



SANTA FE CONSERVATION TRUST

2022 Newsletter & 2021 Annual Report



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as of January 1, 2022

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Interested in the geology of the Little Tesuque Creek and the Sangre de Cristo foothills? How about a star gazing dinner in the Galisteo Basin? Or how about exploring Pueblo Shé, one of the large villages of the ancestral Puebloans that was occupied in the 1200s just south of Lamy? We hope you will join us on one of our Insider Tours this summer and fall. We'll take you to properties not open to the public for tours and experiences with experts on archaeology, the night sky and geology. Some have been postponed due to the closures and the impacts of wildfire, but others look good to go! Check out our website for the latest updates, www.sfct.org/insider-tours/

Another Great Outing to Bears Ears

In early May an enthusiastic group of 10 outdoor lovers joined us for our second annual camping trip to the Bears Ears National Monument in southeast Utah. Despite two nights of challenging winds, we camped for five nights and enjoyed four days of hiking in Cedar Mesa and Natural Bridges, viewing rock art, cliff dwellings, and dramatic landscapes. Our experienced guide, Linda Siegle, led the group to incredible ruins, kivas and towers, and we explored petroglyphs and pictographs that span thousands of years of history. Want to learn more? www.sfct.org/bears-ears/ If you are interested in joining us for an upcoming adventure, stay tuned for our 2023 trip details coming this fall!



On the Cover: SFCT's new Conservation Homestead in the Galisteo Basin (see page 4).
 Newsletter design and layout by McAllister Yeomans.



Natural rock bridge in the Bears Ears National Monument.

From the Executive Director

We are at an exciting time in the life of the Santa Fe Conservation Trust (SFCT) where we are making some real progress on challenges that have been difficult to address. This year's wildfires and drought have been a sobering wake-up call. How can we make our conservation work more effective in building resilience to climate change? How can we better support the plants and animals that need to adapt to a changing climate, and how can we demonstrate ways to make the land healthier? How can we open the door of conservation to more people when it is an expensive process, but so needed to create larger conservation corridors? And finally, how can we bring more equity to both conservation and access to the outdoors?

There is no denying that our work improves your quality of life. We protect the beauty of northern New Mexico, and we provide outdoor recreational opportunities, all of which became very important during the pandemic. Those two things alone, I think, make us a worthwhile nonprofit to support. But the changing climate and the accelerating extinction crisis all point to the fact that nature needs us now more than ever. We need to do whatever we can—and fast—to keep it healthy for our own survival. What's more, in this changing world, people need nature more than ever, but access for all is not a given.

This issue of EarthLines will showcase our efforts over the past year and a half to address both the societal and environmental challenges to our work, issues that truly do impact your quality of life in more subtle ways. We now have funding to help landowners cover transaction costs so they can protect their properties and help create conservation corridors to support our ecosystem. SFCT's Conservation Homestead is showing all landowners, through its workshops and restoration activities, how we can make the land more resilient to climate change. Our community conservation programs continue to provide more equitable access to the outdoors, improving everyone's health and happiness. We are manifesting what we said we wanted to do, thanks to your support and your belief in our work.

This publication is a celebration of the hard work and visioning that's been underway and is starting to take form. It all culminates in not only improving your quality of life, but also in giving back to nature, which gives so much to all of us. I couldn't be more proud of the work that is underway here, or of the incredible generosity of all of you who make it possible. If you've supported our work in the past, thank you! If you are new to our work, please join us. Help us keep the momentum going. If you like what you read here, please go online or use the enclosed envelope to send in your gift.

Sincerely,

Sarah Noss
Executive Director





Remediation planning on The Conservation Homestead with (from left) Melissa Houser, Land Program Manager, Sarah Noss, Executive Director, Jan-Willem Jansens of Ecotone Landscape Planning, Bill Zeedyk of Zeedyk Ecological Consulting, and Erin McElroy of Ecotone.

Santa Fe Conservation Trust's Conservation Homestead

Augmenting Conservation with Education and Restoration

The Santa Fe Conservation Trust (SFCT) wants to show you the power of conservation at SFCT's Conservation Homestead. In March 2020, thanks to the support of the Eugene V. and Clare E. Thaw Charitable Trust, SFCT was able to purchase this 300-acre parcel in the Galisteo Basin that, had it been developed, would have created a housing cluster in an otherwise wide-open landscape.

