

Santa Fe Conservation Trust



Photo by Peter Oglvie

*earth***LINES**

2017 Newsletter



A GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY

In December 2016, a very generous donor gave us 2.4 acres of land along the Santa Fe River. In effect, this generous gift to the SFCT was a huge gift to the community, as we will remove all the development rights from this property to preserve it as open space forever. We will also work with the neighbors in 2017 to develop a plan for the property.

This was a wonderful team effort that involved many people, and it is a great example of how our work can positively impact the community. Santa Fe's river corridor is an important wildlife habitat and walking its banks can be very peaceful and enjoyable. The SFCT works to preserve these important landscapes in and around Santa Fe, so that we can all enjoy the quiet open spaces, big vistas, and nearby forests that make Santa Fe such a special place.



The property circa 1895.



The same property circa 2012

SFCT Wins the Mayor's Sustainability Award

Last October, SFCT was awarded the Mayor's Sustainability Award from Sustainable Santa Fe in the category of transportation for our advocacy and coordination of efforts around trails, "walkability," and "bicycle-friendliness." SFCT has had a hand in developing over 75 miles of trails in and around Santa Fe since its founding in 1993, and we maintain all the City's soft surface trails. We were honored to receive the award.

Left: Land Program Manager, Melissa Houser, and Trails Program Manager, Tim Rogers





FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to our summer 2017 edition of Earth Lines! We will be sending out a print edition of this newsletter periodically to bring you fresh updates and perspectives on the work of the SFCT.

Now in our 24th year, the Santa Fe Conservation Trust continues to focus on saving land--for everyone--forever. It is our core mission. There are so many influences going on that impact our work. The need to preserve and restore natural habitat, to keep our air and water clean, to protect wildlife corridors and provide open space for recreation and enjoyment—all this is even more important as constriction and skepticism rule the day in Washington. We all need to think about what the land means to each of us and the role we can play in protecting it.

When you look to the foothills where Atalaya Peak overlooks Santa Fe free of development, remember the Trust. When you drive up to Abiquiu and look at the open lands west of the lake, remember the Trust. When you fish the open waters along the Pecos, remember the Trust. When you enjoy more than 75 miles of soft surface trails in and around Santa Fe, remember the Trust. We preserve nature and important lands with cultural sites, rivers, watersheds, streams and wildlife corridors, to improve the quality of life of everyone who loves Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico.

In addition to preserving our lands, our trails program brings a beautiful balance to our work, providing opportunities for the community to have a direct connection with nature. Hikes, field trips, community cruises—all these experiences strengthen community by improving our health, uniting people from all walks of life on the trails, and lifting us up spiritually and emotionally.

The Trust must be here for the long haul to protect the 36,000 acres we hold in conservation easements. And we remain committed to deepening everyone's connection to nature and to build a strong coalition of people who will fight to protect it.

In this issue, you'll find our 2016 financial report, learn more about the conservation easement process, and meet some of the many people who make our work possible. You'll also get updates on our trails program, which not only maintains all the City's soft surface trails, but also introduces children and their families to our trail system, an amazing community asset that we've had a hand in developing that benefits us all.

Please join us in our work with your financial support, your volunteer participation and your heart! Together, we can preserve and enjoy the landscapes that make Santa Fe and northern New Mexico so special.

Sincerely,

Sarah Noss

Executive Director



Sarah Noss, Executive Director



A CONSERVATION EFFORT THAT BENEFITS US ALL

A sweeping plan of land and wildlife restoration, reclamation and conservation

By James L. Overton

When Ben and Roxane Strickling purchased the Pecos River Ranch in late 2011, they moved quickly to create a family partnership committed to protecting the land and its fragile ecosystem. From the beginning, the Strickling family focused its energy and generous resources to leave the land and the Pecos River “better than we found it.”

For centuries, the 5,238-acre ranch had remained largely untouched by man. Used as a gateway for early hunters, gatherers and, later, native tribes, explorers and soldiers, the land epitomizes the raw, stark beauty of the American Southwest. Especially unique to New Mexico’s high mountain desert, some six miles of the Pecos River flows through the ranch on its 926-mile journey to the Rio Grande and the Gulf of Mexico. The fresh water and abundant plant and animal life have made the river a hub of human activity for over 3,000 years.



Known as the “bread basket” of the nearby Pecos Pueblo (now, the Pecos National Historical Park), the ranch’s large grasslands – “Los Trigos” or “the wheats” – once dominated the upper areas between Rowe Mesa and the Pecos River. But fire suppression combined with heavy grazing, particularly during the cattle ranching era of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, al-

lowed piñon and juniper to take over.

Early in 2012, the Stricklings initiated a sweeping program focused on enhancing wildlife habitat, river restoration, and short- and long-range rehabilitation of the riparian, woodland and grassland environments. Part of their inspiration and commitment to conservation began years earlier in 1996 when William Cowles, a former owner of the property and director of the Santa Fe Conservation Trust (SFCT), placed one of the ranch’s most scenic venues – some 842 pristine acres along the river and through the canyons – into voluntary and perpetual conservation status. Appreciative of Cowles’ prescience, Ben Strickling later joined the Trust and became a board member in 2016. The Stricklings are also Patrons of the SFCT.

The Stricklings launched a project to thin the scrub evergreens and reclaim the old meadows. Using satellite maps and US Geological Survey topographic maps, the team identified areas for

thinning, some of which had as many as 3,000 trees per acre. Powerful Barko masticating machines were called into action, running through nearly 240 tons of wood a day over a 10-week period. By the fall of 2012, some 1,200 acres of woodland had been thinned to make way for the revitalized meadows. The thinning program also revealed hidden rock outcroppings and an array of entirely new viewsheds.

After the Barkos had done their job, prescriptive hand thinning with chainsaw and chipper “softened” the edges and culled unhealthy trees. By early 2017, more than 12,000 trees had been cut down and mulched by chainsaw along roadways and the river. Another 12,000-plus trees had been hand-manicured, trimmed or “limbed up” from the ground while deadwood was removed from the forest floor or chipped to create mulch for moisture retention, re-seeding and erosion control. Intentional firebreaks follow the terrain, protecting the area from devastating crown fires, reducing erosion and keeping the Pecos River clean.

Prudent land management on the Strickling Ranch continues to benefit the water table and support a healthy ecosystem. Meadows reseeded with native grasses and woodlands attract and support native species from songbirds to wild game. The Strickling family is implementing measures to restore and improve the health of all wild species that make the ranch their home, including bear, deer, elk and the occasional transiting mountain lion.

In 2012, the Stricklings launched an extensive road improvement program for the more than 21 miles of roads that traverse the ranch. The major objectives for the redesign were better accessibility across the ranch’s eight square



From the beginning, the Strickling family focused its energy and generous resources to leave the land and The Pecos River “better than we found it.”



Ben Strickling, SFCT Board Member

miles and erosion control to keep sediment out of the Pecos River. As a buffer against erosion, roads were finished by laying and packing some 2,400 tons of base course with crusher fine material rendered at a quarry site that once processed material for the construction of the famous Route 66 and later Interstate 25.

