

# QUIVIRA CONFERENCE

**BACK  
TO THE  
FUTURE**

*A radical center production....*

**CELEBRATING THE  
INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF FAMILY FARMING  
AND RANCHING**

Regenerative agriculture  
is fixin' to rise to its place  
in the world.

~Sid Goodloe, Rancher

**November 12 - 14, 2014  
Albuquerque, New Mexico**



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## The Next Wave ■

From its inception, the Quivira Coalition's vision has been to narrow the widening divide between agriculture and environmentalism. As an early member of the "collaborative conservation" movement, Quivira has ignited sparks across the Southwest that have grown into small bonfires of change. We have encouraged ranchers to adopt conservation practices, insisted that environmentalists should value ecologically mindful agriculture, urged federal agencies to be more open to innovation, prompted scientists to get involved and engaged the public on the benefits of local, healthy food.

We now feel strongly that a shift is upon us. Imagining the collaborative conservation moment as a wave in the ocean, Quivira sees that, as all waves before it have done, this one is cresting, and will soon begin an inevitable ebbing. For all its strengths, collaborative conservation is becoming misaligned with current conditions, especially as we enter into a period of increased ecological instability, economic stress and social anxiety. In particular, questions about climate change and the ramifications for secure food and energy systems are likely to dominate our lives, requiring a regenerative response, one that combines the ecological, the economic and the social in new ways.

Fortunately, in the natural way of things there is always a next wave on the horizon. Quivira calls this emerging wave, *new agrarianism*. We have devoted our 2014-2017 strategic plan to exploring how we might make the shift to this different kind of conservation work. New agrarianism is a vision of local, sustainable food production from farms and ranches that are utilizing an innovative and rapidly expanding toolbox to manage land health, biodiversity and human well-being simultaneously. It is a vision of agrarians working to sequester carbon in soils, improve water quality and quantity, restore native plant and animal populations, fix creeks, develop local energy sources and replenish the working landscape for people and nature alike. It is a vision of coexistence, resilience and stewardship—a place for people in nature, not outside it.

Over the next several years, Quivira will continue the innovative work currently under way while simultaneously positioning ourselves to be a leader in this next wave of conservation. As a starting point, we

have reformulated our goals to include 1) fostering the radical center, a meeting place for the diversity of agrarians, environmentalists, scientists and public land managers who steward working landscapes in the western United States and in semi-arid and arid regions throughout the world; 2) disseminating innovative ideas and techniques for progressive grasslands and riparian regeneration, with a focus on food production, economic diversification and collaboration across urban-rural and environmental-agricultural boundaries; 3) training the next generation of food producers and land stewards; and 4) inspiring and supporting hope by disseminating regenerative solutions already at work.

Journeying into unknown territory has been a hallmark of Quivira's work all along—in fact our name, Quivira, is the term that Spanish mapmakers used to distinguish the unknown territories of the New World. Our next journey will incorporate many elements from our past, including an insistence that we remain grounded in the reality of working people who have their hands in the soil. At the same time, we will become a different kind of organization, evolving ways to meet the challenges and opportunities that are unique to this new wave. We will need all of you and thousands of your friends to join us on this intrepid exploration.

Thank you for starting the journey with us here at the 2014 Quivira Conference by looking *Back to the Future*, and for continuing on with us over the next year by renewing your membership, volunteering at a workshop, mentoring a new agrarian, making a donation during our year-end campaign or stopping by our office in Santa Fe to say hello and tell us what you're up to. We look forward to seeing you at the 2015 Quivira Conference, *The Next Wave*, when we officially embark into unexplored territory...

With gratitude,  
~Quivira Staff

Avery C. Anderson Sponholtz  
Executive Director



## ■ Back To The Future

There's nothing new about regenerative agriculture—except almost all of it.

It is easy to forget that once upon a time all agriculture was organic, grassfed and regenerative. Seed saving, composting, fertilizing with manure, polycultures, low-till and animal power—all of which we associate today with sustainable food production—was the norm in the old days, not the exception as it is now. Somehow, we managed to feed ourselves and do so in a manner that was self-reliant and self-perpetuating. You know what happened next: the plow, the tractor, fossil fuels, monocrops, nitrogen fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, feedlots, animal byproducts, e. coli, CAFOs, GMOs, erosion, despair—practices and conditions that most Americans today think of as “normal,” when they think about agriculture at all.

and more like a fatal form of hubris. That's why a new generation of agrarians is returning to the roots of agriculture and conservation for a different approach, with large helpings of science and social advancement added in (i.e., no return to the bad old days of slavery).

Soil carbon is a good example. Building carbon stocks underground via soil biology is critical to plant vigor, mineral uptake, water availability, erosion prevention and species diversity. A short list of practices that build soil carbon include: cover crops, mulching, composting, no-till and planned grazing of livestock—“old” stuff. Just a few years ago, carbon wasn't on radar screens, at least not beyond laboratories, a few soil scientists and a handful of progressive farmers and ranchers. Now talk of soil carbon is everywhere. At a major grazing conference

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### ***Regenerative agriculture is fixin' to rise to its place in the world.***

~ Sid A. Goodloe

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Fortunately, in the last decade or two a movement to rediscover and implement “old” practices of bygone days has risen rapidly, abetted by remarkable innovations in technology, breakthroughs in scientific knowledge, and tons of old-fashioned, on-the-ground problem solving. Some of the reasons for the rapid development of this “new” agriculture are practical, some are economical, some are philosophical and some are driven by a sense of urgency about the world, but all of them are motivated by a concern for the future. Questions abound: how can we conserve finite (and dwindling) natural resources for future generations? How can we adjust and adapt our lives to tomorrow's changing climate? How will we create a robust economic and ecological bequest for all our children?

To find answers, many people are looking to the past. And what they're discovering is this: nature's model works best. After all, nature has used evolution and the laws of physics to beta test what works for merely millions of years, even billions in the case of photosynthesis. Humans are pipsqueaks and upstarts in this process, by comparison, and the idea that we know what's best is looking more

in London that I attended in August, carbon was the most popular topic discussed (after cattle), with speaker after speaker extolling its virtues. And people are even talking now about reversing climate change with the stuff!

It all comes back to nature. I liked the way the Rodale Institute put it recently in a white paper: farming like the Earth matters. Farming like water and soil and land matter. Farming like clean air matters. Farming like human health, animal health and ecosystem health matters.

