

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

New Ranch Network 2.0

The New Ranch Network (NRN) website is a link for individuals and organizations that can provide 'New Ranch' assistance to landowners and others who seek information, products, and services. It consists of ranchers, scientists, consultants, specialists, conservationists, volunteers and others who are willing to assist a rancher or other landowner in 'making the leap' to progressive stewardship through collaboration.

Thanks to Deborah Myrin's hard work, we are pleased to announce the redesign of the New Ranch Network (NRN) website (2.0). In addition to a new look, we have made the site acces-

sible for anyone who wishes to advertise their services – sort of a "yellow pages". If you are looking for a client anywhere in the West, consider signing up!

This Directory is for educational and informational purposes; enrollment is voluntary and inclusive. It does not imply an endorsement by The Quivira Coalition.

Support for the New Ranch Network has been provided by Environmental Defense, the National Forest Foundation, Public Service Company of New Mexico, the Sonoran Institute, the United States Forest Service and private foundations.



2006 Annual Report

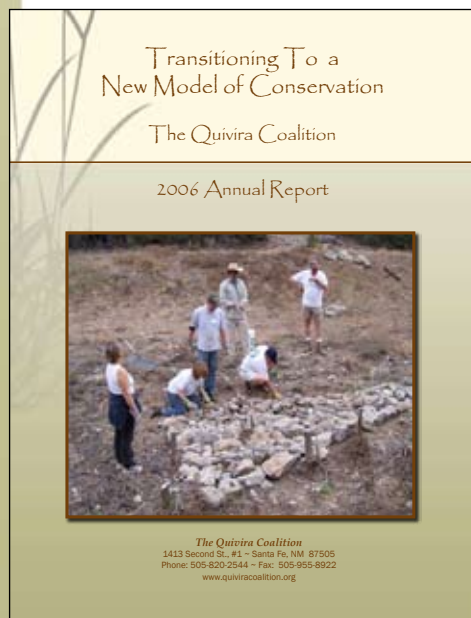
"In 2006, we became ranchers – not in theory, but in practice.

On June 3rd, forty-nine heifers were delivered to our ranch on the Valle Grande allotment, on the Santa Fe National Forest, atop Rowe Mesa, south of Pecos, New Mexico. They were the first installment of what has become a 124-head herd of heifers, plus three Corriente bulls, all owned by The Quivira Coalition, all under the 'Valle Grande' brand. Ranchers Jack and Pat Hagelstein, who sold the cattle to us, were perhaps as intrigued (and surprised) by our foray into the livestock business as we were.

Owning cattle is part of our new business plan for the Rowe Mesa Grassbank. Knowing that the grant funding was about to end, we devel-

oped a plan that emphasized lowering costs, raising earned income, improving land health, conducting education and turning a profit, if possible (all revenue generated from the cattle is plowed back into operations, including conservation activities). The new plan means running the allotment like a ranch. It also means rethinking the Grassbank itself, as well as redefining our relationship with our partners – the US Forest Service, the Northern New Mexico Stockman's Association, and the Extension Service."

For the complete report go to our website at www.quiviracoalition.org and click on **QC Publications**.



Hellos and Goodbyes

It is with a mixture of regret and happiness that we mark changes in the Quivira family.

In April, we said “goodbye” to **Michael Moon**, who took a job at the Chico Basin Ranch in Colorado, where Michael will be in charge of the 1000-head cattle herd for our friend Duke Phillips. This is a good move for Michael and his family. Rowe Mesa was a remote and challenging location to raise four small children (especially this past winter when they had to be airlifted out by helicopter). In addition, professionally and economically the Chico offers Michael a chance to grow – with the chance of possibly starting his own herd. It was an opportunity that Michael and Dawn needed to take. We entirely understood and wish them all the best and thank them for a job well done under difficult circumstances. We’ll miss their smiles – but hopefully not their singing! Look for them at our next Annual Conference.