One unexpected twist to running multiple projects simultaneously was the discovery of some 37 archaeological sites – mostly hunting and traveling locations used by a succession of visitors through the centuries. The sites reveal a vibrant history of those who came before, and detailed inventories have been recorded by consulting New Mexico archaeologist Stephen Post.

To rejuvenate the Pecos River itself, HDR, Inc., a global water-planning firm, was retained late in 2011 to determine what the river needed for revitalization, including potential impact

Land Preservation is the Heart of our Work

Acquiring and monitoring conservation easements that permanently protect northern New Mexico’s stunning landscapes is at the core of SFCT’s work.

We ensure these properties will stay natural and pristine forever and benefit everyone over time as development increases.

What is a Conservation Easement?

In use for over a century, conservation easements are legal agreements that permanently retire a property's development rights, as agreed upon by the property owner and a land trust. Each conservation easement is unique; it can preserve all or part of a parcel; it can include a building envelope to allow for future construction; it can protect cherished features of a landscape, such as viewsheds, rivers, wildlife habitat, historic or archaeological sites; but all conservation easements have one thing in common: they must provide a significant public benefit.

The IRS has identified five conservation values, at least one of which must be protected by the conservation easement. Those values are: agricultural, scenic, historic, ecological (wildlife habitat), or recreational. Public benefit does not mean that the conservation easement must allow for public access (in fact this is one of the biggest misconceptions of easements) it simply means that the surrounding community must directly benefit from the land being conserved. For example, if a landowner retires specific building rights and decides not to build houses on a scenic ridgetop that is viewed from a major public road, then he or she is preserving a scenic view that the public can see and enjoy.

Because conservation easements benefit the public, the landowner can be rewarded for taking development rights off the land with significant tax benefits.

on native flora and fauna. HDR also facilitated permitting from state and federal agencies, as well as approvals from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Joe Urbani from Urbani Fisheries, Inc. of Bozeman, MT, was hired for the river restoration. Urbani, an expert in "soft engineering," is known for making subtle improvements by tweaking the riverbed with materials on hand to turn a sediment-laden riverbed into a rich habitat for the native trout. Boulders and logs from the ranch were strategically dropped into the river at various "reaches" to increase oxygenation and scouring action and offer protected areas for young trout. The river channel was deepened to keep the river cooler in summer months and allow silt to move more efficiently downstream. These refinements to the river have revitalized the natural fish habitat.

The next phase of The Strickling Ranch's land management strategy is centered on conservation and efficiencies of scale. By the end of 2016, maps show that some 19 acres on seven fields are being irrigated – including reclaiming sandy meadows along the river. By restoring, reseeding and revitalizing native grasses and plants favored by wildlife of all kinds, the land is well on its way to providing a healthy habitat for wildlife well into the future.

The Stricklings, all outdoor enthusiasts, remain mindful of their commitment to conservation and preservation. Not yet six years into their stewardship, the Strickling family has laid the foundation for its ecological conscience, developing a land ethic, as Leopold wrote, that "simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land."

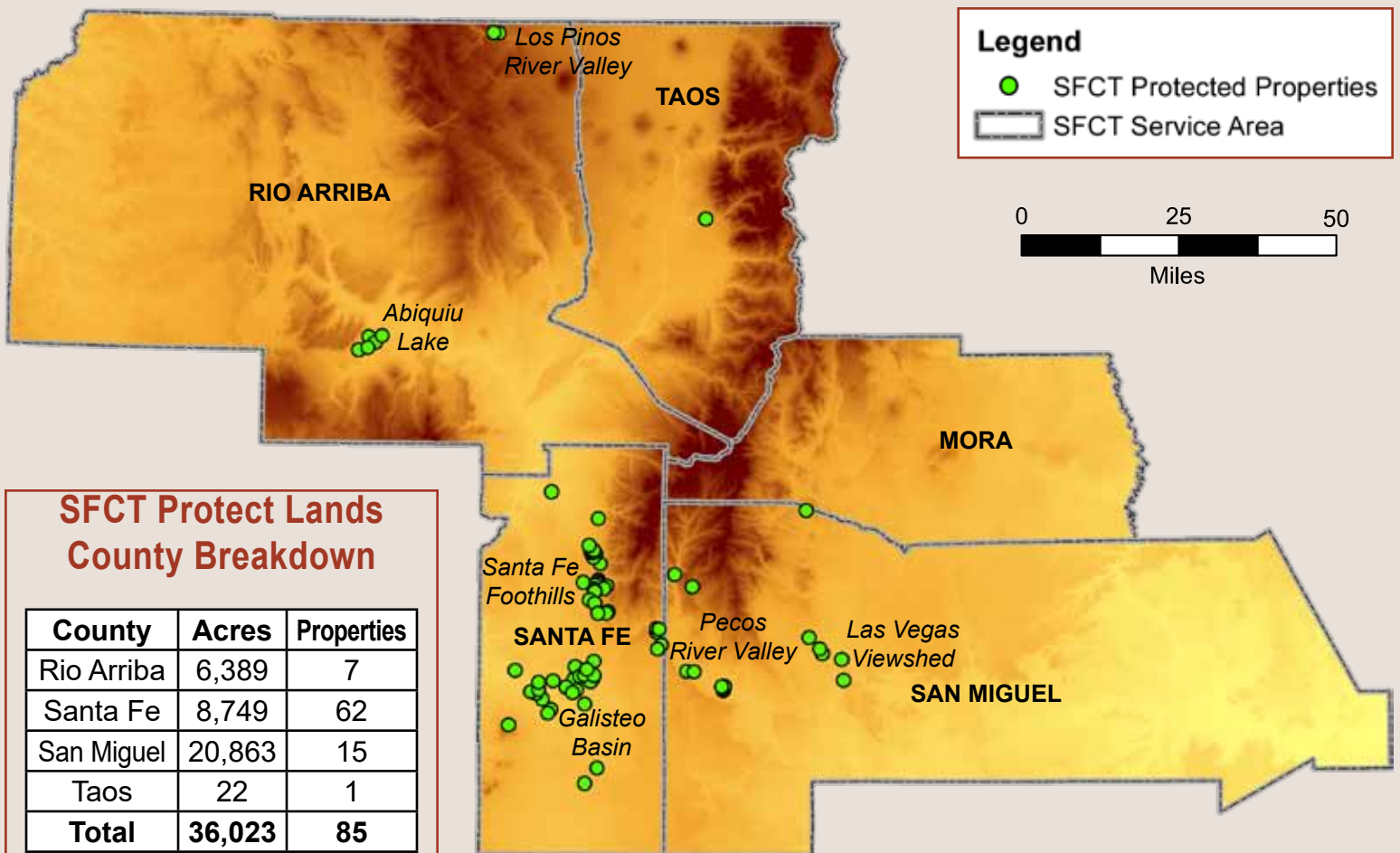
James Overton is a retired journalist and network television writer and producer, an associate broker at Sotheby's International Realty, and ranch liaison to the Strickling Family.