It all matters and regenerative practices are the way we'll get there.



Courtney White  
Founder and  
Creative Director

# Quivira Coalition Programs: On the Ground in 2014

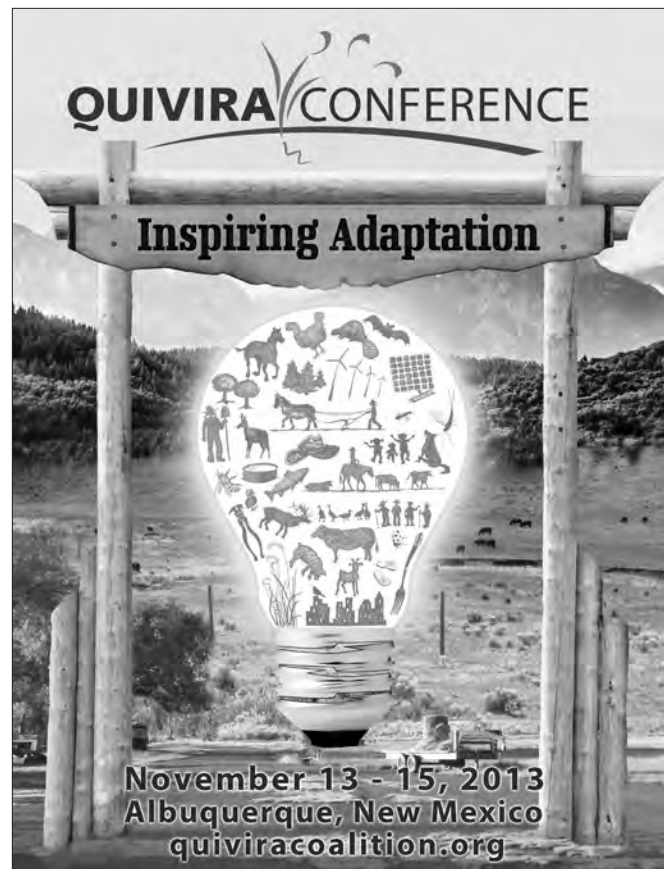
## Quivira Conference

This upbeat event regularly draws more than 500 people—one-third of whom are ranchers—and has become a successful forum for a “radical center” of ranchers, conservationists, public land managers and members of the public. Themes have included *Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide*, *Innovation and the Next Generation*, *Building Resilience* and *Inspiring Adaptation*. Speakers have included Wendell Berry, David Kline, Bill deBuys, Patty Limerick, Richard Louv, Deborah Madison, Jonah Western, Bill McKibben, Sandra Postel, Gary Snyder and many others.

## Land and Water Program

Quivira’s Land and Water Program has for many years stewarded restoration projects in the Comanche Creek Watershed, which encompasses 27,000 acres in the Valle Vidal Unit of the Carson National Forest, Taos County. Each season at the annual summer workshop, the land benefits from the labor of many dedicated volunteers. Thousands of hours have been invested by Quivira volunteers in this beautiful and fragile landscape.

Quivira’s Red Canyon Reserve property in Socorro County, New Mexico is another beautiful and fragile place. We are now exploring ideas to make this property meaningful to its native inhabitants, as well as to a larger audience of people who might use the property for educational pursuits.



In addition to striving to restore New Mexico landscapes, Quivira’s Land and Water Program is also devoted to sustaining our important partnerships with others working toward the same goals. Our partners in this endeavor include the New Mexico Environment Department, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, watershed protection groups statewide, a variety of knowledgeable and talented restoration businesses, and hundreds of land stewards within the Quivira community.

Quivira hosts educational workshops and consults on private lands, embodying our organizational tagline: “education, innovation, restoration.” We are committed to engaging new audiences in our work and pushing the boundaries of conventional restoration to make working landscapes healthier.



## New Agrarian Program

With the national average age of U.S. ranchers and farmers approaching 60 and with less than 2 percent of the population currently dedicated to producing food, it is critical that we increase the number and accessibility of training opportunities for the next generation of food producers and land stewards. Failing to take proactive measures will lead to further degradation of natural resources and associated ecosystem services, food insecurity and the development of prime agricultural land. With almost half the world's landmass currently utilized to produce food, regenerative agriculture is our means to a healthy planet.

Quivira's New Agrarian Program (NAP) was initiated in 2008 in response to these challenges and as a way to help young farmers and ranchers learn the advanced skills necessary to enter the profession. NAP works closely with farmers and ranchers on sustainable operations throughout the Southwest to implement immersive, hands-on apprenticeships targeted to new agrarians with a sincere commitment to lives and careers at the intersection of conservation and sustainable agriculture. Since the program's inception, apprentices have been trained in fields that include sustainable ranching and farming, grass-based dairy and artisan cheese-making, holistic orcharding and locally-sourced fiber production.



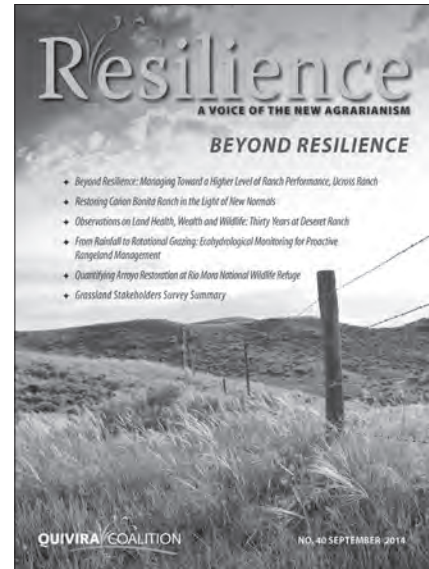
## Carbon Ranch Project

The mission of the Carbon Ranch Project is to explore and share mitigation and adaptation strategies that sequester CO<sub>2</sub> in soils and plants, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and produce co-benefits that build ecological and economic resilience in local landscapes. Strategies include enriching soil carbon, no-till farming with perennials, employing climate-friendly livestock practices, conserving

natural habitat, restoring degraded watersheds and rangelands, increasing biodiversity and producing local food.

## Outreach and Publications

As part of our mission of education, the Quivira Coalition publishes journals, books, field guides and articles; maintains a vast archive of resource materials on our website; and conducts land health outdoor classrooms and volunteer riparian restoration workshops. Educational workshops are informative, fun and open to the public.



