

Santa Fe Conservation Trust



Protecting the Land. Preserving Our Quality of Life.

Annual Report 2012

Our Mission

The Santa Fe Conservation Trust is dedicated to preserving the spirit of place among the communities of northern New Mexico by protecting open spaces and critical wildlife habitat, by creating trails, and by protecting the traditional landscapes of our diverse cultures.



Placer Peak in the Ortiz Mountains. Staff from left to right: Charlie, McAllister, Mary Pat, Melissa

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** Cover art: "Too Early to Swim" by Peter Hagen; oil on linen. Annual Report concept and design by McAllister Yeomans*



A Letter from SFCT

2012 was the “Year of the Trail” for the Santa Fe Conservation Trust (SFCT) and the community: Funds that were necessary to ensure the completion of the La Piedra Trail were raised during the Banff Mountain Film Festival, and later Dale Ball helped celebrate the opening of this important new trail connection. The Sun Mountain Trailhead officially opened to the public with the help of the neighborhood and the City of Santa Fe. A portion of The Rail Trail was resurfaced to meet federal standards, and the Arroyo Hondo Open Space received a new parking area, trailhead and trail segment from Santa Fe County. The Galisteo Basin Preserve added several miles to their public trail system. SFCT hosted the Southwest Trails Conference at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center, and the International Mountain Bike Association chose to host its semi-annual conference in this 400 year old city due in large part to the area’s high quality public trail systems. Volunteers were instrumental to these successes and by donating hundreds upon hundreds of hours of their time on the trails and offering logistical support made it all possible.

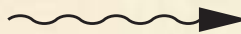
We know many of you were able to participate in one of these events; and continue to enjoy the fruits of these community-wide efforts that enrich our quality of life in northern New Mexico. Thank you for your support and enthusiasm for our programs - SFCT is expanding its reach in ways never before possible and conserving land so that it remains as it is today – with clean air and water, starry skies and heart stopping views.

Our entire conservation program is gaining momentum - land, trails and dark skies – the result of providing a balanced and thoughtful approach to protecting and promoting the natural world. Whether we are working with landowners to conserve land, negotiating more public access to the foothills, or assisting elementary school children with their astronomy lessons – SFCT is weaving important threads to create the fabric of a strong and lasting land ethic which benefits us all.

Thank you again for your support in 2012 and beyond. Together we are building a land conservation legacy for all of northern New Mexico.


Charlie O'Leary
Executive Director


Jim Jenkins
Chairman

SFCT has a long history of working on trails. The following are trail projects in which we've played a pivotal role 

Santa Fe Conservation Trust Mission Programs

Saving Land

SFCT is a practical, on-the-ground partner for protecting special places forever. SFCT works with landowners who are willing to sign voluntary, permanent land protection agreements called conservation easements to conserve their land by retiring development rights and keeping the land in its natural state. The purpose of these agreements is to help protect: natural habitat for wildlife, agricultural or working ranches, open space with scenic views, historic or culturally important lands and lands for public recreation and/or education.

Landowners enter into such agreements for a variety of reasons, including the desire to keep the land as it is now and ensuring the next generation enjoys the natural wonder or cultural assets that the land contains. In most cases, these agreements allow landowners to access significant tax benefits from both federal and state programs.

SFCT Accepts Two New Conservation Easements

Just south of Santa Fe in the Galisteo Basin East Preserve, we helped protect 320 acres of land in two conservation easements in 2012. These two properties are conserved specifically for scenic open space and wildlife habitat. Additionally, the landowner has been working with WildEarth Guardians to relocate families of the endangered Gunnison Prairie Dog to one of the properties. To find out more about SFCT's protected lands visit sfct.org/land/protected-lands.



Dark Skies

Since 2008, many of you have participated in our educational Star Party events, organized in collaboration with the Capital City Astronomy Club, Commonweal Conservancy, Salazar Elementary, Santa Fe Garden Club, and Santa Fe Southern Railway to celebrate land conservation in New Mexico and the importance of the connection between land and sky.

To further our work in Dark Skies we've added language to our conservation easement template that supports the State of New Mexico Night Sky Protection Act, which seeks to regulate outdoor night lighting fixtures to preserve and enhance the state's dark sky while promoting safety, conserving energy and preserving the environment for astronomy. These terms will be monitored annually and enforced in perpetuity. For more information on light pollution - its harmful affect to humans and wildlife - and how we can reverse it, go to sfct.org/skies.