Bald Eagle at the Pecos River Ranch. All photos by Phil Howes.

Santa Fe Conservation Trust Protected Properties & Service Area Map



BUD KELLY

Helping nature recover after a devastating fire

Bud (Daniel T.) Kelly, Jr. was born in 1921 in Santa Fe. His family owned and operated Gross, Kelly and Co., one of the largest railroad general mercantile companies in the southwest. Bud was one of six children. When he was an infant, his parents, Daniel T. Kelly and Margaret Gross, owned a home that used to be where Century Bank is currently located, across the street from the Federal Court House. In 1925, the family moved to a home on Palace Avenue. Bud later purchased a home next door, where he lived until two years ago, when he downsized and moved to El Castillo.

When he was a youngster, he did a little cowboying at the Martin Family Ranch. On horse rides from Santa Fe to Las Vegas, a

stopover at the Martin's Ranch on Cow Creek was essential; the horses were tired, but also the Martin's had some good looking daughters, he said. Completing college, Bud served in the US Army during WW II. He returned to Santa Fe with an MBA from Harvard to work for Gross, Kelly and Co. But then he was recalled to the Army in 1951 and saw action in Korea.

After his return, with railroad mercantile businesses in decline, he presided over the closing of Gross, Kelly and Co. in 1954, and started the next phase of his life. Bud and his wife, Jeanne, who died in 1993, raised four children, two daughters and twin boys. He owned the Kelly Insurance Agency, was a founding board member of the Santa Fe Opera and St. John's College when it opened its Santa Fe campus, and has served on the boards of many

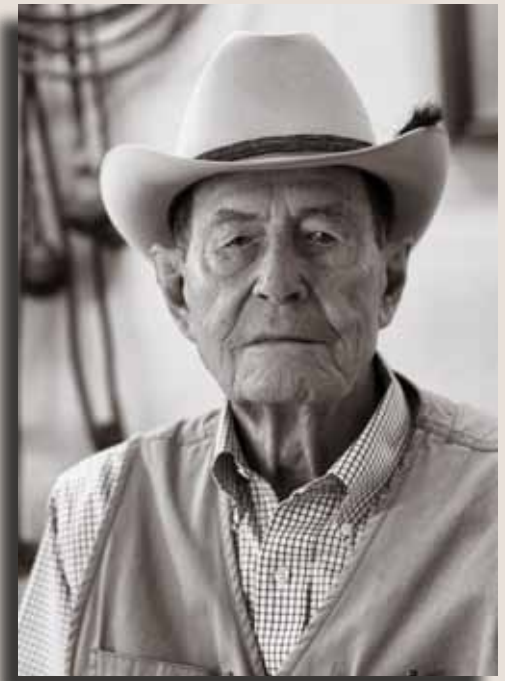
other important Santa Fe institutions. Today, at 96, Bud says he's slowing down a little, but he still plays squash at the Kiva Club!

What a lot of people don't know about Bud is his love of the land, which can be captured in the story of his family property on Cow Creek, east of Pecos, owned by the family since 1898. It was placed in a conservation easement at the Santa Fe Conservation Trust in 1995 and is surrounded on all four sides by national forest. The Viveash Fire burned the entire property and the forest surrounding it in 2000, leaving only 40 old growth trees. Even the

soil turned to ash. Everything looked dead and moon-like with the eerie black bones of burnt trees sticking up into the air.

With his knowledge of land management, Bud reseeded the property and harvested the dead wood. "Bud's property [now] has the most diverse vegetation of any of the properties we protect," Melissa Houser, SFCT's Land Program Manager, said. "About a decade after the fire, there were groves of aspen, deer, birds, and a wide variety of wildflowers at different times of year," Melissa said. "It is rare to see wildlife on our properties—usually you just see tracks—but at Bud's, I am guaranteed to see wildlife when I visit," she added.

"In fact, you can see the boundaries for Bud's property because the Forest Service did not undertake reseeded and timber management similar to Bud's efforts. He's got grass reseeded and stabilizing the soil, raspberries, wild roses and rosehips, and always butter-



Daniel "Bud" Kelly
Photo courtesy of Don Usner

flies! It's enchantingly beautiful," she said. That's very high praise from a staff member who annually visits more than 36,000 acres of land under protection at SFCT to ensure the conservation values are being upheld.

What a legacy for Bud and his family to give to all of us: a revived ecosystem surrounded by the national forest; a place preserved forever that gives nature refuge, full expression and truly preserves the spirit of place for the benefit of everyone.





Circa 2000, shortly after the Viveash fire burned 22,000 acres, including Bud's property.



Circa 2012, a dozen years after the Viveash fire, with new growth of aspens, meadows and wildlife.

Meet one of the Trust's collaborating partners:

JAN-WILLEM JANSENS

Last summer, as the drought intensified, Rob Lipscomb, who lives in Wilderness Gate, came to us seeking help to lower the fire danger around his home and neighborhood. We referred him to Jan-Willem Jansens.

Jan-Willem is the owner of Ecotone Landscape Planning, LLC, a Santa Fe consulting firm specializing in land conservation and restoration planning for landscapes in transition. He holds a Master of Agricultural Sciences degree from the Wageningen Agricultural University in the Netherlands, and his degree focused on landscape planning, forest ecology, and soil and water conservation. With over 30-years of experience, he specializes in forest stewardship, woodland restoration, stream and wetland restoration, trail development, wildlife corridor conservation, and land management planning.

Jan-Willem has worked with several of the SFCT's landowners to expand the resilience of lands that are of high conservation value. He has also planned and designed ecological restoration strategies for properties that need a boost in health and productivity.

When Rob Lipscomb contacted him with his concerns, Jan-Willem conducted a full property assessment to get a sense of the fire risk and the overall ecological health of the land. He found no immediate fire danger on Rob's property, but there were many sick junipers and piñons.

In association with Krys Nystrom of Wildfire Network, Jan-Willem developed a plan about how to avoid a common problem of thinning a forest upstream which can cause erosion and runoff issues downstream. "We worked to integrate fire and erosion

assessments to find a "Goldilocks Zone*," identifying the amount of vegetation to cut to reduce fire risks and how much to keep to reduce runoff and erosion," he said. As part of their solution they used the slash from the forest thinning to cover the soil. "This is an uncomfortable idea for foresters," Jan-Willem said, "because the slash can carry fire, but by using bands of slash along areas where there can be erosion and run off issues, soil and water can be captured in the bands, giving the landscape a chance to reseed grass, piñons and other plants. In this way, thinning to mitigate the risk of fire becomes a much more holistic approach, allowing the land to regenerate itself while addressing drainage issues below."

"The process makes landowners conservation partners who are improving the bio-region in which they live."