## Tribal Partnerships

Since 2005, the Quivira Coalition has collaborated with the Ojo Encino, Torreon and Counselor Chapters of the Navajo Nation to rebuild resilience in both the biological and cultural environments. Projects focus on rangeland management, managing the feral horse population, erosion control, engaging youth, learning from elders, growing a local food system and building capacity in a Navajo run nonprofit called Hasbídító. In 2013, these communities started a mobile farmers market selling produce that they successfully grew with mentorship from a local farmer. Our ultimate goal is to empower Hasbídító and increase the number of growers to help create a biocultural landscape and community that will be resilient in the face of climate change.



# Conference Sponsors and Supporters

This conference is made possible through the generous support of:

## THE CLARENCE BURCH AWARD

Andrew Dunigan and the Dunigan Family

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Grasslans Charitable Foundation  
Robert Jespersen and Sylvia Y. Atencio Jespersen  
Judith McBean Foundation  
Tecovas Foundation

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Globetrotter Foundation  
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Dennis A. O'Toole Family Foundation  
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Martha-Ellen Tye Foundation  
Pete Pulis  
Nancy Ranney - Ranney Ranch  
TomKat Ranch Educational Foundation  
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an affiliate of the Moore Charitable Foundation

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David Bacon  
Julie and Michael Bain  
Central Colorado Educational Trust  
Fort Union Ranch  
Frank Hayes  
Jessica Sipos of Hitchcock Ranch  
Ute Creek Cattle Company

## SOIL \$500+

Animas Foundation  
Pat and Mike Boring  
Nansy and Steve Carson, Rangeland Hands, Inc.  
CS Foundation  
Ferrell Ranch  
Integral Ecology Group Ltd.  
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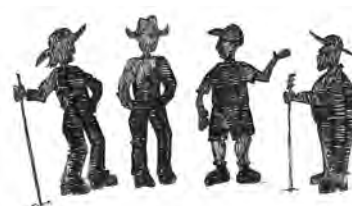
## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- For all the additional donations used for conference scholarship funding
- David Fortson, Eric Cardenas and the LoaCom team
- Beezhan Tulu and Living Web Films
- Patricia Jenkins and Jeremy Smith of Cycle Farm
- Toni Beatty
- Panorama Organic Grass-Fed Meats
- Patrick O'Neill
- U.S. Forest Service Southwest Region
- Green Fire Times, Orion Magazine and La Montañita Co-op
- Mary-Charlotte Domandi, KSFR Radio Café
- KSFR Radio - Living on the Edge
- James Ranch Grands Fund

**We would especially like to thank the Embassy Suites Hotel for accommodating our goal of serving local and organic foods where possible.**

## CONFERENCE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Avery C. Anderson Sponholtz	William Mee
Catherine Baca	Mae Montoya
Toni Beatty	Tarry Pesola
Kit Brewer	Virginie Pointeau
Eric Cardenas	Jessica Sipos
Deanna Einspahr	Jeremy Smith
David Fortson	Beezhan Tulu
Tamara Gadzia	Mollie Walton
Patricia Jenkins	Lynne Whitbeck
Rick Martinez	Courtney White
Lois Mee	





## COLLABORATIVE WETLAND RESTORATION IN THE SOUTHWEST

8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

Wetlands in the Southwest, from high mountains to low plateaus, are increasingly precious in a drying landscape. Addressing wetland degradation has implications for the health of an entire watershed, not just the wet areas. As climate change strongly influences the success of restoration projects, it is ever more important to combine efforts and ideas to bring these essential ecosystems back to health.

This full-day workshop is anchored by restoration specialist Bill Zeedyk, who owns and operates a small consulting business specializing in the restoration of wetland and riparian habitats. Bill is familiar to Quivira audiences as the innovator of successful riparian restoration methods based on his philosophy of “thinking like a creek” and using low-tech, hands-on methods and native materials. He will share his latest ideas and new restoration strategies for adapting to hotter and drier conditions developing across the Southwest.

Speakers from a variety of backgrounds—nonprofit organizations, volunteer groups, small businesses, ranches and other private land holdings, and public land management agencies—will share their experiences with collaborative wetland restoration. See the agenda on page 10 for the workshop speaker list. This workshop is presented by the Quivira Coalition in collaboration with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau, Wetlands Program.



## RANCHING IN NATURE'S IMAGE

12:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

**GABE AND PAUL BROWN** share the experience of taking a degraded ranch and regenerating it through holistic practices. When the Browns purchased their ranch in 1991, it had a carrying capacity of 100 cow/calf pairs. The degraded soils had organic matter levels of less than 2 percent, and rainfall infiltration rates were less than ½ inch per hour. Today the ranch carries 350 cow/calf pairs along with 400 to 800 yearlings. Organic matter levels have increased to over 6 percent and infiltration rates are now 8 inches per hour! A ranch once devoid of wildlife and the habitat to support it is now a healthy, high-functioning ecosystem. This focus on regeneration has drawn the attention of conservation groups worldwide.

The Browns have regenerated their landscape without the use of synthetic inputs. Just as species work together in a natural ecosystem, the Browns follow this pattern by using diverse livestock species to address their resource concerns. This has given them a high quality of life while allowing for the transition of the ranch to the next generation.



SANDIA BALLROOM - 7:30 P.M.  
**Wednesday Evening**

## A CARBON CONVERSATION WITH PETER BYCK, JUDITH SCHWARTZ AND COURTNEY WHITE

Once relegated to boring chemistry classes and obscure policy debates, carbon is now a hot topic of conversation at ranches, farms, conferences, blogs, radio programs and a host of other forums around the world. Suddenly everyone seems to be talking about carbon! While much of this talk concerns carbon's role as a pollutant in the atmosphere—the worrisome byproduct of burning hydrocarbons such as coal and oil—more and more of the conversation is now focused on carbon's many positive qualities. The carbon cycle, in fact, is key to life on Earth—we wouldn't exist without it.

The discussion will focus on the many co-benefits that accrue when the carbon content of soil is increased, including better water quality and quantity, drawdown of atmospheric carbon dioxide, improved plant productivity, increased nutrients for our bodies and much more. The presenters will update us on the latest research, economic opportunities and policy possibilities connected to soil carbon. Then we'll open the conversation to the audience for additional thoughts and comments. Join us for a provocative and informative conversation about carbon, climate and cattle with filmmaker Peter Byck and authors Judith Schwartz and Courtney White. Come and share your thoughts about carbon!



