◆ April 20-22 – Red Canyon Preserve Weekend
- ◆ April 20 – Ojo Encino Earth Day with Land Health Kiosk
- ◆ April 22 – Workshop at Tropic of Capricorn on Galisteo Watershed
- ◆ April 27-28 – Ghost Ranch Low-Stress Livestock Handling Clinic
- ◆ May – October – NRCS Herder hired
- ◆ May 2-3 - County Roads Workshop, Cuba, NM
- ◆ May 18-20 – Willow Planting at Comanche Creek
- ◆ Bulletin
- ◆ July 13-14th – “New Visions for the West” Conference, Missoula, Mt. and visited with Blackfoot Challenge and the Ranchers Stewardship Alliance, spoke with group of landowners in Paradise Valley, Mt.
- ◆ June 15-16 – NRN Ojo Encino Monitoring Training
- ◆ Avery Anderson starts as a summer intern
- ◆ July 20 – International Delegation from Africa visits office – interested in conflict resolution in natural resource management
- ◆ June 23rd – Cedro Creek Restoration Volunteer Day, Tijeras, NM
- ◆ June 25 – Dixon Playa Lakes Festival (supported by the NRN)
- ◆ July 23-26th – Comanche Creek Assessment
- ◆ July 27-29th – Comanche Creek Volunteer work weekend – Sierra Club, TU, NMT
- ◆ August – NRN Ute Mountain Range Survey & Planning
- ◆ August 4 - Cedro Creek Restoration Volunteer Day, Tijeras, NM
- ◆ Mike Bain's joins the QC as Project Coordinator



- ◆ August 24th QC's 10th Anniversary Celebration Event
- ◆ September – Public meeting to discuss ATV use on Rowe Mesa
- ◆ September 2-7th – Comanche Creek Monitoring,
- ◆ September 11-13– Dry Cimarron Photo Documentation
- ◆ September 11 – Bat Conservation International, Socorro
- ◆ Sept. 14th – Organized Local Meats Event, Santa Fe, 450 people
- ◆ September 18th – Ute Mountain Low Stress Livestock Clinic NRN
- ◆ September 19-23rd Comanche Restoration
- ◆ September 28-30 – Attended the 31st Annual Prairie Festival at Wes Jackson's Land Institute, Salina, KS
- ◆ September and October Beef Sales
- ◆ Journal #31
- ◆ October 5th – Photo Documentation, Cedro Creek
- ◆ October 12 – Photo Documentation Mesteno Draw
- ◆ October 12-14 – Cowboy Symposium
- ◆ October 16-17 – Border Wetlands Conference, Alamosa, CO
- ◆ October 23-26 – Capacity building trip to Upper Eagle Creek Watershed Association in AZ, spoke at the 7th Annual Conference of the Association of Conflict Resolution in Phoenix, AZ
- ◆ Oct. 26-28 – HRM/TX NRN Dixon Foundation; Fundraising
- ◆ November 1-3, Holistic Management International Conference, Albuquerque, NM
- ◆ November 5-9 – Induced Meandering Book Retreat
- ◆ November 8th – River Ecosystem Restoration I Meeting – Bernalillo, NM
- ◆ November 10-12 – American Water Resource Association Conference, ABQ
- ◆ December 6th – Comanche Creek Working Group Meeting



New Five-Year Plan

In November, the Board and Staff completed a new five-year plan for the organization, including an adjustment to the mission statement.

Here is an excerpt (the whole document can be read at www.quiviracoalition.org):

Our mission is to build resilience by fostering ecological, economic and social health on western landscapes through education, innovation, collaboration, and progressive public and private land stewardship.

We believe this mission the best way we can help meet the challenges of the 21st century. Although no one knows what the decades ahead will bring precisely, there are enough indicators of

change to say with confidence that the 21st century will inaugurate a new era. Whether the concern is climate change, peak oil, ecosystem service decline, overpopulation, species extinction, or food and water shortages, the challenges ahead are daunting and varied.

We believe that one response to these multiple challenges is to increase ecological and economic resilience. The dictionary defines resilience as “the ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change.” In ecology, it refers to the capacity of plant and animal populations to handle disturbance caused by fire, flood, drought, insect infestation, without losing viability. Resilience also describes

a community's ability to adjust to ongoing change, such as shifting economic conditions, or a steady rise in temperatures.

Why: There are three Areas of Concern that motivate our focus on resilience:

1) Reverse Ecosystem Service Decline. In 2005, the United Nations published its *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment*, a global evaluation of ecosystem services on which human well-being and progress toward sustainable development vitally depend. These services include food, fresh water, wood, fiber, fuel, and biodiversity; climate, flood, pest and disease regulation; nutrient cycling, soil stability, biotic integrity, watershed function, and photosynthesis; and spiritual, educational, recreational, and esthetic experiences.

The basic conclusion of the Assessment is this: globally, ecosystem services are in decline and as they decline so does human well-being.