Jan-Willem Jansens

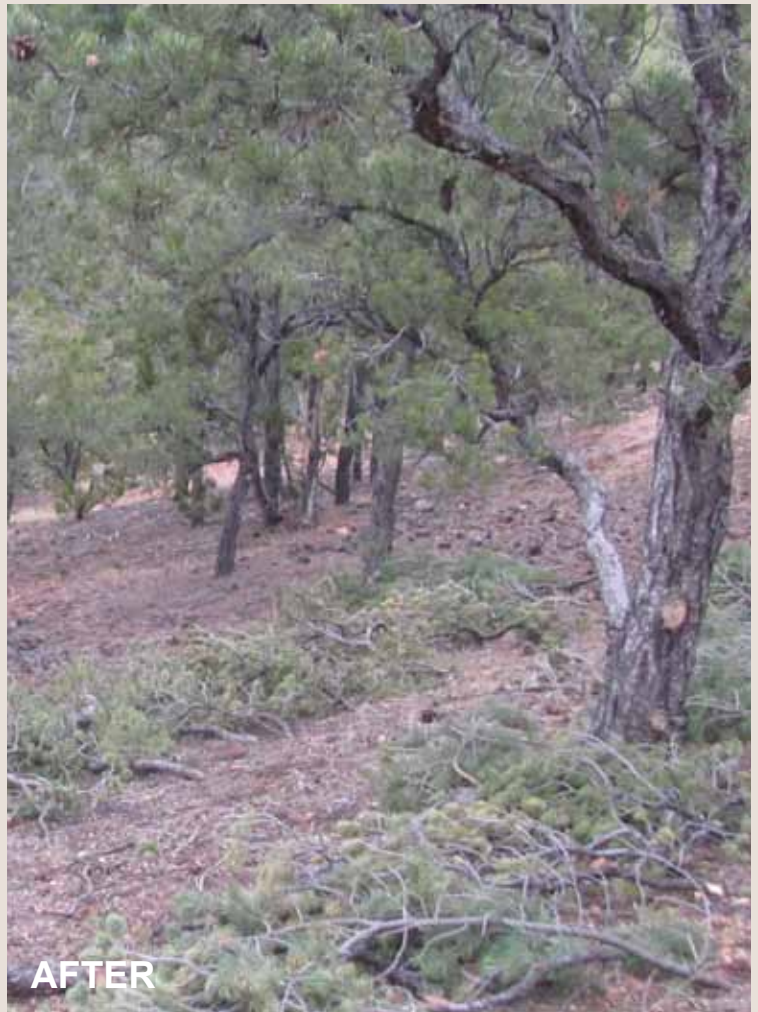
Now Rob and Jan-Willem are working to get surrounding neighbors involved, including SFCT, which owns a property on the very edge of the forest near Rob's neighborhood. Many of us have seen high-intensity fires that come down from mountains where there has been little fire mitigation to the wildland-urban interface areas. The Wilderness Gate neighborhood is located in such an area, next to the national forest. Thus, it makes sense for these homeowners to thin trees to create defensible space. There is matching funding available for landowners in the wildland-urban interface from the Forest Stewards Guild and from the Santa Fe-Pojoaque Soil and Water Conservation District for thinning to make this kind of effort more affordable. Everyone can benefit by creating a wider zone of fire protection. Following Jan-Willem's strategy, land maintenance costs will go down because of erosion and drainage improvements; plus an integrated approach also creates better wildlife corridors and healthier watersheds. "All in all," Jan-Willem said, "the process makes landowners conservation partners who are improving the bio-region in which they live."

You will see Jan-Willem's name in future landowner profiles as he works to foster holistic stewardship practices that are in tune with Nature and the people who live on the land.

* Mostly used by scientists to describe the habitable area around a star where the temperature is just right for liquid water to exist on a planet.



BEFORE



AFTER

A portion of the Wilderness Gate property, before and after thinning, with signature “lop-and-scatter” erosion control. Photos by Jan-Willem Jansens.

WHY PRESERVE LAND?

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. population is expected to grow by 100 million people in 50 years — which means every part of the country will experience more development pressure. Our landowner partners put conservation easements on their properties for reasons as diverse as they are, including the desire to permanently preserve and keep intact the land they love, ensure its availability for future generations and protect unique ecological or archeological assets. SFCT works with landowners to create voluntary, permanent land protection agreements (conservation easements) on their private property.

THE TRUST PROVIDES PERPETUAL PROTECTION

Once completed, every conservation easement must be recorded with the county clerk, which ties it to the land in perpetuity. The conservation easement passes from landowner to landowner since it is forever tied to the land. The Trust “holds” the conservation easement, taking on the responsibility to monitor the property each year to ensure that the terms of the conservation easement are being followed.

If you are interested in protecting your land, contact us! We would be happy to give you cost estimates and walk you through the process.



Melissa Houser, Land Program Manager



Rider on La Tierra Trails. Photo by Bob Ward.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

Nature is good for you!

It is in nature, thriving with wildlife and abundant natural and cultural resources, where we can learn about ourselves, our place in history, and be inspired. But across the U.S., we lose more than 4,000 acres a day to development, and 80% of Americans live in cities and suburbs, isolated from the benefits of nature. Even here in Santa Fe, there are many who are isolated from nature, people who cannot get to the forests because they are elderly, sick, young or lack transportation.

Over forty years of research shows that experiences in nature are linked to a remarkable breadth of public health outcomes. In fact, the less green a person's surroundings, the higher their risk of morbidity and mortality, according to National Institute of Health articles. "The range of specific health outcomes tied to nature is startling, including depression, anxiety disorder, diabetes mellitus, ADHD, various infectious diseases, cancer, healing from surgery, obesity, birth outcomes, cardiovascular disease, musculoskeletal complaints, migraines, respiratory diseases...", etc. Contact with nature, therefore, is a "major health determinant," and access to nature "may constitute a powerful, inexpensive public health intervention."

SFCT is working with many partners on ways to give people outdoor experiences in and around town. Our Trails Program offers many options for people to create a stronger connection to nature, which in turn will build a more vibrant and healthy community.

"Tim, I have finally participated in one of your amazing Community Cruises! My husband and best friend joined me on the Historical Cruise on Saturday, and we are still talking about it. We had such a great time, learned so much and were in awe of the history you revealed to us. Thanks so much for the many ways you bring us all into the love of cycling, preserving old trails and rail lines, and new ones!!" - Sue Perry

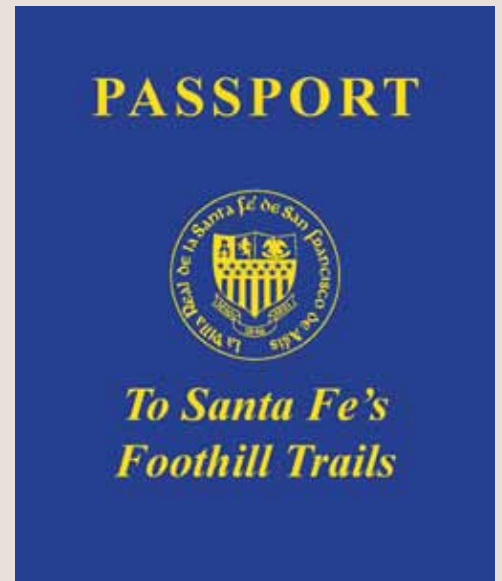
PASSPORT TO TRAILS

Creating the next generation of conservationists

SFCT has had a hand in helping to create most of our area trails, including the Dale Ball and Atalaya Trails, Santa Fe Rail Trail, Spur Trail, La Tierra Trails, La Piedra Trails and, along with the Commonweal Conservancy, the Galisteo Basin Preserve Trails. But how do we ensure that people from our City know about them and use them? Part of our answer is the “Passport to Trails” program. It includes a nifty-looking passport that gives kids information about four trail systems to hike, along with a list of other local trails they can conquer. When they complete a trail, they get a sticker, and when they get all four stickers, they receive a free hydration pack!