Conservation Easement & Service Area Map

SFCT PROTECTED LANDS COUNTY BREAKDOWN 2012

County	No. of Acres	No. CEs Held
Rio Arriba	6,890	7
Santa Fe	6,899	50
San Miguel	20,863	15
Taos	22	1
Total	34,674	73

Conservation Planning

SFCT has been utilizing GIS, a scientific tool, to help identify important areas for conservation that align with our mission. By prioritizing key natural lands, we can pinpoint the most important areas in need of immediate protection. GIS guides our conservation priorities and allows us to work more efficiently than ever before.

Santa Fe Conservation Trust Mission Programs

Monitoring and Stewardship

Looking at a photo taken of the same spot in 1995 I hardly recognize the place where I am performing our annual monitoring. Is that really the same cactus? Nothing has been built on the land, but wow a lot has changed! In 2012, we began updating the original baseline documentation on 40 of our 73 existing properties. Some of these updates are technology driven like GPS photo points, high resolution images and GIS mapping but many of the updates document the natural

changes that have taken place on the property over time. As trees grow their branches shade the ground changing the understory, a lightning strike creates a meadow where there was a thicket, bark beetle infestation can transform a hillside of piñon pine into one of cactus and sparse grasses. Resources such as springs or perennial streams are stressed from draught; I document these changes in our annual reports.

Our first responsibility is to provide stewardship for the land; SFCT is the land's permanent partner, ensuring that the grantor's vision for the conservation of the property is upheld. The conservation agreements we monitor every year are not term easements, rather each and every conservation agreement we hold is in perpetuity – passing from land owner to landowner generation after generation. To find out more about our protected lands visit sfct.org/land/stewardship.



Photo from a baseline documentation update: a conservation easement in Abiquiú, with property boundaries (yellow lines), photo points (PP) and soil types: WTIS - Warm-Temperate Interior Strand Vegetation (Willow, Tamarisk), IRD - Interior Riparian Deciduous Vegetation (Cottonwood, Russian Olive), SV - Sparsely Vegetated due to exposed bedrock.



Santa Fe Conservation Trust Mission Programs

Trails

On a hot summer day in 1993, a group of friends gathered in the cool wine cellar of the Inn of the Anazazi to discuss how they could help solve the issue of being cut-off from their beloved mountains. More and more people were closing their properties to “trespassers,” the arroyos and ridge trails that had been in use for centuries were disappearing behind fences and walls. Construction was taking place in the foothills around the entrances to the forest trails, something needed to be done. Out of that first meeting, SFCT quickly formed a plan of action to “Save Atalaya” by creating a local land trust that worked on trails. SFCT negotiated with five private landowners, five different government agencies and went to the U.S. Congress to secure the gateway to Atalaya Mountain from development.

SFCT’s start 19 years ago protected access to the forest trails and ever since SFCT has worked quietly in the background ensuring that Santa Fe is known as the City of Trails.

Trails Alliance of Santa Fe



SFCT continues to plan ways to keep our communities connected with trails and open space. Collaborating with the City and County of Santa Fe, the Trails Alliance of Santa Fe (TAOSF) is an all-volunteer group of advocates. In 2012, volunteers donated 887 hours of their time towards the creation and maintenance of trails! Together SFCT and partners are exploring new trail opportunities, assisting public agencies with trail maintenance and promoting the benefits of community trails.

To volunteer, visit trailsallianceofsantafe.org



Accreditation On-Track

Santa Fe Conservation Trust has been working towards accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission since 2009. Thanks to the hard work of board and staff and guidance from an outside consultant, we will be submitting our completed application in early September of 2013. Accreditation is a mark of distinction in land conservation, and to date, only 201 of the nearly 1,700 land trusts in the U.S. have been accredited.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment regarding SFCT, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org or send comments to:

Mail: Land Trust Accreditation Commission
Attn: Public Comments
36 Phila St., Suite 2
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Email: info@landtrustaccreditation.org

Fax: 518-587-3183

Comments for the Santa Fe Conservation Trust’s application will be most useful if received by Sunday, October 27, 2013.

2012 “Year of the Trail” Events & Accomplishments

Caring for Good Trails

March 15, 2012

After a collaborative effort between Jan Willem Jansens, Cynthia Lovely and the Santa Fe Conservation Trust, “Caring for Good Trails” was completed and published early in 2012, thanks to a generous grant from REI. This guide is a useful resource for sustainable trails and trail maintenance. The pdf can be downloaded at sfct.org/news-media/publications, or a hard copy can be picked up at the SFCT office.



