



GREEN FIRE REPORT

FIFTEEN YEARS OF
ENVIRONMENTAL VICTORIES
1987-2002

THE CONSEQUENCES OF SPRAWL *By Edward Archuleta, 1000 Friends of NM*

A few years back a candidate for city council (the person and town shall remain anonymous) asked me, "well, why is sprawl so bad?" After I regained my composure I began my reply, "The consequences associated with sprawl are enormous—loss of open space and wildlife habitat, longer commutes to work and school, increased pollution, disinvestment in our downtowns and older neighborhoods, higher taxes to pay for new infrastructure and urban services in outlying areas, neglect of existing infrastructure to pay for new roads and utility lines, and the list goes on." "Oh, now I get it," this person replied.

Unfortunately, not many people do—at least those in the development community and political arena whose idea of progress is growth anywhere, at any cost. It's a tough battle to fight sprawl. Zoning codes, financial lending practices, and established planning principles all contribute to sprawl.



Sprawl (v): To take up more space than is necessary.

SOME URBAN PLANNING HISTORY

Throughout time humans have tended to band closely together in their living situations. Originally this was for defensive purposes but later when defense was no longer a major issue, people still lived in close proximity to one another as well as to the services they needed for their daily needs.

In the late 19th century during the height of the Industrial Revolution, problems began to arise with this traditional way of living. Factories and other pollution creating businesses began to locate in or near residential areas. To counter this situation, zoning was created. But as time progressed things got out of hand. Most commercial businesses were excluded

from residential areas, even those that were reasonable and necessary—like neighborhood groceries and drugstores. Soon every use had its own zone.

After World War II the first large-scale subdivisions began to appear on the landscape, and caused our cities to sprawl like never before. The advent of the interstate highway system caused our cities to increase even more. Now people were able to flee the inner cities and find the supposed American dream in the suburbs.

But over the last decade, people have begun to question if this is really the way they want to live. Commuters are stuck in their cars longer and longer

each year. A person has to drive to get a loaf of bread or a gallon of milk. Children need rides for almost all their needs. At one time, most children walked or biked to school. This is now the exception rather than the rule, as schools have been built farther and farther outside urban areas. And in the process of growing exponentially, we have caused more and more of our rural landscapes to fall under the

path of the bulldozer, displacing wildlife and scarring our hillsides.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

So what can be done about sprawl? A whole new field called "growth management" or "smart growth" has developed over the last decade or so. Urban planners, elected officials and enlightened builders are finally realizing that we cannot continue to grow like we have over the last fifty years. People don't want to be stuck in their cars for hours each day. They want more of an urban life—

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A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER, A NON-PROFIT PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FIRM.

The mission of the New Mexico Environmental Law Center is to protect New Mexico's natural environment and communities.

CASE UPDATE: MOLYCORP

After years of work and 25 permit revisions, the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division approved and signed Molycorp's close-out plan and permit for the molybdenum mine in Questa, NM. Since 1999, the Law Center has represented Amigos Bravos in their efforts.

The new permit represents some major breakthroughs for environmental and community activists concerned about human health and pollution of the Red River. Precedent-setting standards include:

- Withdrawal of 2,247 acres from future mining.
- Mine reclamation will start this year instead of waiting till the mine closes—Molycorp has committed to

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MOLYCORP *continued*

spend a minimum of \$3 million a year on reclamation activities.

- A large and comprehensive revegetation test plot program will establish 100 acres of test plots by 2003—this will allow testing of alternative revegetation scenarios, a critical area for preventing groundwater contamination and erosion of contaminated surface materials.
- A Technical Review Committee, consisting of representatives of all the stakeholders, will continue to meet—and critically assess restoration progress—through the revision of the permit in 2004.
- The permit calls for a revision of the permit if wildlife is being negatively impacted, and
- The open pit will be partially reclaimed.

The permit will be revised in 2004 to incorporate new information from the studies. Still to be resolved, and sure to be a focus of the 2004 revision, is what to do with subsidence areas. Under the new permit agreement MolyCorp has until 2004 to develop a plan for reclaiming over 200 acres of subsidence at the mine.

—Thanks to Amigos Bravos for this update.



HRI

The litigation before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission administrative law judge continues to be held in abeyance while the parties attempt to negotiate a settlement agreement. Although at this time the parties continue to negotiate, ENDAUM is using other avenues to actively oppose any uranium mining in its communities.