Thanks to your support, as well as funding from the S.L. Gimbel Foundation and the Lineberry Foundation, since 2014, the Trust’s Trails Program Manager, Tim Rogers, has led field trips that have reached over 1,000 participants, including 740 school kids from Santa Fe’s south side schools. In 2016, he led 30 field trips to La Tierra and Dale Ball Trails for students from El Camino Real Academy, Nina Otero Community School, Tierra Encantada Charter School, Capital High School, and City Summer Camps. Our work with kids helps us create the next generation of conservationists. If people don’t grow up caring about the land, they will not fight to protect it.

Fifth-graders from El Camino Real Academy reach the overlook on La Piedra Trail. Photo by Tim Rogers.





Connecting SFCC to the Spur Trail, in collaboration with Carol Branch of Santa Fe County and students from The Masters Program.

TRAIL VOLUNTEERS

Making your trails sustainable & enjoyable

In 2016, the trails program organized over 40 volunteer work days to maintain and improve La Tierra Trails, Dale Ball Trails, and trails on other city open space. SFCT also built a new trail connector on the campus of the Santa Fe Community College as a demonstration project for the Grand Unified Santa Fe Trails Organization (GUSTO) initiative. Over 70 individuals contributed their “sweat equity” for a total of about 665 hours of volunteer work on our local trails. We want to thank members of the Trails Alliance of Santa Fe, the Santa Fe Fat Tire Society, Capital High School Outdoors Club, The Masters Program, and City Summer Outdoor Adventure Camps for volunteering to help.

One of the highlights of 2016 included collaborating with Santa Fe County on installing 44 new junction signs and countless “arrow” signs on the Dale Ball Trails, as well as the Dorothy Stewart, Atalaya, La Piedra and Little Tesuque Trails. Our trail volunteers worked hard digging new post holes and dragging all the materials up the mountain. But now hikers and cyclists can more easily find their way throughout the foothills and mountains of Santa Fe. (The gratitude expressed by trail users was heart-felt and immediate!)

SFCT also built another small wooden bridge with the Santa Fe Fat Tire Society, worked on various small re-routes and trail sculpting to reduce erosion on Dale Ball and La Tierra Trails. We also made considerable progress toward a critical new connector from Dale Ball Trails “Central Section” to the Cerro Gordo Trail Head. In 2017 we can look forward to completing this connection, as well as building another long-envisioned trail to improve access to La Tierra Trails from the south, near the Frank Ortiz “Dog Park.” We’ll also work to maintain and ideally eliminate any remaining “problem” spots in our city trail system.

Thanks to all of you who financially support SFCT-- and to our tireless volunteers--for helping us continue to maintain and expand Santa Fe’s trails.

CONNECTING TRAILS TO BUILD COMMUNITY

Grand Unified Santa Fe Trails Organization (GUSTO)

GUSTO is a community-based effort to work with public and private landowners to plan and implement a network of natural-surface trails in and around Santa Fe. The goal of GUSTO is to develop an interconnected trail system for local residents as well as visitors on foot, bicycle, or horse, enabling trail users to travel between trail systems and connect out to these systems from the places where people live, work, and play.

The GUSTO planning effort is spearheaded by the Santa Fe Conservation Trust, with participation by the Santa Fe Fat Tire Society, National Parks Service's River Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, the Santa Fe County Horse Coalition, New Mexico Department of Health's Public Health Division, the City and County of Santa Fe, and many other local and regional partners who share an interest in creating local trail connections.

What does this Initiative offer residents and visitors to Santa Fe? Linking our magnificent trails—from the Sangre de Cristo Mountains down to the Rio Grande and the Galisteo Basin—brings residents and visitors a grand perspective on the natural and historic beauty of Northern New Mexico and Santa Fe, the “City Different.” Our area's natural beauty and rich history will become more accessible and enjoyable, including our three national historic trails – the Spanish Trail, the Camino Real, and the Santa Fe Trail – and other historic alignments such as abandoned railroads and old Route 66.

Connecting diverse parts of our City and suburbs to the city center via this new trail system is intended to encourage commuters to bike or walk to work. Multiple points of access from more parts of the city will get more people out on the trails, creating a happier and healthier Santa Fe. A more inter-connected system of trails will also be a draw for major events, including those for mountain biking, endurance riding and trail running.



A trail in the Galisteo Basin Preserve.
Photo by Brooks Bollman.

2016's Top Trail Volunteer: Mike EauClaire

Mike was SFCT's number-one volunteer in 2016, contributing 84 hours of hard work on our city trails. He was a key team member for the duration of the Dale Ball signage effort last summer and fall and was also known to head off on his own to wield the loppers and clippers against any juniper or pinon branches infringing on the trails. Mike also puts in plenty of work for Santa Fe County and on national forest trails. In fact, he was originally recruited for city trail work at a national forest work day on the “Dead Dog Trail” in 2014, and he has been a stalwart contributor ever since.

Mike EauClaire receiving an award from Trail Program Manager Tim Rogers



SEE THE STARS AS THE ANAZASI SAW THEM



Before and during the 2003 Northeast blackout, a massive power outage that affected 55 million people. Photo by Todd Carlson, International Dark-Sky Association.

It is unusual to find a place that looks the same as it did 1,000 years ago, but when we look at the night sky, we are seeing the same sky that our ancestors revered. The night sky is a precious natural resource. With the invention of the light bulb came light pollution, which diminishes our ability to see the starry sky. Light pollution also negatively impacts humans by decreasing melatonin levels, it harms wildlife by disrupting mating, feeding

and migration cycles, and it wastes energy.

The International Dark-Sky Association published a study showing how nighttime lighting wastes almost \$1.5 billion every year in electricity and releases more than 12 million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. We are fortunate to have relatively dark skies throughout New Mexico, but in our towns and villages, we are threaten-

ing the sky one outdoor light at a time. However, “unlike losing a species to extinction, topsoil to erosion, or virgin lands to development, the night sky is 100% recoverable,” said Dan Duriscoe at the National Park Service. Check out the resources below for good outdoor lighting practices.