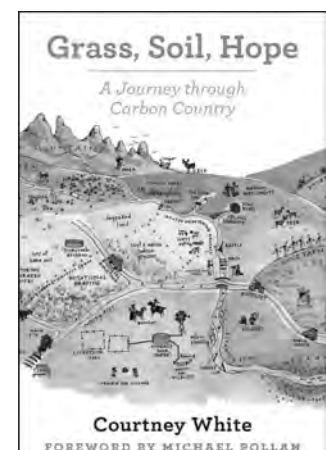
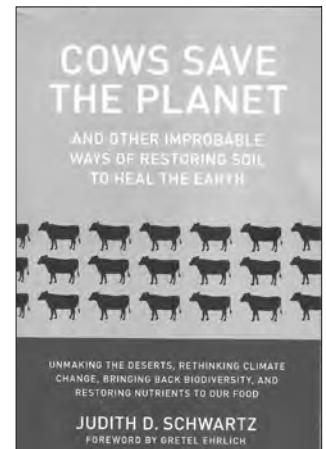
**Peter Byck** is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and Professor of Practice in the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communications at Arizona State University. His widely viewed 2010 film, *Carbon Nation*, has been described as “an optimistic, solutions-based, non-preachy, non-partisan, big tent film that shows how tackling climate change boosts the economy, increases national and energy security and promotes health and a clean environment.” Peter’s work today focuses on soil carbon.



**Judith Schwartz** is a Vermont-based journalist and freelance writer who has been published in a diverse range of magazines, newspapers and online journals. Her 2013 book, *Cows Save the Planet*, examines the “surprising, even counterintuitive, idea” that cattle can play a major role in resolving some of our most difficult global problems. It profiles a variety of carbon pioneers and land management practices that improve soil health and thus tilt us toward environmental and economic resilience.



**Courtney White** is an author and co-founder of the Quivira Coalition. His 2014 book, *Grass, Soil, Hope: A Journey through Carbon Country*, explores the potential for removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through plant photosynthesis and related land-based carbon sequestration activities, including no-till farming, climate-friendly livestock practices, conserving natural habitat, restoring degraded watersheds and rangelands, increasing biodiversity and producing local food.





SIERRA BALLROOM - 6:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

## ■ Thursday Evening

### 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NEW AGRARIAN CAREER CONNECTION AND FARMER & RANCHER SOCIAL

*Hosted by the Quivira Coalition and the National Young Farmers Coalition*

**NEW AGRARIAN or prospective MENTOR/EMPLOYER:** The Quivira Coalition and the National Young Farmers Coalition recognize the urgent need to connect established producers and land managers with the next generation of farmers and ranchers who will be responsible for growing our food and caring for the planet. During this evening of open mingling for established ranchers, farmers, conservation leaders and new agrarians, prospective employers will be clearly identified so that aspiring employees or apprentices/interns can easily locate them.

**6:00-7:30 p.m. New Agrarian Career Connection** is hosted by Quivira Coalition's New Agrarian Program. This gathering of ranchers, farmers, conservation leaders and new agrarians will take the form of an informal evening of open mingling, with prospective employers/mentors clearly identified so that the new agrarians can easily find them. Prospective employers/mentors will include (but are not limited to) private ranches and farms, conservation groups, food advocacy organizations, government agencies, land use service consultants (e.g. Holistic Management) and related private-sector businesses.

Quivira's New Agrarian Program is working with the National Young Farmers Coalition to help ensure a strong showing of highly qualified, enthusiastic beginning farmers, ranchers and land advocates in search of mentorship and opportunity. Prospective employers/mentors will each be assigned a table, where they can place business cards and other relevant information and meet with interested new agrarians. New agrarians are encouraged to come prepared with résumés and contact information. Join in the fun, make new connections and find new opportunities!

**7:30-9:00 p.m. Farmer and Rancher Social** is hosted by the National Young Farmers Coalition and its Albuquerque-based affiliate chapter, Rio Grande Farmers Coalition. Once you've found the perfect apprentice or identified an ideal opportunity, relax and enjoy live music from a local band and an opportunity to meet and celebrate with conference attendees!



# Agenda ■

## WEDNESDAY november 12

**7:00 a.m. Check-in** | LOBBY

**8:00 a.m. WETLANDS WORKSHOP**

***Collaborative Wetland Restoration in the Southwest***  
—SANDIA BALLROOM

**Opening Remarks and Introductions**

**Mollie Walton, PhD**, Quivira Coalition Land and Water Program Director

**8:30 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Bill Zeedyk**

*Characterization and Restoration of Slope Wetlands in New Mexico: Understanding Slope Wetlands, Causes of Degradation and Treatment Options*

**10:30 – 10:50 a.m. Coffee/Tea Break** | LOBBY

**10:50 – 11:10 a.m.**

**Kristina Fisher**

*Harnessing the Power of Volunteers for Riparian Restoration*

**11:10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Brett Redden**

*Can Cows and Wetland Restoration Mix?*

**Shawn Conner**

*Enhancing Ecosystem Resilience of Riparian/Wet Meadow Habitats in the Gunnison Basin, Colorado*

**12:00 – 1:30 p.m. LUNCH** (on your own)

**1:30 – 2:15 p.m.**

**Dan Taylor**

*Techniques for Restoring and Creating Wetland and Pooled Water Habitats for Livestock and Wildlife at Springs and Stock Ponds on Working Ranches*

**2:15 – 2:45 p.m.**

**Michelle Barnes**

*Wetland Mapping in New Mexico for Use in Restoration Planning*

**2:45 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Bob Sivinski**

*Aridland Spring Ciénegas*

**A.T. Cole**

*Hinge-felling at Burro Ciénega*

## WEDNESDAY november 12 (cont.)

**3:30 – 4:00 p.m. Snack Break** | LOBBY

**4:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Mollie Walton, Mark Torres, Craig Sponholtz and George Long**

*Collaborative Restoration in the Comanche Creek Watershed*

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**12:00 – 5:00 p.m. RANCHING WORKSHOP**

***Ranching In Nature's Image***

—SANDIA BALLROOM

**Gabe and Paul Brown**

This day is supported by the U.S. Forest Service, Southwest Region

**2:30 – 3:00 p.m. Snack Break** | LOBBY

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**5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Southwest Grassfed Livestock Alliance (SWGLA) Annual Meeting**

—LA VENTANA ROOM

**7:30 p.m.**

***A Carbon Conversation: An Evening with Peter Byck, Judith Schwartz and Courtney White***

—SANDIA BALLROOM

Book signing following event.