In late May, ENDAUM was able to convince the President and Vice President of the Navajo Nation to support those communities within the Navajo Nation that oppose uranium mining. In a letter dated May 22, 2002 to all Chapter Presidents and Navajo Nation Council delegates from chapters that passed resolutions opposing HRI's uranium mining projects in Crownpoint and Churchrock, the President and Vice President pledged the Executive Branch's support to those communities in their opposition to uranium mining. ENDAUM and the communities that will be affected by HRI's proposed mines welcomed this unprecedented support.

In addition to earning the support of the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation, ENDAUM has discovered that the uranium subsidy amendments to the Energy Bill originally offered by Domenici and Wilson have resurfaced in the Energy Bill passed by the Senate, in a nominally different form. This is despite the fact that ENDAUM had been assured that the amendment had been withdrawn. The community has begun to organize opposition to this provision and is asking Senator Jeff Bingaman to kill this dangerous provision in conference committee.

—Eric Jantz, Staff Attorney

US 70 HIGHWAY EXPANSION

Four days after the comment period on the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the US 70 Milepost 302 to Ruidoso Downs project ended, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a Record of Decision (ROD) and signed a contract for the construction of a four lane highway through the Hondo Valley. The cultural resources report outlining historic properties that may be impacted by the project was, and remains, incomplete.

Our client, the Valley Community Preservation Commission (VCPC) is coordinating its efforts against the expansion of US Highway 70 between Milepost 302 (two miles east of Riverside, New Mexico) and Ruidoso Downs with the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Although the FHWA and the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department (NMSHTD) are currently discussing what to do when the project reaches

known or undiscovered historical properties that will be impacted by the project with the various interested parties, the VCPC is concerned that these conciliatory efforts are not adequate. The process (programmatic agreement) only allows for public input on properties discovered in the future. The cultural resources studies completed prior to the date of the programmatic agreement discussions—without public input—will not be open for review. The NMSHTD and the FHWA are still researching newly discovered historical resources in the valley.

—Heather Green, Staff Attorney



OGLEBAY NORTON MICA MILL

The Law Center is working with the Picuris Pueblo and Vecinos del Rio (a neighborhood coalition near Velarde, NM) to protest Oglebay Norton Specialty Minerals Inc.'s (ON) recent permit modification application. ON has submitted several variations of its application over the past several months to request different modifications. As the application exists now, ON is asking to use all three of its existing unlined tailings

ponds, build an additional tailings pond, remove the berm between two of the existing tailings ponds, and construct a hydro-carbon land farm.

Picuris Pueblo and Vecinos del Rio are concerned about ON's most recent application proposal because of its groundwater and air permit violations. Since Franklin Industries, Inc.'s (ON's predecessor) application to increase discharge to the tailings ponds at the mill site in 1998, the quality of the groundwater beneath the facility has steadily declined. ON is now in violation of several groundwater quality standards. In addition, of all the tailings ponds proposed, only one will be lined. These proposals do not adequately protect the groundwater in the areas surrounding the site.

While this application has not yet been scheduled for a hearing, Picuris Pueblo and Vecinos del Rio are working with two experts and communicating with the Groundwater Quality Bureau to address these concerns.

—H.G.

STERICYCLE, INC.

The international medical waste treatment corporation, Stericycle, Inc., unwittingly awakened a sleeping giant in the Wells Park neighborhood of Albuquerque in April. Stericycle sought to amend its solid waste treatment permit to allow it to significantly change its current operations at its medical waste treatment facility near downtown Albuquerque. Currently, Stericycle is permitted to treat medical waste using a chlorine treatment method. However, the Albuquerque facility has been used only as a medical waste transfer station for the past year.

After reviewing Stericycle's application for permit modification that it filed with the New Mexico Environment Department's Solid Waste Bureau (SWB), it became apparent that Stericycle's proposed modifications—substantially reconstructing large portions of the physical facility, nearly quadrupling the amount of medical waste to be processed, and increasing hours of operation to allow the facility to operate twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week—amount to a completely new operation.

The Wells Park Neighborhood Association, along with the Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) decided to challenge Stericycle's application.