The Quivira Coalition can make progress toward this important goal by continuing to take a “land health” approach to its work. By starting at the level of soil, grass, and water we apply adaptive management methods to restore and maintain ecosystem functions. This approach, in turn, has benefits for other ecosystem services, including food and fuel production, increased water quality and quantity, as well as cultural benefits.

2) Create Sustainable Prosperity. Ecosystem services have declined partly because their conservation has not been viewed to be in the economic self-interest of important portions of society. As a result, conservation, including the restoration and maintenance of natural systems, became primarily a subsidized activity, accomplishing its goals principally (1) by direct or indirect governmental funding; (2) as a byproduct of agricultural activity; or (3) by philanthropy; or some combination of these.

Conservation remains subsidized for a variety of reasons, including its high cost. Another reason is a well-founded concern about the role uninhibited market forces play in the exploitation of natural resources – a role that has contributed widely to ecosystem service decline around the planet. But can conservation pay for itself? We think it can



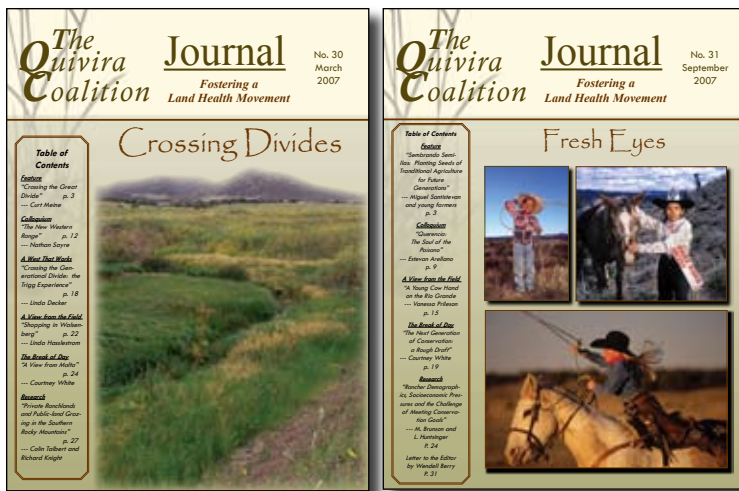
ultimately. We also think it needs to, otherwise the objective of reversing the decline of ecosystem services might never happen at the scale that is necessary. As an example of our approach, we are trying to manage the Valle Grande ranch sustainably so that the sale of grassfed beef can pay for conservation work.

In this regard, we are inspired by the many ‘New Ranchers’ who are both profitable and sustainable. They’ve done it by working on the original solar power, as grass farmers.

In addition to our work on the Valle Grande Ranch, The Quivira Coalition contributes to the development of sustainable prosperity in a variety of ways – by assisting individuals, organizations, and businesses to become sustainably prosperous; and by becoming increasingly sustainable ourselves, as a nonprofit business.

3) Relocalize Food. These words will likely dominate our lives in the upcoming decades. The inevitability of rising energy costs mean more and more of our daily lives, from food production to where we work and play, will be increasingly relocalized at local and regional scales. This won’t be by choice, as it is currently, but by necessity.

The key is to look at relocalization as an opportunity, not just a challenge. It can be a form of rediscovery – learning about our roots, about community, neighbors, gardens, and doing with less in general. One could even look at relocalization entrepreneurially – those individuals and organizations that get into the game early, by providing re-localized goods and services, will stand a very good chance at a profitable living as



the transition begins to unfold.

Relocalization includes the following (at least):

- The Development of Local Food: Working landscapes will become critical again. So will the innovations currently taking place at the nexus of agriculture and ecology – a nexus that requires healthy lands. Could New Mexico feed itself? Could Utah? And if not, why not, and what can we do to stimulate local food and energy production?

- Farmers and Ranchers Will Become Important Again: Not only does local food and energy require local land it requires local people too, as well as their local knowledge. This means figuring out how – now – to keep the current generation of farmers and ranchers on the land, as well as encourage the next generation to stay, come back, or give agriculture a try.

- Restoration Will Become An Important Business. Producing local food and energy from working landscapes, especially in quantity, requires healthy land as well as best management practices that work ‘within nature’s model.’ However, while the ‘toolbox’ of progressive stewardship is now well developed, a great deal of our land is still in poor condition (for a variety of reasons) requiring substantial restoration and remediation efforts.

The Quivira Coalition has been engaged with all of these efforts, to one degree or another, for over a decade. The next step is to sharpen the relocalization element of our work, which includes both educational outreach activities and demonstration projects.

How: The Quivira Coalition can build resilience

through: (A) improving land health; (B) the diffusion of knowledge and innovation; (C) building local capacity; (D) promoting ‘conservation with a business plan;’ and (E) strengthening diverse relationships.

(A) Improving land health: We can help address ecosystem service decline on a local level by managing land, conducting restoration projects, getting people involved in demonstration projects, encouraging land literacy and monitoring, and producing local food. This means urging landowners and others to work within “nature’s model” of structure and function as well as ‘walking the talk’ ourselves. By being successful, we can provide leadership too.