## THURSDAY november 13

**7:00 a.m. Check-in** | LOBBY

**8:00 a.m. PLENARY SESSION**

**Opening Remarks**

—SANDIA BALLROOM

**Avery C. Anderson Sponholtz**, Executive Director

**8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Jo Robinson**

*Way Back to the Future*

**9:30 – 10:00 a.m. Snack Break** | LOBBY

**10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Nicholas Nelson**

*FAO in the U.S. and the World: From Family Farmers to the Future of Food*



# ■ Agenda

## THURSDAY november 13 (cont.)

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Bill McDonald**

*The Radical Center at Twenty: The Experience of the Malpai Borderlands Group*

**12:00 – 1:30 p.m. LUNCH**

**Panorama Organic Grass-Fed Meats**

**1:30 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Robin Seydel**

*How Co-ops Grow Community Wealth: Traditional Survival Tactics Reinvigorated for Tomorrow's Economy*

**2:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Norine Ambrose**

*Patience and Persistence in Times of Change—Balancing the Tried and True with the New: Sharing Cows and Fish Experiences in Working on Riparian Stewardship*

**3:30 – 4:00 p.m. Snack Break | LOBBY**

**4:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Dorn Cox**

*Soil + Silicon: Open Source Tools for a Regenerative Agriculture*

**6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

**New Agrarian Career Connection**

—SIERRA BALLROOM

**7:30 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Farmer & Rancher Social**

Open to all conference attendees and the public. (Band and cash bar) —SIERRA BALLROOM

**Audio recordings and YouTube videos of selected presentations will be posted at [quiviracoalition.org](http://quiviracoalition.org) after the conference.**

Master of Ceremonies  
**David Fortson, LoaCom**

## FRIDAY november 14

**7:00 a.m. - Check-in | LOBBY**

**8:15 – 8:30 a.m. PLENARY SESSION**

**Opening Remarks**

—SANDIA BALLROOM

**Courtney White**, Founder and Creative Director

**8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Fred Kirschenmann**

*Old Practices Made New Again: How to Design a Resilient Agriculture for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

**9:30 – 10:00 am - Snack Break | LOBBY**

**10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Christine Jones**

*Integrating the Carbon and Nitrogen Cycles*

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Gregg Simonds**

*HOMER on the Range: Satellite Landscape Assessment for Better Operations and New Markets*

**12:00 – 1:30 p.m. LUNCH**

**Pollo Real Chicken**

**1:30 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Paul Kaiser**

*Soil is Life, Tillage is Death: A Future with No-Till Vegetable Agriculture*

**2:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Christian Dupraz**

*From Agroforestry to Agrivoltaism: Scientific Evidence for the Unexpectedly High Productivity of New Dual Systems*

**3:30 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Snack Break | LOBBY**

**4:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Winona La Duke**

*Economics for the 7th Generation*

**6:30 p.m. AWARDS BANQUET**

(doors open at 6:00 pm)

—SIERRA BALLROOM

Local, organic dinner honoring the 2014 Clarence Burch and Radical Center Awardees (cash bar)

## Awards Banquet Friday Evening

### Clarence Burch (1906-2000)

Rancher, teacher, conservationist, activist, international diplomat and public servant to five governors, Clarence Burch lived an enviable life of innovation, dedication, curiosity and good humor. He was a man very much of his time and yet miles ahead of it as well.

The eldest of nine children, Clarence was born in Bromide, Oklahoma, in what was then Indian Territory. Raised on various farms and ranches, he developed a love of the land that grew to become a passion for a lifetime. "My grandfather had an innate sense for natural forces," says Andy Dunigan. "Land was in his blood. Every discussion always started with a question about the weather."

One area to which Clarence applied his "can-do" attitude was water. While serving as director of the Division of Water Resources in the 1940s, he traveled to every seat of Oklahoma's 77 counties to assess municipal and rural water needs. Shortly thereafter, with Clarence's encouragement and over the objections of the oil companies, Governor Roy Turner signed the state's first groundwater restrictions into law.

Clarence was a careful steward of his own land as well. "He knew that all he had to sell on his ranch was grass," recalls his son Tom. "So, he took care to do the job right." His grandson agrees. "He understood that land has its limits," recalls Andy, "and he emphasized collaborative solutions to natural resource problems."

Clarence's people skills extended to his family. Andy remembers him as an "extremely warm, charismatic man who got along with people from all walks of life." A son-in-law, Jim Wilson, says Clarence could "carry on a conversation on any topic" and did so right up to the end of his life.

Perhaps Andy sums up his grandfather's qualities best: "Clarence embodied what we call today 'The Radical Center.' He was more than just a rancher. He was a public servant, an activist and a man very concerned about the land and sustainable practices. He was a remarkable man."

The Quivira Coalition is proud to honor Clarence Burch with an Annual Award presented in his name.



**THE \$20,000 CLARENCE BURCH AWARD** is given by Andrew Dunigan and the Dunigan Family, chosen through the Quivira Coalition Board of Directors to honor Clarence Burch, an innovative and enterprising rancher who courageously embraced new ideas and methods of caring for the land and its stewards. The award recognizes individuals or organizations who lead by example in promoting and accomplishing outstanding stewardship of private and/or public lands consistent with the mission of the Quivira Coalition: *to build resilience by fostering ecological, economic and social health on western landscapes through education, collaboration, and progressive public and private land stewardship.*

### 2014 NOMINEE RECOGNITION

- **Apache Foundation**, Clearmont, Wyoming
- **California Rangeland Conservation Coalition**, Livermore, California
- **Canadian River Riparian Restoration Project**, Mosquero, New Mexico
- **City Fruit**, Seattle, Washington
- **Dale Strickler**, Jamestown, Kansas
- **Doniga Markegard**, Half Moon Bay, California
- **Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust**, Klamath Falls, Oregon
- **Ladder Ranch**, Savery, Wyoming
- **Mark Reineke and Margie Tatro**, Sandia Park, New Mexico
- **Melanie M. Kirby**, Truchas, New Mexico
- **Rivers and Birds**, Arroyo Seco, New Mexico
- **Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory**, Fort Collins, Colorado
- **Sumner Erdman**, Ulupalakua Ranch, Kula, Hawaii
- **Sustainable Food Center, Inc.**, Austin, Texas
- **Watershed Management Group**, Tucson, Arizona



## 2014 Clarence Burch Award Winner

# Western Sustainability Exchange

**The Quivira Coalition is honored to present its 2014 Burch Award to the Western Sustainability Exchange, a pioneering and inspirational rancher-led collaborative group located in Bozeman, Montana.**

Twenty years ago, a diverse group of ranchers, business people, community leaders and scientists formed the Western Sustainability Exchange (WSE) to sustain the landscape and western way of life of the Northern Rockies. Their aim is to increase the financial resiliency of individual ranch operations that use practices to protect these values. WSE programs help them meet their economic needs through the use of sustainable/holistic practices.