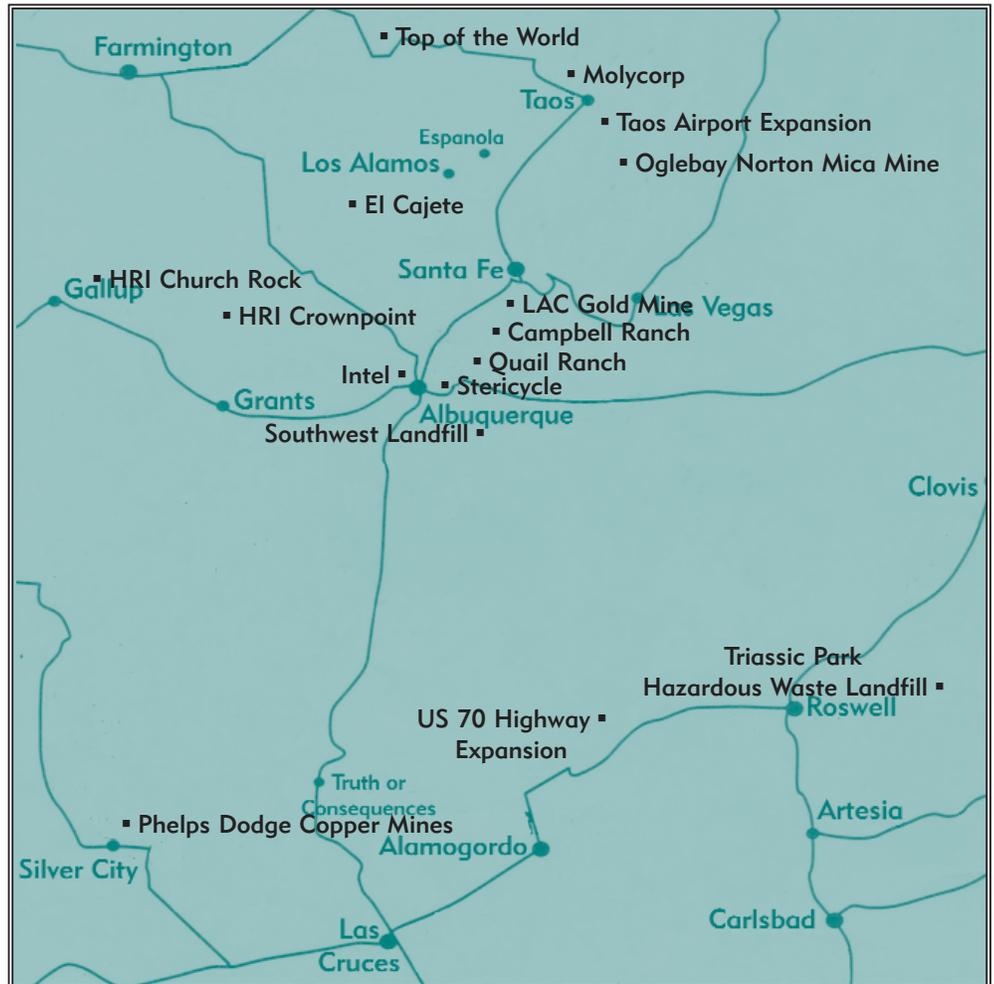
Wells Park and SWOP were also concerned about Stericycle's abysmal record of operation in other states, and its poor environmental and safety record during the four years that Stericycle has operated the facility in Albuquerque. (Read more details about Stericycle's record and the hearing on our website at www.nmenvirolaw.org)

Stericycle, the SWB, and the Law Center's clients submitted their closing arguments to the hearing officer in late June and are waiting on her recommendations. Stay tuned.

—E.J.

INTEL AIR

Computer chip giant Intel Corporation continues to expand on the Rio Rancho mesa. However, a recent court room showdown could lead to new pollution limits on the plant, and give the public more involvement in future decisions about the company. On March 18, Law Center attorney Doug Wolf presented oral argument in front of the New Mexico Court of Appeals. The appeal, on behalf of the SouthWest Organizing Project (SWOP), involves the air permit issued to Intel by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in 2000. In its appeal, SWOP argues that it did not receive a fair hearing from the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board and that Intel needs to obtain an operating permit for its air pollution. Such a permit could subject Intel to additional



environmental performance standards. The judges told the packed court room they were taking the matter under advisement; a decision is expected soon.