While nighttime lighting is needed for safety and to improve visibility on roads, there are methods for installing outdoor lighting that can mitigate its negative effects on humans, plants and animals. SFCT’s conservation easements require landowners to reduce light pollution on all our protected properties. And we host gatherings for star gazing out in the Galisteo Basin, which always include information about best practices for outdoor lighting. Sign up for our email list (www.sfct.org/subscribe) today and get updates on our next gathering, scheduled for October 2017.

Dark Sky Articles & Resources:

The Value of Dark Skies & High-Quality Night Lighting - Building Public Awareness

Elizabeth M. Alvarez del Castillo & David L. Crawford
<http://georgewright.org/184alvarez.pdf>

Missing the Dark: Health Effects of Light Pollution

Ron Chepesiuk, Environmental Health Perspectives
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2627884/>

International Dark-Sky Association

www.darksky.org

A CONSERVATIONIST FOR LIFE

Joanna Prukop, Vice President, Governance & Nominating Chair

Joanna Prukop said her interest in conservation goes back to her childhood. She was raised on a farm and ranch in “about as far south Texas as you can get” near Brownsville. “We were out in the middle of nowhere!” There were no distractions for her as a kid, not even a telephone until she was 16. “So I grew up outdoors, and it’s my connection to nature that makes me want to foster an understanding for others about the value of nature and the outdoors,” she said. Joanna went to Texas A&M to get a degree in wildlife biology and then to Colorado State for a master’s degree. “When I started at the NM Department of Game and Fish, my plan was to get some practical experience, and then go back for a Ph.D. and teach. But I ended up staying in New Mexico at Game and Fish for 26 years!”

As a wildlife biologist in a field dominated by men, there have been a lot of firsts in her career. At Game and Fish, she “rookie trained” in Las Cruces as a wildlife conservation officer, which included packing a fire arm, working hunts, and wearing men’s uniforms because none existed for females. Later, she became the department’s first pregnant officer, first female regional supervisor, and first female division chief. But after 26 years and two tries, she was never able to become the director of Game and Fish. “One of these times I was told to my face that I had the best qualifications, but didn’t get the job because I was a woman,” she said.

I was happy to get involved with the Trust especially knowing that Stewart Udall had a hand in creating it.”

Frustrated, she quit her job and moved to West Virginia, where she was a project manager for the Management Assistance Team at the National Conservation Training Center. Two months after she got there, she got a call from the chief of staff for newly elected Governor Bill Richardson, asking her to return to New Mexico to be the cabinet secretary for the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), a post she held for two terms.

As EMNRD Secretary, she was asked to present the SFCT conservation award to Stewart Udall, who served under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson as Secretary of the Interior and is widely regarded as one of the most effective Interior Secretaries to ever hold the office. During his tenure, many special places were protected and many key environmental policies were implemented. “I felt so honored to be the one to present him with the Trust’s top award!” she said. “The conservation of important places is meaningful for me; as is protecting open space so that people can have access to it. I was happy to get involved with the Trust, especially knowing that Stewart Udall had a hand in creating it.”

After her service as cabinet secretary in the Richardson administration, Joanna was hired by Patagonia Clothing Company to start a new organization protecting wildlife corridors called Freedom to Roam, which morphed into a program of the World Wildlife Fund.



Joanna Prukop, Vice President of SFCT

Currently, Joanna is in her third term serving on the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Council, a federal advisory committee that directly advises the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture on wildlife conservation issues. “I’ve been invited to Washington, DC for a Council meeting in this summer,” she said. “I’m not certain if that means I’ll be continuing to serve on the Council for the new Administration or not.”

She also serves on the board of the National Conservation Leadership Institute to develop leadership at the state and federal level for wildlife management, serves on the conservation and membership committees for the Boone & Crockett Club, and is a former board chair and lifetime member of the Mule Deer Foundation.

Her passion for conservation has influenced many people. In fact, her son, Matt, decided two years ago to work for the NM Game and Fish. “He started in the same position I did 39 years earlier as a commissioned wildlife conservation officer, and he’s working down in Socorro, protecting the Rio Grande and bosque—I am very proud of him!” Joanna said.



Santa Fe Conservation Trust

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WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Four new board members joined our ranks in 2017

Kathleen Holian

Kathleen Holian served as a Santa Fe County Commissioner from 2009 to 2016. During her tenure, she personally championed initiatives to further sustainability in the County, promoting renewable energy development, encouraging more local agriculture to promote food security, increasing recycling, and advancing land restoration activities to promote land health and reduce wildfire danger. During her tenure, the County adopted a new Sustainable Growth Management Plan (SGMP) to reduce sprawl development, ensure sufficient future water resources, and protect the natural environment. The County also completely rewrote the land use code, implementing the goals of the SGMP while establishing zoning for the first time in Santa Fe County. Kathy received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Berkeley, in Physics. Her career prior to public service included positions with both the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Los Alamos National Laboratory as a computational physicist. In addition to her professional accomplishments, Kathy and her husband, Brad, are implementing a restoration plan for the 800 acres they own on the Glorieta Mesa in the Santa Fe area. They have addressed soil erosion and water runoff, created stock ponds for wildlife, and are continuing to thin out the piñon, juniper and ponderosa forests overgrown from years of fire suppression.



Brant Goodman

Brant Goodman was born in Albuquerque, but has called Santa Fe his home for the past 35 years. He graduated from St. Michael's High School and attended San Antonio's Trinity University where he received a BS in Finance with minors in Economics and Spanish. Brant currently serves as the CEO for Landseer Management, a family-owned business for more than 30 years. He has served the Santa Fe community as an Eagle Scout, Keep Santa Fe Beautiful Board Member and Rotary Member, where he previously served on the board as the International Grants Director. He has a passion for the outdoors and can regularly be found kayaking, hiking, skiing, or biking in and around Northern New Mexico. He shares a commitment for conserving those places that make New Mexico truly special.



Clayton Jernigan

Clayton Jernigan is the Chief Compliance Officer at 1207 Capital Group, an investment advisory firm with offices in Chicago and Santa Fe and adviser to the Cimarron funds. He earned his B.A. from Williams College (Honors) and his J.D. from Duke University (High Honors, Order of the Coif), where he received the faculty award in property law and was an Articles Editor for the Duke Environmental Law and Policy Forum. He also received an M.A. From Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences. Before joining Cimarron, Clayton served as an Attorney Advisor for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of General Counsel where he worked on a variety of regulatory matters related to fisheries and marine protected species. During his time at NOAA, Clayton received a Bronze Medal Award, the highest honorary award granted by the NOAA Administrator. Prior to NOAA, Clayton worked as a litigator, representing clients in litigation related to proposed oil and gas development on public lands in the Alaskan Arctic. Following law school, Clayton completed a clerkship with Justice William Leaphart of the Supreme Court of Montana. In his spare time, Clayton enjoys sharing his love of the outdoors with his wife and two daughters.