Banff Film Festival

March 21 & 22, 2012

For two nights in March, sold-out audiences were brought up-close and personal with adrenaline-packed action sports and outdoor adventures. Kent Little, Santa Fe Conservation Trust Board member and outdoor enthusiast, has been bringing the Banff Mountain Film Festival to Santa Fe for sixteen years. A portion of the proceeds were used to complete the La Piedra Trail.



La Piedra Trail Connection

As SFCT entered 2012, La Piedra was well under way: the conservation easement was in place, the public access and open space area designated, the land conveyed to Santa Fe County, and the future alignment of the trail layed out. All that remained was making the trail itself!

March 1: Trail Construction Begins

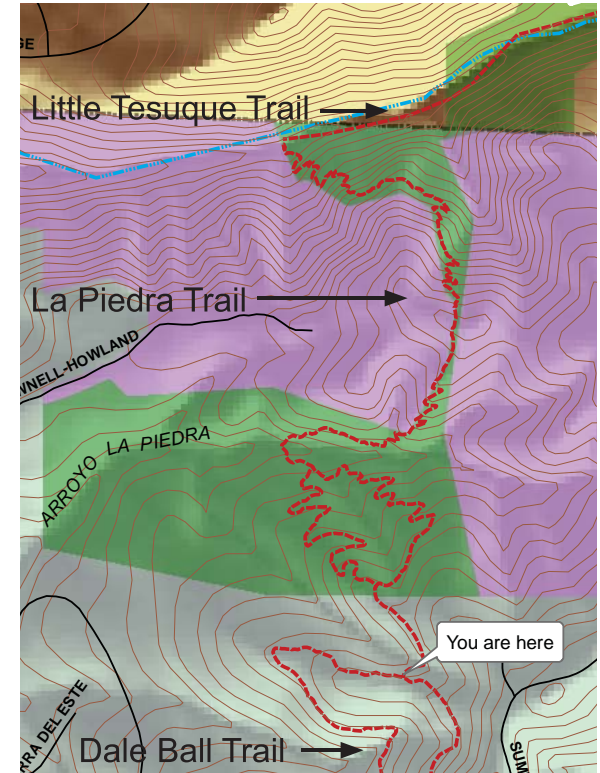
Corridor clearing, tread construction and grading was carried out by Reineke Construction.

April 7, 14, 21: Volunteer Workdays

Three days and 80 volunteers later, the emergent trail was tamped down into a public trail.

June 1: Ribbon Cutting

Ready for use, members of the community gathered on this warm afternoon to see La Piedra opened in earnest. SFCT founder Dale Ball cut the ribbon, fulfilling the long held dream to connect the city to the national forest.



National Trails Day Hike & Bike

June 2, 2012

Charlie O’Leary and Margaret Alexander led a guided hike/bike of the new trail connection.



2012 “Year of the Trail” Events & Accomplishments

Stewart Udall Dinner

September 16, 2012

The Santa Fe Conservation Trust hosted its 11th Annual Stewart Udall Legacy Dinner in the courtyard of the National Historic Park Service Building. Guests mingled and enjoyed the opportunity to bid on a painting by local American Landscape painter, Peter Hagen. Created specifically for the event, “Too Early to Swim,” oil on linen, depicted one of SFCT’s iconic easements in Pecos. (See front cover)



The event honored the accomplishments of two dynamic and generous women:

Janie Bingham: A tireless leader with the Santa Fe Conservation Trust starting in 1996, establishing some of Santa Fe’s most beloved public trails.

Rina Swentzell: A native of the Santa Clara Pueblo, Rina writes and lectures on the philosophical and cultural basis of the Pueblo world and its educational, artistic, and architectural expressions.

This year’s dinner will be held Sunday, September 15. For information, sponsorship opportunities or tickets, call (505) 989-7019.

Southwest Trails Conference

October 10, 2012

Trail advocates, builders, policy makers, hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians participated in this first-ever conference on the economic benefits of trails, trends in trail building, legal access rights, and local southwest trail networks. The presentations and other trail resources can be found at:

sfct.org/southwest-trails-conference-2012



Tour of the Galisteo Spring

October 20, 2012

Archaeologists Wolky Toll, Steve Post and geologist Kirt Kempter donated their time to lead a tour of this astounding oasis found in the Galisteo Basin. The exploration of surrounding landmarks included grid gardens, a petroglyph strewn outcropping and a territorial period farmstead. The conservation of the Galisteo Spring is a collaboration between Commonweal Conservancy, the NM Department of Cultural Affairs and SFCT.