Deborah Myrin, our Website & Mapping Coordinator, has decided to return to her family ranch in Utah. While we knew this day would eventually come, it is still hard to say goodbye.

Deborah came to us as an intern in 2005 from Utah State University, where she was completing her degree in natural resource management. We put her unusual set of skills (she could handle a computer program as easily as fix a fence) to work on the Rowe Mesa Grassbank. She produced a land health map for the project that has become critical to our success. In fact, we were so pleased, we offered her a job! She accepted and for the past two years she has cheerfully and ably assisted us in many areas, including workshops, GPS fieldwork, mapping, the Annual Conference, and even administrative chores.

On her own initiative and with no prior experience, Deborah taught herself how to design and implement a website. In June, 2006, she launched the rede-

signed Quivira Coalition web site, and more recently the New Ranch Network site. Both are impressive achievements, and on behalf of the organization, I want to thank her once again for doing such a good job.

Deborah plans to employ these new skills back home. In addition to starting a new web design company, she plans to offer mapping services to landowners, and to pursue a passion for photography. In the meantime, she intends to put all her skills to work on the family ranch as well. In fact, her father recently hired her (through the QC) to map the ranch for grazing and irrigation.

“Ever since I was little I wanted to ranch,” she said, explaining her decision to go home. “Still, I’ll miss my time here in Santa Fe. It’s been great.”

We’ll miss Deborah too. But we’re comforted in the knowledge that her “apprenticeship” with The Quivira Coalition will bear significant fruit back in Utah. We wish her all the best. Oh yes – we’re her first client. She’s going to continue to do our websites for as long as is practical. So, it’s not really good bye at all!

Now the “hellos.”

In April, we welcomed **Veronica Medwid** as our new Administrative Assistant – replacing Sheryl Russell who has be-



come our Special Events Coordinator. Veronica hails from Minnesota and, before that, upstate New York. She attended Kenyon College, in Ohio, where she majored in sociology with a strong element of environmental studies thrown in. She thought for a while that she might pursue a career in social services, but decided it didn’t exactly fit with her interests in environmental education, youth, food production, and the

outdoors.

She moved to Santa Fe nearly three years ago – sight unseen – and has fallen in love with the town. While working at Coyote Cafe, her father, Walter Medwid, Executive Director of the Minnesota Wolf Center, encouraged her to apply for the front office position. He thought it might be an interesting experience for her.

As indeed it will be! Welcome Veronica – we’re happy to have you on board.

We also welcome **Mike Archuleta**, who will be taking over many of Michael Moon’s duties on the Valle Grande Ranch. Mike lives in Rowe, where his family’s roots go back two hundred years. Raised in Los Alamos, and following a stint in the Marines, Mike returned to Rowe three years ago with his family with the goal of starting a ranching operation. His family owns land on Rowe Mesa, where Mike raises quarter horses for racing. His main interest, however, is maintaining the heritage of agriculture in northern New Mexico.



“Too many people are headed in the wrong direction,” he said, “especially the kids today. I want to do what I can to reverse this trend.”

He grew up with livestock – and this is one of the reasons he returned to Rowe, to give his four children the chance to do the same.

“I believe in taking care of the land,” he said. “I know there are big challenges facing us, but I’m optimistic. And I like what The Quivira Coalition is doing. I have hope.”

And thanks to friends like Deborah, Michael, Veronica and Mike, so do well!

~ Courtney



2007 Creek and Wet Meadows Restoration Workshops With Bill Zeedyk

Cedro Creek ~ Saturday, June 23

Wetlands and wet meadows provide food, water, and cover for wildlife and, in some areas, forage for livestock, but many wetlands and wet meadows in New Mexico have been lost due to human activity. The restoration structures you will be building were pioneered by Bill Zeedyk. They have proven to reduce erosion and sedimentation, return riparian areas to a healthier condition, and create wet meadows and other wetlands. These low-cost, low-tech solutions allow "nature to do the work," a concept that Bill, and other restoration specialists, call "bio-engineering."