(B) Diffusion of knowledge and innovation: We seek out ideas and practices that work, try them out if we are not sure, and share them with a diverse audience. For example, a great deal of positive energy is being generated at the nexus of agriculture and ecology today by a number of farms, ranches, businesses and other organizations. Sharing these practices is critical to their adoption.

(C) Building local capacity: We can continue to help build capacity (economic and ecological) among individuals, landowners, associations, watershed groups, and communities through hands-on training, workshops, clinics, mentoring, granting, and other activities.

(D) Promoting the concept of ‘conservation with a business plan’: Conservation needs to generate revenue to support itself, such as we are trying to accomplish on the Valle Grande Ranch. One way to accomplish this will be to work at the nexus of sustainable agriculture and ecology, especially as local communities become more willing to buy local products.

(E) Strengthen diverse relationships: We continue to emphasize relationships – among people, between people and land, and between ecological processes. The bond between people, food, land, and biodiversity is insoluble – or should be anyway. Unfortunately, this bond has been damaged. The job now is to mend these relationships and try to make them healthy again.

Financial Report

The Quivira Coalition's 2007 Assets & Ordinary Income

Period ending December 31, 2007 ~ (Cash Basis)

All financial documentation is shown before 990 tax reporting and annual audit.

ASSETS

Current Assets	\$112,028.00
Fixed Assets	\$487,200.00
Other Assets	<u>\$9,727.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$608,955.00

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	\$24,201.00
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>\$87,680.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$111,881.00

INCOME

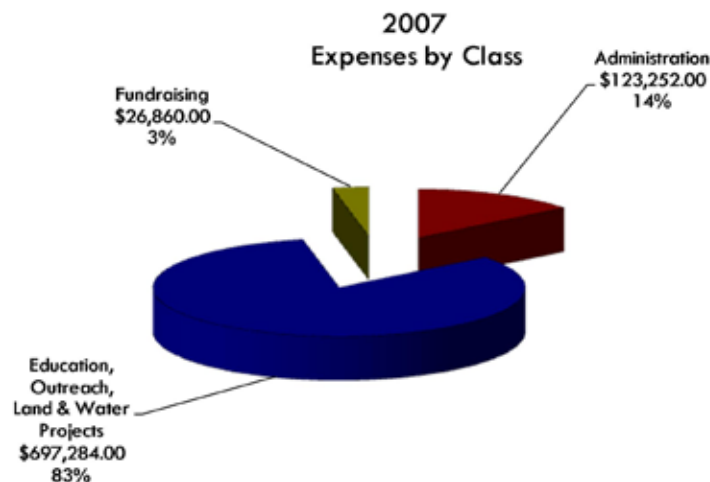
Percent

Program Contractual	\$86,877.00	14%
Public Contributions	\$223,881.00	36%
Program Grants	\$163,409.00	26%
Operational Grants	\$80,000.00	13%
Product Sales	\$37,513.00	6%
Registration Income	\$35,169.00	6%
Other	<u>\$3,570.00</u>	1%
TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME	\$630,419.00	

The Quivira Coalition's 2007 Expenses

Period ending December 31, 2007 ~ (Cash Basis)

Advertising & Promotion	\$3,706	0%
Computer Hardware/Software	\$9,061	1%
Dues & Subscriptions	\$132	0%
Event Food	\$57,438	7%
Insurance	\$54,155	6%
Licenses & Fees	\$8,006	1%
Materials & Supplies	\$15,805	2%
Office Supplies	\$4,113	0%
Payroll Expenses	\$277,304	32%
Postage & Delivery	\$10,091	1%
Printing & Reproduction	\$29,092	3%
Professional Fees	\$213,922	25%
Contractual Program	\$9,698	1%
Property Taxes	\$784	0%
Office, Venue & Equipment Rental	\$26,708	3%
Maintenance & Repairs	\$649	0%
Resale Products	\$8117	1%
Telephone & Utilities	\$6,572	1%
Travel	\$49,301	6%
Cattle - Cost of sales	\$2,498	0%
Cattle maintenance costs	\$70,117	8%
Other	<u>\$2306</u>	0%
Total Expenses	\$859,575	



*Many thanks to those who contributed during our
Land and Water Campaign and throughout 2007.*

Major

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Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation	Messengers of Healing Winds Foundation
Bradshaw-Knight Foundation	McCune Charitable Foundation
Bybee Family Foundation	New Cycle Foundation
The Dixon Foundation	New Mexico Community Foundation
Patrick A. Dunigan	Panta Rhea Foundation
Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation	Barbara Roastingear-Oliver III Family Foundation
The Ford Foundation	Skylark Foundation
Healy Foundation	The Thaw Charitable Trust
Institute of International Education	U.S. Forest Service
Judith McBean Foundation	

Sustaining

Animas Foundation	John P. McBride Family and the Aspen Business Center Foundation
Community Bank	John and Joan Murphy Family Foundation
Compton Foundation	New Mexico Trout
CS Foundation	Dennis A. O'Toole Family Foundation
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Nikki Hooser	Taos Soil & Water Conservation District
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- | | |
|--|---|
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