Galisteo Basin East Preserve

October 24, 2012

SFCT accepted the assignment of two conservation easements from Commonweal Conservancy. The two 160 acre properties in the Preserve are circumscribed by public trails and bordered on one side by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Rail line.



Annual Meeting

December 6, 2012

Our final Board meeting of the year, this annual holiday gathering was open to friends and supporters of SFCT. It provided an excellent opportunity to celebrate our 2012 successes and share information on upcoming projects and plans for the New Year. This was also our chance to publicly acknowledge the many volunteers and partners who contributed to our success throughout the year.

City of Trails: Historic Trails of Santa Fe

Trails form an integral part of history, making the connections between resources and settlements that make civilization possible. Often, these connections follow the migratory paths used by animals between water and food sources. Paths become trails become roads as camps turn to settlements turn to cities. Many of the major routes we have today follow the same lines as trails made hundreds or even thousands of years ago.

Gila Trail

Though it has carried many names, the Gila Trail is one of the oldest trail systems in the continental United States, with signs of use dating back some 15,000 years. The trail stretches along the Gila and tributary rivers from the southern part of New Mexico, across Arizona through Tucson, and on to Yuma, where the Gila River meets the Colorado. Branches venture south along the San Pedro River into Mexico, and east over the continental divide to the Rio Grande river valley and up through Santa Fe. Used by indigenous tribes throughout pre-history, the Gila Trail was used extensively during the Spanish Entrada in the 1500s, most notably by Francisco Vasques de Coronado, looking for the seven cities of gold. The Gila Trail was redubbed the Southern Emigrant Trail during the 1949 California Gold Rush.

Currently, much of the original route of the Gila Trail is now followed by Interstate 10 across many of the southern states.

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro

“The Royal Road to the Interior” was used by the first Spanish settlers coming north from Mexico, beginning with Don Juan de Onate, and then Don Pedro Peralta, the founder of Santa Fe. The trail came up from Mexico City, into Chihuahua, north through present day El Paso, then along the Rio Grande up to Santa Fe, terminating at the San Juan/Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo. Other “royal roads” were formed in present-day California and Texas. These roads formed the backbone of Spanish colonial commerce, and would later become integrated into the Mexican and U.S. trade networks.

After Mexican independence from Spain, the *Real* (Royal) was no longer relevant, and the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was re-named the Chihuahua Trail.

Presently, I-25 traces the Camino Real south from Santa Fe, down to the U.S.-Mexican border.

Historic Trail References

Check out these great sites for trail info:

National Park Service Trail System

www.nps.gov/nts

Historic Trail Associations

www.caminorealcarta.org

www.santafetrail.org

www.oldspanishtrail.org



Pictured above are wagon ruts of the original Santa Fe Trail that run through the Tecolote Ranch. SFCT holds 11 conservation easements that contain portions of the trail between Las Vegas and Santa Fe.



City of Trails: Historic Trails of Santa Fe

The Santa Fe Trail

The famous Santa Fe Trail was first plotted by William Becknell, an American trader who set out from Franklin, Missouri in 1821, and was fortunate enough to find a route through the mountains via Raton Pass. When he arrived in Santa Fe, he found that Mexico had declared its independence. Prior to that, Spain had vigorously protected the borders of its northern colonies, making trade more difficult. The Santa Fe Trail was heavily used for more than 40 years, by traders, settlers and the military, becoming the route to the west from the eastern states.

In 1846, the U.S. went to war with Mexico. Stephen Watts Kearny, an American General, marched his "Army of the West" down the Santa Fe Trail, and then the old Gila Trail on his way to California.

The trade route established brought great prosperity to Santa Fe up through 1880, when the railroad changed everything.

Today, roughly the same path can be traced using I-25 from Santa Fe and I-70 to Independence and Franklin, where Becknell began his journey almost 200 years ago.



Old Spanish Trail

Shortly after the Santa Fe Trail, traders and emigrants started looking for ways to go further west. In 1829, using a patchwork of notes from Spanish missionaries, explorer Jedediah Smith and other sources, an entrepreneurial trader by the name of Antonio Armijo managed to carve out a passage from Santa Fe, through Utah, and on to California, arriving at San Gabriel Mission, just outside

of Los Angeles. John C. Fremont, in an 1844 military expedition, dubbed the route the "Old Spanish Trail," and the name stuck.