Originally, the idea was to purchase the property with the help of the Thaw Charitable Trust, protect it with a conservation easement and transfer it to a public agency for open space. But after SFCT purchased it, the board and staff realized we had the opportunity not just to protect it with a conservation easement, but also to use it as a demonstration site to show you land restoration techniques that will lessen the effects of climate change on this and similar landscapes.

The Homestead also offered SFCT the opportunity to provide you with more public recreation through a five-mile trail system that would link to the existing 50 miles of trails at the Galisteo Basin Preserve. And finally, because SFCT is committed to providing equitable access to nature, The Homestead's public access needed to include an accessible trail for people with mobility challenges. By keeping the property and implementing these visions, SFCT can

manifest its values, expand recreational access for the community, integrate restoration education into its conservation work, and showcase all of it at The Homestead.

The biodiversity crisis and climate change also presented an opportunity for SFCT to show how our focus on connectivity and landscape-scale conservation could positively impact these two existential threats. Of the more than 45,000 acres we currently protect in a three-county region in northern New Mexico, none is perhaps more threatened by these issues than the Galisteo Basin Watershed, where SFCT has more than 15,000 acres protected as of 2021. It is one of the larger stretches of privately owned lands in the Western Wildway Network, a wildlife corridor stretching from Alaska, through the Rocky Mountains, all the way south to the Sierra Madre Occidental in Mexico. A huge proportion of the Western Wildway Network is made up of National Forests, National Monuments and National Parks along the Rocky Mountain Chain. But in central New Mexico, critical parts of it are privately owned, which is where SFCT can make a difference.

The Galisteo Basin provides critical connectivity along the Wildway and covers 730 square miles just south of Santa Fe. It serves as a wildlife corridor

between the Sandia Mountains, the Ortiz Mountains, and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. But the Galisteo Basin is experiencing growing development pressure, which is cutting off migration corridors, diverting precious water resources and threatening the biodiversity of the area. SFCT can make a significant contribution by working with private landowners, from all walks of life, to protect the biodiversity found here. (See how SFCT is reaching out to a wider diversity of landowners in *Opening the Door of Conservation to More People* on page 7)

This landscape is also rich in history, with archaeological sites that date as far back as 5,000 BC. The Galisteo Basin was one of the primary population centers of the northern villages of Tewa-speaking people known as the Tano who lived here until the early 18th century when they were forced to abandon their communities in the Galisteo Basin in favor of residence at other local pueblos or the newly established village of Hano at Hopi. The Conservation Homestead is part of the unceded territory of the Tano and the land remains sacred to the Pueblo people. We will tell the story of their migration at The Conservation Homestead and make the land available to its original stewards.

Spanish explorers visited in the early 16th century and their permanent colonial settlements date to the beginning of the 17th century. Anglo-American settlement started in the mid-1800s. Afterwards, there was an intensive open range sheep and cattle ranching period until around 1912. Cattle ranching continued until the 1990s. Residential and recreational uses in the Galisteo Basin started in the 1990s and increased dramatically after 2010.

This is a place where people have lived for centuries. It is also home to many native plants and animals and an important corridor allowing plants and animals the ability to roam and adapt to a changing climate. And because of the density of conservation easements held by SFCT in this area, it is a major focal point for our conservation work and an area where we work to connect our protected properties to provide critical connectivity to impact the loss of biodiversity and climate change in this region.

The Conservation Homestead gives SFCT the opportunity to leverage our interest in landscape scale conservation as we work our way up to the top of the Galisteo Watershed, protecting land while providing public access and showcasing restoration methods that will improve the biodiversity of this unique area.

Right: Erosion control workday on The Conservation Homestead with YouthWorks!





Above: Volunteers at The Conservation Homestead building a juniper wicker weir.