Outside of the courtroom, support is building for off-site air monitors that would measure pollution from the Intel plant in homes downwind in nearby Corrales. Not only has this been endorsed by the Corrales Mayor and the Sandoval County Commission, but NMED has requested funds from EPA to install such monitors. SWOP members and Corrales residents have also been taking matters into their own

hands. A "bucket brigade," using simple but effective technology has been collecting grab samples of air downwind of the Intel plant. The results indicate that Intel's chemicals are reaching Corrales homes and include some that may not be authorized by Intel's permit. Finally, Corrales Citizens for Clean Air and Water, a community group that is working closely with SWOP and the Law Center will soon release a community health survey that is expected to link Intel emissions to health problems in Corrales.

—Staff Attorney Doug Wolf

PHELPS DODGE UPDATE: CHINO, TYRONE, MINING ACT PETITION

CHINO SECOND HEARING

On February 25, 2002, a hearing officer for the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) began a second hearing on the mine closure plan for the Phelps Dodge Chino mine. The hearing was to take testimony on the permit proposed as the result of (initially secret) negotiations between NMED, Phelps Dodge, and the state Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD). The testimony made clear that the stipulated permit was an outcome negotiated over the heads of the NMED staffers who know the most about the heavily polluted Chino mine.

The Law Center is representing the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP). GRIP's expert witness, Jim Kuipers of the Center for Science in Public Participation (CSPP), challenged the permit as lacking in details and in scientific support and asserted the merits of the comprehensive closure plan already proposed by GRIP. Post-hearing briefs were filed in June and a decision is expected in August or September.

TYRONE HEARING

On May 20, the hotly contested Phelps Dodge Tyrone mine closure hearing began and lasted a full two weeks. Phelps Dodge and NMED are at odds and have proposed dramatically different closure plans for the site. GRIP, again represented by the Law Center and CSPP, has proposed a comprehensive closure plan for the site that would best protect the environment.

Although Phelps Dodge's plan would leave large portions of the site unreclaimed, the company did surprise GRIP and NMED by announcing a new, innovative water treatment scheme for the mine cleanup. The proposal, which has

essentially been accepted by GRIP and cautiously praised by NMED, would treat contaminated water from the site to meet the stringent New Mexico groundwater quality standards. Also, unlike the Phelps Dodge/NMED permit for the Chino mine, the Tyrone scheme would not waste any scarce potable water to dilute polluted water from the mine. Phelps Dodge proposed this plan apparently in response to a media campaign mounted by GRIP that challenged the sheer waste of the Chino water treatment plan. We hope that Phelps Dodge's willingness to respond to environmental concerns with a superior innovative plan for water treatment is a sign of things to come.

Post-hearing briefs will be filed by the end of August and a decision is expected in October or November.



MINING ACT PETITION

As these updates may make clear, the effort to establish mine reclamation plans for the Phelps Dodge mines has focused on lawyers and hearings, with reclamation science taking a back seat. In an effort to establish science as the guiding force in cleaning up these large mines -- GRIP, Phelps Dodge, EMNRD, and a pro-mining group from Grant County are proposing a new process. In exchange for an extension of the current New Mexico deadline for mine reclamation plans, companies like

Phelps Dodge would pledge interim financial assurance to the state and fund a panel or panels of neutral scientific experts who would try to ensure that good science would shape the ultimate reclamation plans. The New Mexico Mining Commission will consider this proposal during a hearing in August.

—Doug Wolf, Staff Attorney

SOURCES OF ENVIRONMENTAL BATTLES: LESSONS FROM THE LAW CENTER'S FIRST 15 YEARS

In its first 15 years, the Law Center has been involved in a wide range of matters, including such diverse issues as disposal of solid and other wastes, growth, mining, and grazing and logging on public lands. Despite this wide variety of issues, three consistent themes have emerged from all of these matters.

1) PEOPLE FIGHT TO PROTECT THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

The Law Center's experience is that the vast majority of environmental battles are fought by local people whose communities are threatened by adverse environmental consequences of existing or proposed facilities and operations. Below are just a few examples.