The trail was one of the few ways to quickly reach Utah and Mormon country. Usage of the trail dwindled after the Mexican-American war of 1848, when easier southern routes (such as the Gila Trail) were opened up for U.S. commerce.

2012 Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	428,085	374,587
Receivables	35,000	86,500
Other Current Assets	12,104	94,976

Total Current Assets	475,189	556,063
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Property & Equipment

Fee Land	7,947	7,947
Fixed Assets	16,113	11,113
Accumulated Depreciation	-11,946	-10,765

Total Property & Equipment	12,113	8,295
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Other Assets

Board Restricted Defense Fund	48,031	16,000
Stewardship & Monitoring Fund	266,913	264,103

Total Other Assets	314,944	280,102
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TOTAL ASSETS

802,246	844,461
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LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	4,692	5,545
Other Current Liabilities	12,962	11,079

Total Liabilities	17,654	16,624
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Net Assets

Permanently Restricted	314,944	280,102
Unrestricted	512,792	391,822
Net Income	-43,144*	155,912*

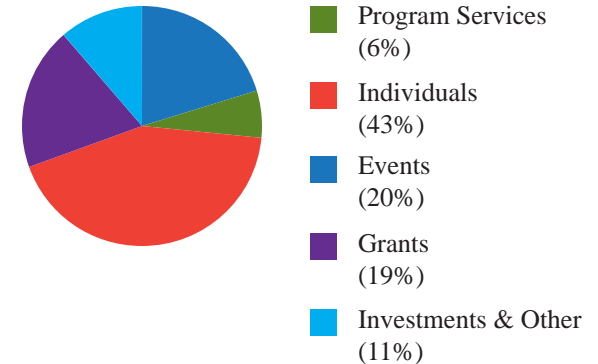
Total Net Assets	784,592	827,736
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

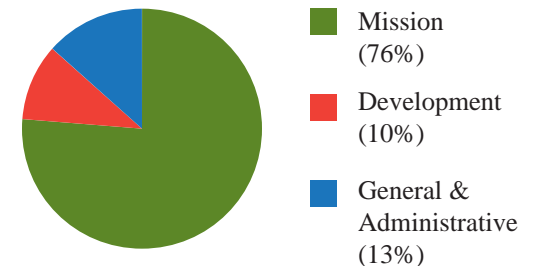
802,246	844,461
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Activities

Income



Expense



** Much of the income for the La Piedra Trail project was received in 2011, while the expenses were mostly limited to 2012.*

SFCT IRS Form 990s are available for download at: sfct.org/news-media/publications

Ways to Support SFCT's Mission

Our Legacy is in the Land

The Santa Fe Conservation Trust deeply appreciates the generous support of our donors and the difference your gifts make to our mission. There are almost as many variations on ways to make a donation as there are needs to be met—gifts for today and gifts for tomorrow.

HOW TO GIVE:

Outright Gifts: Gifts of cash are always appreciated and are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Use our secure on-line giving page to put your gift to use right away. It only takes a few minutes! Or, mail your check to the Santa Fe Conservation Trust, P.O. 23985, Santa Fe, NM 87502.

Pledges: You may make a commitment to SFCT payable over three to five years. This may allow you to give more generously over a period of time than would be possible through a single contribution.

Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds: Gifts of securities or other real property provide immediate support to SFCT. Donors receive tax deductions based on the fair market value of



the property at the time of the gift and avoid capital gains tax on appreciated property.

Land and Conservation Easements: To date, landowners have entrusted SFCT with land and conservation easements valued at over \$57,000,000 in retired development rights. Gifts of land or interest in land can often provide the donor with enhanced state and federal tax benefits.

Include SFCT in your Estate Planning: Planned giving is an especially appropriate and thoughtful way for you to reaffirm your commitment to the mission of the Santa Fe Conservation Trust. Beyond supporting the SFCT mission, and creating a lasting legacy, there are decided tax advantages to making

a planned gift. Planned and deferred gifts, through appreciated stock, bonds, real property, bequests, trusts and insurance provide mutually beneficial giving opportunities. Through a variety of options, you can plan for your future and for ours. If you have already included SFCT in your estate plans, please let us know so that we may acknowledge and honor your gift.

Contact us at (505) 989-7019 for more information. **While we cannot offer tax advice**, we will work with your financial planner to help you explore new ways to make a gift that also takes into consideration your personal circumstances and, quite possibly, the needs of your heirs.