WSE believes that exceptional stewardship should be rewarded with increased revenues and this approach is working. Recently, WSE reached two important milestones: 1 million acres under sustainable management and \$1 million in annual sales returned to WSE-certified ranchers and farmers.

WSE achieved these milestones through the following programs:

- **WSE Training Workshops** WSE helps the region's ranching community better understand how sustainable/holistic ranching works and why it can increase their profits. WSE organizes workshops with some of the West's most respected trainers. To date WSE has trained over 700 ranchers in the region.
- **WSE Certification** WSE certifies interested ranchers through a legally binding Sustainability Criteria®, which was developed collaboratively by ranchers, range management specialists, scientists, conservationists, chefs and consumers.
- **Market Connection Program** Once an operation has been certified, WSE uses a number of strategies to connect producers to markets that are willing to pay a reasonable premium for their goods. Through their Farm to Restaurant Initiative, WSE recruits restaurants, caterers, educational institutions, resort concessionaires and other food service businesses to purchase

foods from WSE Certified producers who offer market-ready products, such as branded beef. For ranchers selling live cattle, WSE runs the Steer-to-Steak Initiative. They recruit major buyers and organize certified ranchers to supply them. WSE coordinates the processing of beef to the exact specifications of the markets, as well as, its distribution to outlets. By managing these various processes, WSE is able to ensure that the ranchers receive the highest prices offered by these markets.

- **To bring it all together** WSE organizes yearly Local Food Commerce Days (LFCD), which bring together farmers, ranchers, chefs and other food service buyers, processors, distributors and lenders to discuss sustainability issues, share their experiences and do business together. These events create a network of people throughout the food system who believe in sustainability and who are doing their part to conserve this remarkable region.
- **Landscape-Scale Impact** WSE also believes that this combination of education about the benefits of sustainable practices and market support for sustainable management can result in landscape-scale conservation, especially of wildlife. We further believe these same efforts will help both ranchers and wildlife adapt to changing climatic conditions, such as drought. This could prove to be extremely important in the years ahead.

Lastly, WSE is taking their case to consumers, showing them that purchase of local, sustainably raised food not only results in a delicious, healthy meal, it also protects the landscape, wildlife and western culture for which this region is famous.



Western  
Sustainability  
Exchange

[westernsustainabilityexchange.org](http://westernsustainabilityexchange.org)

# 2014 Outstanding Leadership in the Radical Center Awards

The Eighth Annual Recognition Awards for Outstanding Leadership in the Radical Center are dedicated to the “four legs” of the Quivira Coalition’s original “chair”—ranchers, conservationists, civil servants and researchers. We wish to recognize those individuals in each category who have shown remarkable and enduring leadership in the difficult job of working in the radical center. As described by conservation leader Bill DeBuys, this is the place where people are coming together to explore their common interests rather than argue their differences.

We believe that the radical center is where real change happens. In Aldo Leopold’s words, it happens on the “actual landscape of the back forty.” Change needs strong leadership, especially in this era of seemingly endless partisanship. We continue to honor those who have advanced the cause of the radical center with integrity, vision and determination—sometimes against long odds. Each has inspired us with their dedication to family, community, healthy lands and advancement through their teaching, writing, research, service, work and good humor. Through their efforts and leadership they have been a strong voice for the common bonds that unite us. We are proud to recognize these fine people.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the Quivira Coalition, in 2014 we are honored to present the Outstanding Leadership in the Radical Center Awards to the following recipients:

## **RANCHING: Duke and Janet Phillips**

Duke Phillips was born and raised in the cattle industry spanning the United States and Latin America. He and wife Janet currently manage the Chico Basin Ranch and the Zapata Ranch in Colorado and share their love of ranching with their four children. Son Duke and daughter Tess, along with her husband David, are now part of the family business. On these two diversified, large-scale ranching operations they graze cattle and bison, and operate complementary non-agricultural, land-based businesses.

Duke is CEO of Ranchlands ([ranchlands.com](http://ranchlands.com)), a ranch management company whose mission is the preservation of land and ranching. The Ranchlands ranch management model is unique. It looks at land as a multidimensional resource, not just as a home for livestock. Ranchlands and the ranching operations it manages are not subsidized. They rely wholly on what the business can generate from land-based operations, which include hunting, fishing, grassfed beef, art and music festivals, leather products, and hospitality and education programs. As a way to pool resources and share expertise, Duke and Janet have formed important alliances with conservation groups like The Nature Conservancy and Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory.

Important components of Duke and Janet’s vision for the future is building bridges between rural and urban communities, and finding ways to train and support young agrarians in ranching. Over two thousand school children and adults go through their educational programs annually. Duke and Janet believe that the new global conservation consciousness represents a critical emerging value and is an exciting opportunity to leverage ranchers’ expertise and deep roots to help further the land in land preservation and restoration management practices.



## **CONSERVATION: Albuquerque Wildlife Federation**

The Albuquerque Wildlife Federation (AWF) is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of wildlife and wild lands in New Mexico. AWF was founded by Aldo Leopold and other New Mexico conservationists in 1914. AWF fulfills its mission through education, advocacy and on-the-ground restoration projects on public lands across New Mexico.

AWF’s accomplishments over its first century include successfully advocating for the enactment of bag limits, hunting seasons, and permanent





wildlife refuges to ensure the long-term survival of wildlife species; working to reintroduce native species like bighorn sheep, elk and beaver to areas where they have been lost; and advocating for the creation of New Mexico's Habitat Stamp program, which sets aside more than \$1 million annually for habitat improvement projects across the state.