- Residents of Sunland Park formed Concerned Citizens of Sunland Park and succeeded in closing a medical waste incinerator that was emitting contamination into the Sunland Park community.
- Members of the South Valley Coalition of Neighborhood Associations and the Isleta Pueblo have worked together to try to prevent the adverse environmental impacts that would result from expansion of the Southwest landfill in Albuquerque's South Valley and changing the landfill's status so that it can accept municipal solid waste.
- Residents of Crownpoint and Church Rock formed the Eastern Navajo Diné Against Uranium Mining (ENDAUM) and have worked to prevent the proposed mining of uranium that would contaminate their sole source of drinking water.
- The Picuris Pueblo is fighting on several fronts to stop the mining of mica that is destroying the ability of Pueblo members to make the pottery that is crucial to their culture and economy.

2) ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION MOST OFTEN AFFECTS MINORITY AND LOW INCOME COMMUNITIES.

Almost all of the Law Center's current cases involve situations in which communities are working either to address existing contamination or to prevent degradation of their environments. Approximately 85% of this work is for minority and low-income communities. This is well illustrated by the examples of our community work outlined above:

- Almost all of the citizens of Sunland Park are Mexican-American.
- The members of ENDAUM and the Picuris Pueblo are Native Americans.
- Approximately 70% of the residents of the South Valley are Hispanic, and 99% of the residents of the Isleta Pueblo are Native American.

Moreover, these examples are typical. Facilities that have the potential to pollute are much more likely to be located in low income and minority communities for two reasons. First, those communities rarely have the resources and political clout to prevent that from happening. Second, communities that do have political clout are better able to persuade industry to locate elsewhere and influence government agencies to prevent the siting of polluting industries in their neighborhoods.

The disparity in treatment of communities extends as well to the cleanup of pollution that has already occurred. Existing contamination is much more likely to be cleaned up in a timely and thorough manner if it exists in non-minority communities.

3) COMMUNITIES MUST OFTEN FIGHT NOT ONLY INDUSTRY BUT GOVERNMENT REGULATORS AS WELL.

One of the unfortunate lessons learned by the Law Center during the past 15 years is that communities that are working to protect their environments are likely to be opposed not only by polluting industries but also by the government agencies that are charged with regulating those industries.

A clear example of this phenomenon has been the consistent advocacy for ISL uranium mining in the Crownpoint area demonstrated by the staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the NRC). In a conversation concerning a pending issue in the case, one of the staff's attorneys told a Law Center attorney that the staff needed to check with the mining company before it could determine what its position would be.

Regrettably, the posture of the NRC staff is not atypical. Many of the Bureaus of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) seem all too anxious to provide industry with whatever it wants. A waste disposal consultant once pointed out to a Law Center attorney that dealing with the Solid Waste Bureau of the NMED was no longer a challenge because the Bureau always gave the consultant what his clients wanted.

There are exceptions to this rule, of course. The most notable in the experience of the Law Center is the Ground Water Bureau of the NMED. The personnel in that Bureau act independently and do not always agree either with industry or with those aligned against industry. But that Bureau is truly an exception.

This final lesson learned by the Law Center during the past 15 years has serious implications for those working to protect the environment. It means that groups and individuals working to protect their families and their communities must spend as much time and effort fighting their own representatives in government, as they spend fighting the industries that threaten their environments. It also means that proceedings conducted by those governmental representatives are usually stacked in favor of the industries involved and against the participating community and environmental groups.

THE LAW CENTER WILL CONTINUE TO REPRESENT COMMUNITIES WORKING TO PROTECT THEIR ENVIRONMENTS.

The work of the Law Center is community based. We represent communities to help them achieve the protection that they want for their environments. We also will work to change the factors that cause environmental injustice and that lead government agencies to advocate for the industries that they regulate. We look forward to involving the Law Center's supporters and allies in these struggles.

*By Douglas Meiklejohn
Executive Director*

Ed. note: for the complete text of this article, please see www.nmenvirolaw.org.

The New Mexico Environmental Law Center is a non-profit, public interest law firm that provides free and low cost legal services on environmental matters throughout New Mexico. The mission of the New Mexico Environmental Law Center is to protect New Mexico's natural environment and communities. Founded in 1987, the Law Center works with clients—often individuals, neighborhood associations, environmental organizations, Tribes and Pueblos—seeking to protect the environment. The work of the Law Center is made possible by tax-deductible contributions from individuals and businesses, foundation grants, and limited earned income.

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SPRAWL *continued from page 1*

being able to walk to stores, restaurants, museums, parks and other urban amenities. They want more housing choices—not just cookie-cutter houses in the 'burbs. They want better mass transit, biking and walking trails. In short, they want to live more like our grand-parents did in the '20s and '30s.