Albert Reed

A native Santa Fean, Al grew up on Canyon Road when it was dirt and an active acequia ran down it. He began his education at Acequia Madre Elementary school and completed a Masters of Liberal Education at St. John's College. Most recently, he served as the higher education director for Innovate+Educate, a local non-profit focused on education/business partnerships around the country. Prior to that, he worked at Santa Fe Community College for 21 years, ten of those as the dean of business and applied technologies. Al and his wife, Debra, built their home on 40 acres southeast of Santa Fe that his father purchased in the late 1940s. In 2014 they put the property in a conservation easement. While still involved with educational reform, he is also committed to helping preserve our area's unique and diverse environment and ensuring greater access to connected trails and open space.



We thank all our board members for their generous work on behalf of the Santa Fe Conservation Trust!

***To meet more of our board members, go to:
www.sfct.org/about/board-of-directors***

Right: Rio Los Pinos, an SFCT protected property. Photo by Harlan M. Flint.



STEWART UDALL LEGACY DINNER

15th annual dinner honored land, trails & sky champions

More than 250 land lovers enjoyed a beautiful September evening in the beautifully decorated National Park Service Building courtyard, with its ancient apricot tree already starting to turn for the Fall. The Wildlife Center brought some wonderful birds, Second Street Brewery and La Casa Sena Wine shop supplied the beer and wine, and Santa Fe Spirits had lively libations for those who craved something stronger. Charmay Allred's favorite performer, David Geist, tickled the ivories, while guests mingled and bid on the silent auction wood block prints donated by Scott Parker. Then it was time for dinner, and the Cowgirl laid out a beautiful meal for us with savory dishes to please any palate. Wonderful desserts were displayed on a table nearby, to temper the temptation to load up on dinner.

Then it was time for the awards. The Stewart Udall Environmental Award

is given to honor the values, work, or people who inspire us to love the land, care for it, preserve its sweep and heal its wounds. **Chris Larsen** is a lead donor in support of GUSTO, the Grand Unified Santa Fe Trail Organization, a partnership of many working to link the existing trails in Santa Fe to one another so that all Santa Feans can have access to nature within minutes of their doors. **Dale Ball**, who died in 2016, was the Trust's first Executive Director, and he and his wife, Sylvia, helped preserve some of our most iconic landmarks, including the eastern foothills and Atalaya Hill. Finally, **Peter Lipscomb**, the driving force behind the State's Night Sky Protection Act, reminded us all of the beauty of the night sky and how we can preserve it.

The event grossed over \$75,000 on behalf of the Trust. Thanks to all who participated, and we hope to see you all there in 2017!



Attendees gather around the pond and the great cottonwood in the NPS Building courtyard.



BANFF FILM FEST

Two nights of outdoor fun & inspiration

Over 20 years ago, the Trust's President, Kent Little, who then owned Sangre de Cristo Mountain Works, started the Banff Mountain Film Festival in Santa Fe. When it first started, about 35 people showed up, but over the years, it has grown to something special! When Kent closed his store, he brought the festival to the Trust, and over the years, it has become one of our signature events. Thank you to all the amazing people who packed the Lensic on March 6 and 7 to enjoy the world's largest film festival that features the best action, environmental, and adventure films to audiences in Banff and in 40 countries across the globe. We awed them with kayakers going over way too big waterfalls, teens who could climb insane rock walls, English mothers who rowed across the Atlantic, and Sea Gypsies who navigated to Patagonia with a stop in Antarctica as one big adventure-loving family. There were skiers, skateboarders, runners and bikers achieving amazing feats! All in all, a great two nights of fun and inspiration.

We want to thank, again, our sponsors as well as the businesses who made donations to our raffle. Everyone's enthusiastic participation helped the Trust raise over \$30,000 for its operating expenses.

The Santa Fe Conservation Trust hosts two events annually. They are important fundraisers for our work and always a lot of fun. We hope you'll join us at one of these events in the coming year.

Save the date! The next Stewart Udall Legacy Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, September 23, 2017 at the National Park Service Building.

This year's honoree will be Ted Harrison, of the Commonweal Conservancy.

We hope to see you there!

Peter Lipscomb, award-winning astrophotographer, speaks as the sun sets and the moon rises at the 15th annual Stewart Udall Legacy Dinner.



Bill Debuys remembers the Trust's beginnings, including Dale Ball, our first Executive Director and Stewart Udall, an early board member.



From left to right: Portia Blackman, Alan Ball and Sylvia Ball accept the posthumous award for Dale Ball, who passed away in February 2016.



Christopher Larsen is presented with an award by board member Bill Johnson for his contributions and support of trails in Santa Fe.



Laura Acquaviva (center right) is presented with the 1st place raffle prize, two tickets and airfare to the Adele concert in Dallas, by Don Devito (left), Ben & Roxane Strickling.



Peter Lipscomb (left) receives the Dark Skies award from former Board Chair Terry Smith, who started SFCT's Dark Skies program.



Half-Broke Horses plays a lively tune, after all the speeches are done and it's time to have fun.

All photos by Linda Carfagno

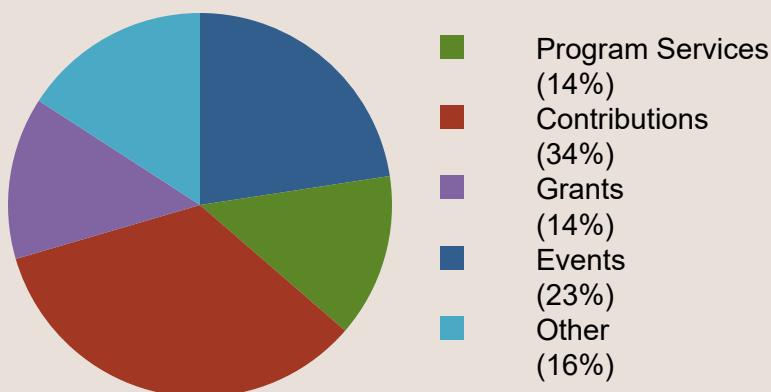
The following statements show the Trust's financial status as of December 31, 2016. The complete 2016 Audit of the Santa Fe Conservation Trust is available by stopping by our offices or calling 505-989-7019.