The creek is responding positively to initial treatments and riparian vegetation planted during our March workshop. Now it is time to install additional structures to help the creek continue its restoration course. We will repair previously installed structures and "induce meandering" with rock structures such as One Rock Dams, Rock Baffles, Weirs and Vanes along the "Sandia Prep" reach of Cedro Creek. This reach was named after Sandia Prep students who began the restoration of this section of the creek.

Come see what has been accomplished and help complete what still needs to be done! Don't miss out on this great opportunity to be a part of the restoration efforts on Cedro Creek! This workshop is part of an EPA-Clean Water Act Section 104(b) (3) Wetlands



Restoration and Training grant. Cedro Creek is located along South Hwy14 in Tijeras Canyon, just a few miles east of Albuquerque. Bring yourself, bring a friend, bring a student!

Comanche Creek ~ Friday-Sunday, July 27-29

The Comanche Creek watershed, situated in the Valle Vidal Unit of the Carson National Forest, was historically logged, grazed by domestic livestock and elk, hunted, and mined. These activities created many roads and overgrazed landscapes, decreased vegetation and increased fine sediment along and within the creek and watershed.

Various organizations and agencies have come together over the past years to help restore Rio Grande Cutthroat trout (RGCT) habitat along Comanche Creek.



Bill Zeedyk, Steve Carson, Craig Sponholtz and Restoration Trainees will lead groups of volunteers to build restoration structures (vanes, exclosures and various up-land treatments) on the lower and middle reaches of Comanche Creek. This will be a great opportunity to learn hands-on how to design and install these treatments! Visit the Comanche Creek Website (www.comanchecreek.org) for a virtual overview of the project. Come for one or all three days. This will be our only workshop on Comanche Creek this year and our last as part of a Clean Water Act Section 319 (h) EPA Grant.

This volunteer work weekend is sponsored by the EPA and NMED-Surface Water Quality Bureau through a Clean Water Act Section 319 (h) Grant, the USFS Questa Ranger District, The Quivira Coalition, NM Trout and Trout Unlimited ~ Truchas Chapter.

To register for these events go to the
Workshop and Events page at
website: www.quiviracoalition.org.
For more information, contact the office at
505-820-2544 ext. 0#.



The Quivira Coalition's
Land & Water Fund

OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE

\$100,000 IN 2007.

Funds raised will be directed to land & water-based projects that strengthen the resilience of organizations, communities, associations, landowners, or other enterprises in the region.

The goal is to improve ecological, economic, social and land health, including the health of The Quivira Coalition.

Land & Water Funds will be applied to projects that improve land health through riparian & upland habitat restoration practices & maintenance, grazing management, ranch infrastructure repair, road rehabilitation, watershed planning, implementation of best management practices, or an educational activity that has a direct impact on soil, grass, or water.

You can donate on-line at
www.quiviracoalition.org.

Click on Join & Donate.



Proud to support the
Land & Water Fund.

The Quivira Coalition
1413 2nd Street St., Ste #1
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Many thanks to all those who responded to our March 2007 Membership Renewal Letter. We appreciate your continued support!

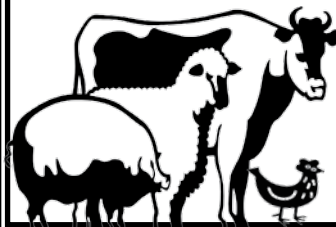


Mark your calendar!
7th Annual Conference
January 17-19, 2008
Marriott Pyramid
Albuquerque, NM

The Second Annual
Celebration of
Local Beef, Lamb,
Poultry & Pork!

Friday, September 14 ~ 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
College of Santa Fe Alumni Hall
Meet the producers, taste their products &
place your orders.

Co-sponsored with
SWGLA,
Slow Food ~ Santa Fe
and Farm to Table.



May 2007