Some growth management solutions:

REGIONAL PLANNING

Most urban planners and smart growth practitioners believe that the first step to growth management is regional planning. If one local government espouses managed growth, but the surrounding county government doesn't, growth management will fail. Both jurisdictions need to be talking with each other and adopting land use plans that govern the whole area.

REVENUE-SHARING

A second tool that shows great promise in managing growth is revenue-sharing. One overarching reason local governments approve

development is for increased revenue—in the form of both property and sales taxes—which can lead to sprawl in unincorporated areas. If revenues from a region can go into one pot and then be disbursed to local governments for services on a needed basis, there is not the compulsion to approve development in inappropriate areas.

UGBs

Another useful tool, albeit one of the more controversial, is urban growth boundaries. Oregon has probably the strongest UGBs in the country. In 1972 that state mandated that all cities create a line around their urban areas and force all growth within it. In one act of legislation, Oregon almost instantly curtailed sprawl. Unfortunately, this has had two unintended consequences. One, the cost of housing has increased dramatically in that state, and second, sprawl has "leapfrogged" into neighboring states. Because of Oregon's experience, growth management advocates now know that two other planning tools must accompany the use of UGBs—very

strong affordable housing programs and a well-financed open space acquisition program.

TDRs/PDRs

Two related tools that are increasing in use and popularity across the country are "transfer of development rights" and "purchase of development rights" programs. A TDR, in its simplest terms is a process that strips the development rights off a parcel of land that a community wants to protect as open space and transfers it to a second parcel that it wants to develop at a higher density than what is legally allowed. A PDR occurs when a local government or non-profit entity purchases and extinguishes a development right on a property. The owner still retains ownership, but is prohibited from developing the property. This usually occurs on agricultural land that remains in production.

For more information on smart growth in New Mexico, contact 1000 Friends of NM in Santa Fe at 986-3831 or in Albuquerque at 848-8232 or visit their web site at www.1000friends-nm.org.

LAW CLERKS ON THE LOOSE

Once again summer knocked at our door, and at the Law Center that means we were fortunate to host summer interns.

This year, we had two students who had little in common except that they were both doing great work for us and the people of New Mexico.

Lucrecia Jaramillo grew up in Espanola, and so is very familiar with the environmental problems that haunt New Mexico. "Water is obviously the most important issue in New Mexico right now," she mentioned. "It's especially interesting, and difficult, to come back to New Mexico now, when the state is in such a drought, and to see how everyone—including our local and state officials—deals with the lack of water."

Where has she been? She just finished her first year of law school

at New York University in New York City. Her decision to become an attorney was spurred by her work with *Mujeres Unidas en Salud y Desarrollo*, a group that addresses domestic violence issues in Costa Rica. There, Lucrecia saw how important good lawyers can be in helping people.

This summer she worked on the U.S. Highway 70 expansion case, the Stericycle Medical Waste plant case, the Velarde mica mill case, and the HRI-ENDAUM uranium case.

Marisa Martin, a Midwestern native who had never been to New Mexico before she arrived at our office, is earning a joint J.D./M.S. degree in law and Conservation Biology & Ecosystem Management from the University of Michigan. She has one more year to complete in her four-year program.

Marisa has known since high school that she would make her mark as an environmental lawyer, and her internships during the past several years have underscored the importance of environmental justice for her. "It's incredibly meaningful to work on a case with community-based clients. I've worked on environmental issues with indigenous communities in Hawaii, and saw first-hand how attorneys can help people trying to save their ways of life from environmental destruction. My work with the Law Center has been just as rewarding."

Marisa was busy this summer working on the US 70 case, the Velarde mica mill case, the Phelps Dodge closeout plans in Grant County, the expansion of the Taos airport, and was doing research on industrial dairies in New Mexico.

FAREWELL TO DOUG WOLF

It is with regret that we announce that Doug Wolf is leaving the Law Center.