FINANCIAL POSITION

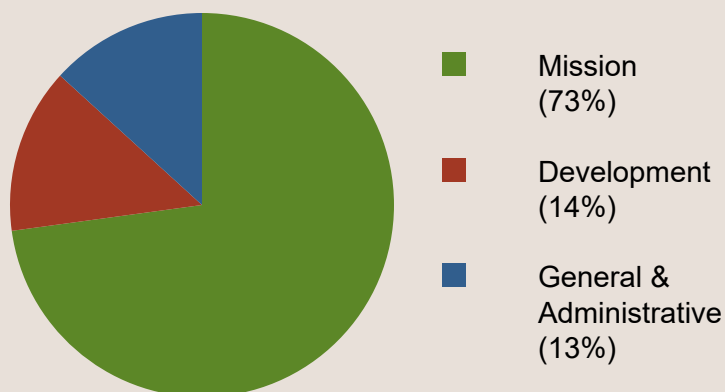
ASSETS	Dec. 31, 2016	Dec. 31, 2015
Current Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	88,949	159,189
Receivables	8,333	16,333
Other Current Assets	11,223	11,752
Total Current Assets	108,506	187,073
Property & Equipment		
Fee Land	1,132,947	7,947
Fixed Assets	25,411	25,411
Accumulated Depreciation	-13,623	-9,218
Total Property & Equipment	1,144,735	24,140
Other Assets		
Deposits	2,284	1,784
Investment Account	767,616	669,086
Stewardship & Monitoring Fund	218,313	230,954
Total Other Assets	988,213	901,823
TOTAL ASSETS	2,241,454	1,113,237
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	1,704	5,579
Other Current Liabilities	14,621	15,591
Total Liabilities	16,325	21,170
Net Assets		
Restricted/Designated	603,384	540,329
Unrestricted	488,682	510,526
Net Income	1,133,062	41,212
Total Net Assets	2,225,129	1,092,067
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	2,241,454	1,113,237

ACTIVITIES

Income*



Expenses



* Income figures reflect cash or cash equivalents, and do not include the in-kind donation of fee land.

Thank you for your support! Because you care, our land, trails and skies are protected for future generations. The Santa Fe Conservation Trust deeply appreciates the generous support of our donors. There are almost as many variations on ways to make a donation as there are needs to be met. And every gift is appreciated and needed. Please use the envelope provided and send in your support today!



Rainbow in Santa Fe by Brooks Bollman.

TYPES OF GIVING

Sustaining Member Gifts

Become a sustaining member of the Trust by making a reoccurring monthly gift. Starting at just \$10 a month, spreading your support over time is easier on your budget. Plus it gives the Trust the security of a steady, reliable stream of operating support.

Here's how easy it is to become a Sustaining Member:

- Choose the amount that you want to contribute every month.
- Decide if you want to use a credit card or your checking account.

It's that easy. If your life changes, you can choose to increase, decrease or suspend your monthly gift. All you have to do is call us at 505-989-7019 or go online to sign up: sfct.org/support/donate.

Outright Gifts

The Institute accepts donations in the form of cash, checks, stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares, real estate and personal property. Please contact the Trust at (505) 989-7019 for stock transfer instructions.

Pledges

Your gift can be paid over one year or several years. You can specify when payments will begin and the frequency of payments (i.e., quarterly, semi-annually or annually).

Matching Gifts

Many companies offer a Matching Gifts Program as a way to encourage employees to contribute to charitable organizations. Ask your company's personnel department if they offer such a program. If they do, submit their form with your donation.

In-Kind

We also accept in-kind donations. Please contact us for a list of needs.

Volunteering

If you'd like to make a donation of your time, we have many volunteer opportunities. Please contact us.

Land & Conservation Easements:

To date, landowners have entrusted SFCT with \$90,000,000 in land and conservation easements. Gifts of land or interest in land can often provide the donor with enhanced state and federal tax benefits.

Planned Gifts

Include SFCT in your Estate Planning: Giving over the course of your lifetime to the charities that matter the most to you is a powerful way to express your values and priorities. If the work of the Santa Fe Conservation Trust represents your values and priorities, please remember us in your estate plan to ensure that the support you gave over your lifetime can continue, and that future generations will benefit from your generosity. If you have already included SFCT in your estate plans, please let us know so that we may acknowledge and honor your gift.

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Thank you to the sponsors who made these events happen!

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2017

Banff Mountain Film Festival

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Former SFCT staff member Mary Pat Butler, who recently resigned to go to law school, and ranch hands Melvin Lopez and Osric Proctor have a roaring good time at the 2016 Stewart Udall Legacy Dinner. Photo by Linda Carfagno.



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SFCT Land Committee member, Christopher Thomson, hears some words of wisdom at the 2016 Stewart Udall Legacy Dinner.

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Patti Jenkins helps give Dale Ball Trail signs a much needed update.



Dale Ball (1924 - 2016)

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You make all our work possible!

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 Thomas Higley
 Will Pardeahton Houser
 Kenneth Howard
 Brad Hunt
 Elaine Jenkins
 Patti Jenkins
 Dante Jericho
 Bill Johnson
 Henry & Tina Lanman
 Robin Laughlin
 Charlie Lehman
 Lee Levin
 Rob Lipscomb
 Lynn Lown
 Manny Maes
 Gerrard McGill
 Mario Mendiola
 Yovana Mendoza

Susan Munroe
 Sue Murphy
 Pablo Navrot
 Rainer Neumann
 Suzanne Noga
 Yesenia Ornelas
 Domingo Ornelas
 Guadalupe Ortiz
 Nigel Otto & Family
 Scott Parker
 John Parker
 Yolanda Paz
 Emilio Pincheira
 Tamara Prochorchik
 Jordan Quintana
 Al Reed
 Mary Richardson
 B.C. Rimbeaux
 Rusty Rodke
 Molly Rodke
 Bob Rogers
 Nicholas Rogers
 Bill Roth
 Peggy Rudberg
 Terry Smith
 Janet Stoker
 Dyanna Taylor
 Lore Thorpe
 Regina Valencia
 Stephen Velie
 Eric Wahlstrom
 Pamela Walker
 Steve & Cath Washburn
 Andy Wells
 Jordan West
 Addison West
 Devin West
 Alyah Wiggins
 McAllister Yeomans
 Ten City Summer Campers
 Five TMP Students & Faculty

* * *

We strive for accuracy. If we have overlooked your gift, please let us know.

**View of the Pecos River Valley.
Photo by James Overton.**



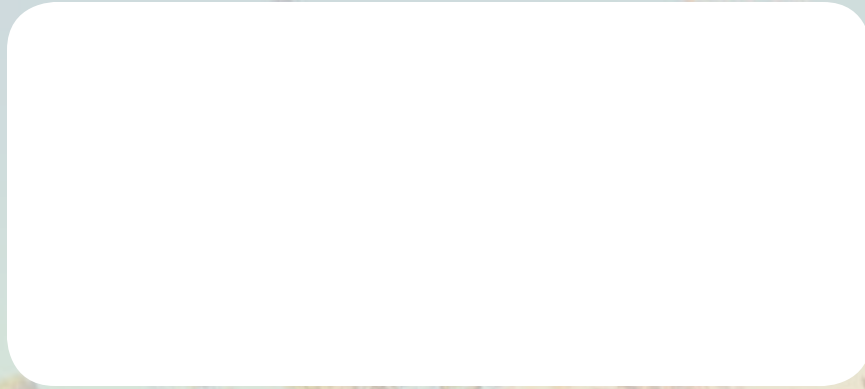
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Background Photo: 2016 Stewart Udall Legacy Dinner in the National Park Service Building courtyard. Photo by Linda Carfagno.

SAVE THE DATE!

The next Stewart Udall Legacy Dinner is scheduled for **Saturday, September 23, 2017** at the National Park Service Building.

This year's honoree will be Ted Harrison, of the Commonwealth Conservancy.

We hope to see you there!