Today AWF hosts monthly educational presentations on a wide variety of topics related to land, water and wildlife; participates in policy decisions that affect New Mexico's wildlife; publishes a free monthly e-newsletter to spread the word about important issues affecting New Mexico's wildlife and wild lands; and partners with land management agencies to organize monthly volunteer ecological restoration service projects on public lands across the state. To learn more about AWF and how you can become involved, please visit <http://abq.nmwildlife.org/>.

### **CIVIL SERVICE: Dan Robinett**

Dan attended the University of Arizona, Tucson and received a BS degree in Range Management in 1972. His career with the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) began in 1972, when he became a range conservationist at the Willcox field office. He was drafted in December of 1972 and spent two years with the U.S. Army overseas.

Upon his return in January 1975, he began working with SCS at the Chandler field office as a range conservationist. In August 1979, he was promoted to the Area Staff's Rangeland Management Specialist position in Tucson, and he served in that capacity until March 2004.

As Rangeland Management Specialist, Dan worked for 30 years with ranchers throughout Arizona on state, private and Native American rangeland. In 2005 he took an NRCS position in Tucson as a rangeland specialist to revise the ecological site descriptions in southern Arizona. Dan has also worked with the Agricultural Research Service in Sonora and Chihuahua, Mexico on ecological site-hydrology research. He completed a four-month detail to Afghanistan in the spring and summer of 2006 under USDA-USAID to provide training and develop technical materials relating to rangeland management for the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture and the Afghan Conservation Corps.

Dan retired from the USDA-NRCS in January 2007 and, with his wife Linda Kennedy, formed the consulting company, Robinett Range Resources LLC.



### **RESEARCH: Jo Robinson**

Jo Robinson is a bestselling investigative journalist who has spent the past 20 years scouring thousands of scientific articles for information on how to restore vital nutrients to our fruits, vegetables, meat, eggs and dairy products. Looking beyond changes that occurred in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, she has traced the beginning of nutrient loss to the very first gardens created 12,000 years ago.

In the first ten years of her research, Jo focused on the many differences between wild game and the food that comes out of today's confinement operations. She found that wild game is much more beneficial to our health than the animal food we produce today. She also examined the negative impact that confinement farming has on animal welfare, the environment and the health of farm workers. These findings are documented in her acclaimed website, *eatwild.com*. Her advocacy of raising animals in natural settings on their native diets has earned her worldwide attention.

Jo's most recent work has concentrated on fruits and vegetables. She has learned that, over the millennia, we have unwittingly created farming practices and chosen varieties of produce that have reduced the vitamin, mineral and fiber content of our plant food. Just as important, we have reduced their phytonutrient content. Twenty-first century research shows that when we consume phytonutrient-rich foods, we can lower our risk of disease and increase the odds that we will enjoy optimal health.

Jo details these findings in her most recent book, *Eating on the Wild Side*, which is a *New York Times* bestseller. Jo has been interviewed about her plant research on CNN with Sanjay Gupta, CBS This Morning, Fresh Air, The Splendid Table and Science Friday. In addition, she has been featured in *Nature Magazine*, *The New York Times* and dozens of other magazines and newspapers. Her work expands today's concept of "sustainable farming." In addition to producing food in a manner that is in harmony with the environment and can be sustained over time, we need to produce food that sustains human health as well.



## OCOTILLO ROOM

# Books and Products Store

This year, our conference bookroom will be operated for the first time by Albuquerque's **BOOKWORKS**, which is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a local, independent bookstore dedicated to supporting the community by connecting books and readers.

Bookworks will offer a wide variety of books and other items, including our popular Quivira publications, those of current and past conference speakers and the best of what's available on themes related to this year's conference. If you don't see what you want, just ask! As a special offer to conference attendees, Bookworks will order it for you and ship it for free.

### Scheduled Book Signings

OCOTILLO ROOM/BOOKSTORE  
WEDNESDAY 1:00-1:30 P.M.

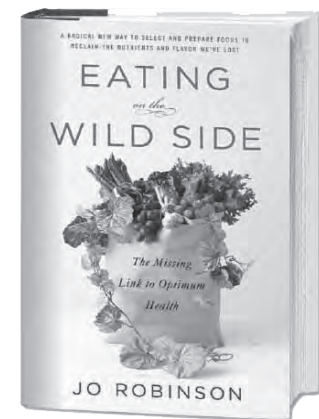
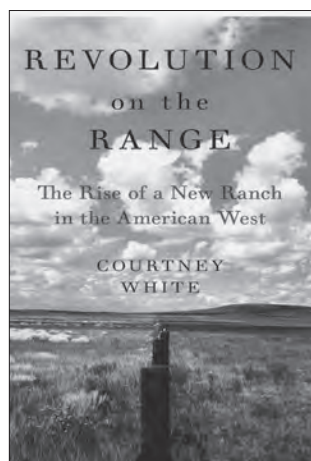
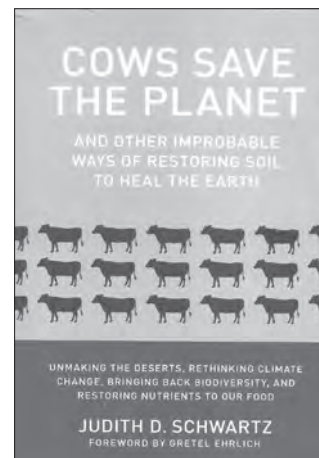
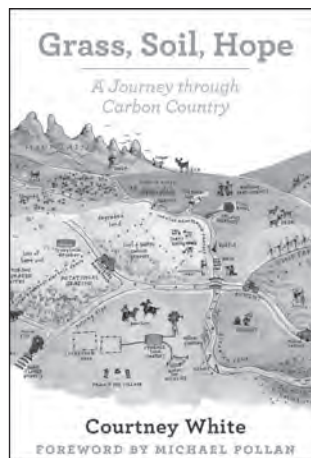
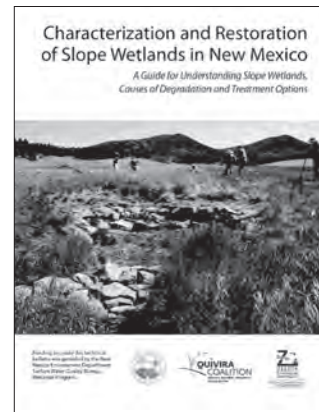
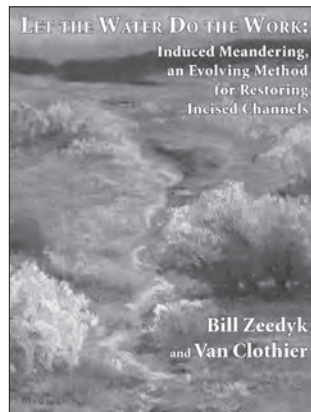
- Bill Zeedyk
  - *Let the Water Do the Work: Induced Meandering, an Evolving Method for Restoring Incised Channels*
  - *Characterization and Restoration of Slope Wetlands in New Mexico*
  - *Water Harvesting from Low-Standard Rural Roads*

CONFERENCE LOBBY  
WEDNESDAY 9:00 P.M.