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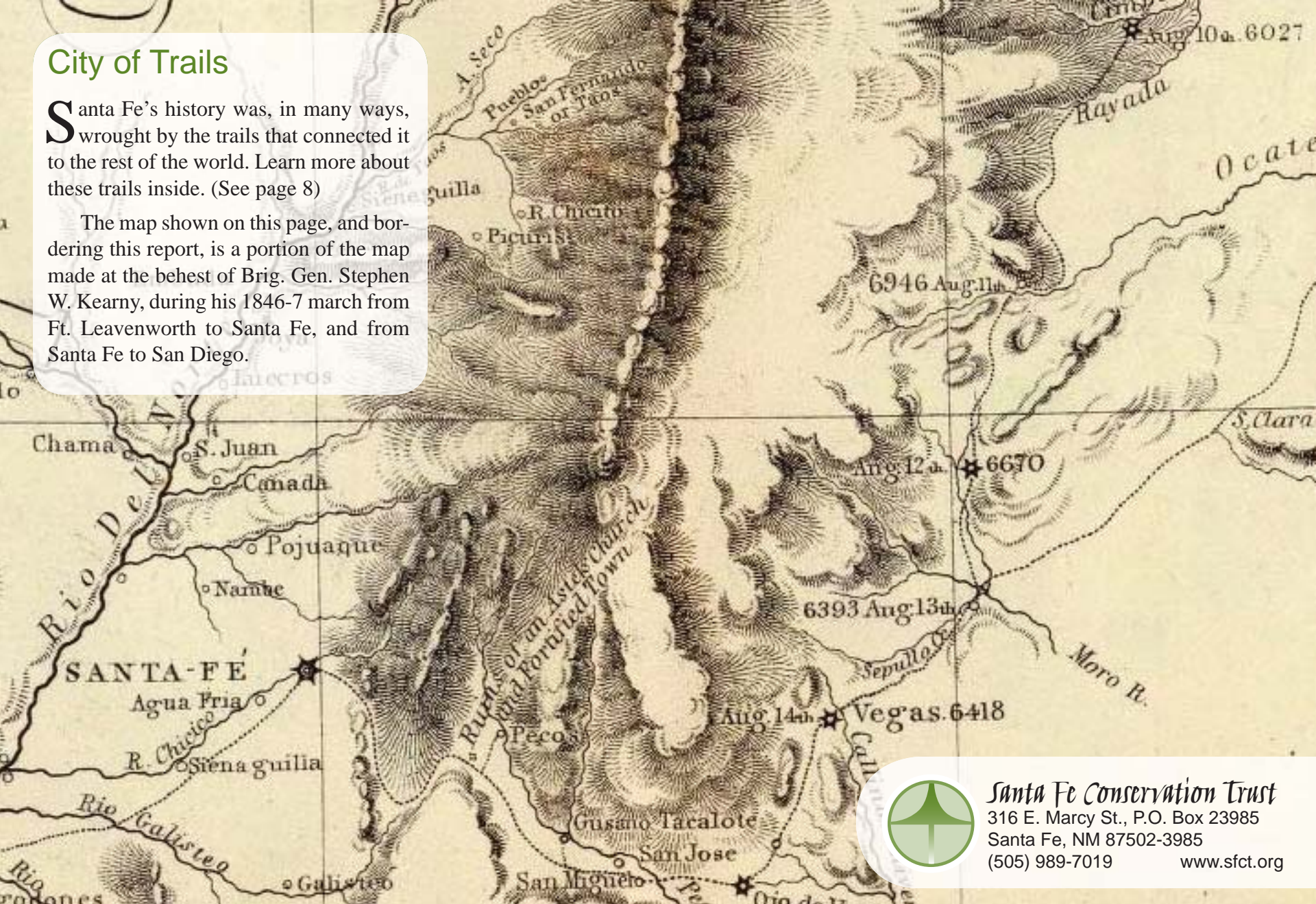
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*We strive for accuracy. If we have overlooked your gift, please let us know.

City of Trails

Santa Fe's history was, in many ways, wrought by the trails that connected it to the rest of the world. Learn more about these trails inside. (See page 8)

The map shown on this page, and bordering this report, is a portion of the map made at the behest of Brig. Gen. Stephen W. Kearny, during his 1846-7 march from Ft. Leavenworth to Santa Fe, and from Santa Fe to San Diego.



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