A Law Center employee since 1993, Doug is perhaps best known for his efforts on mining issues throughout New Mexico. Working with his clients and experts, he has achieved many successes, including a plan for clean up and restoration of the Molycorp mine in Questa that includes the posting of the largest bond ever for a hard rock mine in the United States, a model clean up at the Cunningham Hill site in southern Santa Fe county, prevented the opening of a copper mine west of Truth or Consequences, and the presentation of a persuasive case for real reclamation of the Phelps Dodge copper mines in Grant county. Doug also was instrumental in preventing amendments to the New Mexico Mining Act that would have allowed mining companies to use corporate guarantees from their parent companies for reclamation bonds, a practice that would have put New Mexico taxpayers at considerable risk.

Doug's work on mining issues has been recognized not only in New Mexico, but also at the national level:

his efforts are the primary basis for the award to the Law Center of a National Award for Sustainability by Renew America and the President's Council on Sustainable Development.

Doug has handled a variety of other matters as well. He has fought the Intel computer company on issues pertaining to its use of water at its Rio Rancho plant and to its pollution of the air surrounding that plant; he has provided advice to many community and environmental groups on issues they faced; and he has represented members of acequias in their efforts to preserve their water rights.

Doug came to the Law Center from the Natural Resources Defense Council. In his interview, a Law Center Board member asked Doug why he would want to move from a large national environmental organization to a group like the Law Center that works only in one state. His response was that the work at NRDC was often removed from the actual sites that the work affected, and that he wanted to achieve more concrete on-the-ground protection for the environment. The concrete results that he has achieved are spectacular, and they can be seen throughout New Mexico.

We and everyone working for protection of the environment in New Mexico will miss him.



Law Center Staff Attorney Doug Wolf stands next to the plaque for the newly-created Ortiz Mountain Educational Preserve. Over 100 people attended the dedication in May. This 1,350 acre park southwest of Santa Fe was donated to the Santa Fe Botanical Garden (SFBG) as a result of the settlement negotiated between LAC Minerals and Friends of Santa Fe County concerning the Cunningham Hill Gold Mine. Also negotiated was the cleanup of a cyanide plume from the mine, treatment of contaminated water, and the reclamation of the land surrounding the mine pit. Congratulations to everyone for their hard work on creating a model of reclamation that New Mexico can be proud of! For more information, please contact the SFBG at 505-428-1684.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our client, Picuris Pueblo, was awarded the 2002 Jack Kenney Award for Outstanding Community Service in the Environment by the Santa Fe Community Foundation. The Pueblo was recognized for its work to protect its culture and environment from the negative effects of an industrial mica mine (see page 2).

Verna Williamson Teller, who has been a Law Center Board Member since 1997, has been awarded the prestigious Alston/Bannerman Fellowship, which is awarded to activists of color who have worked for many years to promote justice. Verna has been a tireless advocate not only in her home of Isleta Pueblo, but on a national and global scale.

LAW CENTER WELCOMES 2 NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Michael R. Leon Guerrero joined our board of directors in April of this year. Michael is Co-Director of the SouthWest Organizing Project (SWOP) where he juggles many responsibilities including various community empowerment and advocacy projects, training staff and volunteers in facilitation, public speaking, and media and political analysis. His long list of activities includes volunteering as a Coordinating Council Member of the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice for the past ten years, serving as a steering committee member of the New Mexico Governor's Conference on

Environment and Development in 1992 and more recently, being a Delegate at the World Social Forum in Brazil.

Renowned artist **Luis Jimenez** has also accepted the Center's invitation to join our board of directors. Luis grew up in Texas, went to the University of Texas and worked with minority youth groups in New York City while working as an artist.

Much of Luis' work is a reflection of life. His public art works create debate and address society at large. You will find his paintings, drawings, prints and large-scale, vibrantly colored, fiberglass sculptures across the country in

places like the Denver International Airport, the Chicago Art Institute, the Hirshhorn Gallery, the Metropolitan Museum and the Smithsonian Museum.

A resident of Hondo Valley, Luis currently serves as president of the Valley Community Preservation Commission, our client that is fighting to stop expansion of Highway 70 through the valley. Luis created a poster to benefit the group, which can be viewed on the raintreecounty.com/savcpcom.html website.

The Law Center looks forward to working with these two men of vision. Welcome, Michael and Luis!

N M E L C
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Sunday, September 29th
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*We reached the old wolf in time to watch a fierce green fire
dying in her eyes. I realized then, and have known ever since, that
there was something new to me in those eyes—something known
only to her and to the mountain.*

—ALDO LEOPOLD, *A Sand County Almanac*

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