- Courtney White
  - *Grass, Soil, Hope: A Journey through Carbon Country*
  - *Revolution on the Range*
- Judith D. Schwartz
  - *Cows Save the Planet: And Other Improbable Ways of Restoring Soil to Save the Earth*

OCOTILLO ROOM/BOOKSTORE  
THURSDAY 1:00-1:30 P.M.

- Jo Robinson
  - *Eating on the Wild Side: The Missing Link to Optimum Health*
  - and other titles



## ■ Exhibitors

**FocalPoint Business Coaching** - *Burl Amsbury*

**Green Fire Times** - *Skip Whitson*

**Keystone Conservation** - *Matt Barnes*

**MagTec/GMX** - *Alex Newman and Margaret Lilley*

**Hasbídító Growers Co-op** - *Navajo representatives from Ojo Encino, Torreon and Counselor Chapters*

**National Center for Appropriate Technology** - *Carl Little and Dave Scott*

**New Mexico Land Conservancy** - *Beth Mills and Ariel Patashnik*

**Organic Consumers Association** - *Alexis Baden-Mayer and Rachel Kastner*

**Panorama Meats**

**Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust and Rio Grande Return** - *Cecilia Rosacker and Alan Hamilton*

**Santa Fe Conservation Trust** - *Melissa Houser*

**Soil Carbon Challenge** - *Peter Donovan and Abe Collins*

**Southwest Grassfed Livestock Alliance** - *Laurie Bower*

**Sweetgrass Co-op** - *and Thomas Dollahite*

**Tooley's Trees** - *Gordon Tooley and Margaret Yancey*

**Unique Places** - *Michael Scisco*

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** - *Brenda Simpson and Richard Strait*

**Western Landowners Alliance** - *Lesli Allison and Hallie Mahowald*

**Western State Master in Environmental Management** - *Corrie Knapp, PhD and Dr. Tom Grant*

**Wild West Wind and Solar** - *Tim Herfel*





# Acknowledgements ■

## Thanks and appreciation to our 2014 partners, supporters and workshop volunteers.

11th Hour Project, The Schmidt  
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Lesli Allison  
Ned Ames  
Anthony Anella  
Ernie Atencio,  
Quivira Board Member Emeritus  
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Michal Bain,  
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Henry Oliver III Family Fnd  
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Blue Earth Education, LLC, San Juan  
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Samantha Bradford, New Agrarian  
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Central New Mexico LandLink  
Cimarron Watershed Alliance  
Colorado Branch of Holistic  
Management International  
Comanche Creek Workshop  
Volunteers  
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Compton Foundation  
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Quivira Board Member  
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David & Lucile Packard Foundation  
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Esri  
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Farm Aid  
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Sid Goodloe,  
Quivira Board Vice Chair  
Google Earth  
Grasslands Stakeholder Survey  
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Kate Greenberg,  
Quivira Board Member  
Hasbídító, Watson and Lula Castillo  
Frank Hayes,  
Quivira Board Member and  
Heart and Horn Ecological  
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Dale Heinemann  
Heritage Land Conservancy  
Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance  
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Integral Ecology Group, Ltd.  
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New Agrarian Mentor  
Judith McBean Foundation  
Shalini Karra, New Agrarian  
Apprentice  
Brenton Kelly  
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Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge  
Lee Lockie  
Nick Martinez, MGM Roofing, Inc.  
Rick Martinez  
McBride Family & Aspen Business  
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New Cycle Foundation

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Quality Bureau:  
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Paper Tiger  
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Quivira Board Member  
Nancy Ranney and David F. Levi  
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Red Canyon Reserve Team:  
Steve Carson, Cullen Hallmark,  
Frank Hayes, Larry Cary, Brian  
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Tigner Ranch: Carry Tigner  
Tooley's Trees, New Agrarian Mentor  
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Zigmund Napkora, Greg Miller,  
and Kathryn Furr  
U.S. Forest Service, Region Three:  
Judith Dyess  
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U.S. Natural Resources Conservation  
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Watershed Artisans, Inc.  
Western Landowners Alliance  
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Xubi Wilson  
Zeedyk Ecological Consulting, LLC

*All participants who attended  
educational workshops or volunteered  
their time and miles travelled for a  
total in-kind donation of \$40,800 at  
Quivira Coalition Land and Water  
Program events in 2014.*

**AND THE ENTIRE  
QUIVIRA COMMUNITY!**



Two weeks ago, the Quivira family lost a dear friend with the passing of Judith McBean. Not only was she a wonderful person and a strong supporter of Quivira, she was incredibly open and willing to try a host of new ideas and practices on her ranch—which is a rare quality. We met Judith ten years ago and quickly grew to know her as a warm, thoughtful, stylish and generous human being. She became an early supporter of our annual conference and an active participant in the gathering, along with her ranch manager Clint Hoss.

Judith was an eager learner in the best sense. She often took what she learned and gave it a try on her small but lovely ranch, near Watrous, New Mexico. Working with Kirk Gadzia, Craig Sponholtz and other experts, she walked the talk of progressive land management, improving pasture health, fixing degraded riparian areas and providing a verdant home for grassfed cattle. She came from a ranching background in California and spent much of her adult life working with horses, cutting horses in particular. She had a deep love of animals, land and good stewardship.

We couldn't thank Judith enough for all that she did for Quivira and for the example she set as rancher and philanthropist. She was a good friend and an inspiration to many in our community. She will be missed.

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**QUIVIRA** CONFERENCE

# THE NEXT WAVE

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NOVEMBER 10 - 13, 2015  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

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