SFCT's Management Goals for The Conservation Homestead

Surrounded by almost 6,000 acres of contiguous SFCT conservation easements, the purchase of The Conservation Homestead is a huge leap forward in protecting the remnants of Native American habitation, telling the stories of the land and plugging a potential development cluster. The Thaw Charitable Trust wanted to see the land return to a more natural state, so part of their support helped SFCT address the health of the land by reseeding the old homestead area where buildings used to be to support habitat for wildlife and native/migratory birds. Because The Homestead's piñon/juniper terrain is similar to that of many other landowners, workshops and workdays on erosion control techniques occurred in early 2021 and through the first half of 2022 to teach trail builders and other landowners how to avoid erosion, slow runoff and spread rainwater over the land. Swampers and sawyers have helped take out the invasive elms and junipers in an overgrown wetland. Subsequent workdays involved building wicker weirs to force water to meander through the wetland so it could deposit sediments and sink back in to the aquifer.

The Thaw Charitable Trust also wanted The Homestead to be protected forever, so it provided funding to cover the transaction costs of putting the land into a conservation easement. Donated by SFCT in 2021 and held by the Taos Land Trust, the conservation easement forever protects significant wildlife habitat, cultural resources, educational, recreational, open space and scenic values on The Homestead. The conservation easement also

ensures that the public will have access to its trails for hiking, mountain bike riding, and equestrian use, with a future trail for people with disabilities. Educational programs for youth are also being planned. These are some of the early management goals for The Homestead, but there are many more to be achieved over the next ten years.

SFCT's general management goal for the property is as follows:

By 2030, SFCT collaboratively enhances and maintains The Conservation Homestead as a special place of wide-open views and peacefulness, multidimensional history, and a place where anyone can come to relax, recreate, and experience nature. While protecting The Homestead with a deed of conservation easement and providing public access, SFCT stewards this area with a view toward developing a learning and demonstration area about ecological resilience and climate adaptation in such a way that SFCT, through a breadth of partnerships, builds a passionate, curious, informed and diverse conservation community while igniting a passion for nature in all who visit.

Keep your eyes peeled for the public opening of The Homestead planned for this Fall! There are many funding opportunities. If you are interested in helping SFCT with its management goals, please contact Executive Director, Sarah Noss at info@sfct.org to talk about ways you can help.

The Conservation Homestead Special Projects:



Tree thinning and invasive removal



Zuni Bowls to help with erosion and water penetration



Herd animal remediation thanks to Horned Locust Goatscaping

Thanks to Your Support, SFCT is Opening the Door of Conservation to More People

In the face of climate change and the loss of biodiversity, our challenge now is to increase our outreach and engage a broader diversity of landowners to connect our existing easements and create larger conservation corridors.

Thanks to all of you who support our work, SFCT has created a Quick Start Fund. Many landowners don't have the thousands of dollars it takes upfront to implement a conservation easement. So the Quick Start Fund is designed to leverage the State's transferrable tax credit to fund upfront transaction costs, such as surveys, appraisals, geology reports and SFCT's fees. Landowners who put their land into conservation easements often qualify for federal and state tax incentives to reward them for protecting conservation values that benefit the public. In New Mexico, tax credits for conservation easements are transferrable, meaning landowners can benefit even if they don't have a high state tax burden, because they can sell the tax credit for cash. So SFCT can now Quick Start a project for a limited number of landowners who qualify by covering the upfront costs of conserving land, which landowners can pay back when their tax credit is sold.

In addition, in 2021 SFCT received a pivotal gift from the Eugene V. and Clare E. Thaw Charitable Trust establishing a \$1 million endowment. While we cannot touch the principal, the SFCT Board has decided that its earnings, starting as soon as 2023, can be used - one time annually - to completely cover the transaction costs for a conservation easement without repayment. This will allow us to partner with landowners of limited financial means so they can hold onto their property while protecting lands of exceptional conservation value that enlarge conservation corridors and benefit us all.

The one big hurdle we still have is how to fund the purchase of conservation easements. When you take development potential off the land, it lowers the value, and some landowners cannot afford to lose that equity. Unlike other states, New Mexico has no dedicated conservation easement funding to match federal grants and purchase conservation easements. While the entire land trust community works to remedy this, SFCT is very proud that its new endowment and Quick Start Fund will open the door of conservation to more landowners in northern New Mexico to bring more equity to our work. These funds also speed our ability to protect and connect larger tracts of land that improve ecosystems and the biodiversity we all need to survive.

Talk to your elected state officials about creating dedicated statewide funding for conservation easements. If you are interested in augmenting SFCT's Quick Start Fund or the endowment with a restricted gift, please contact us.

What's the Rush in Conserving Land?

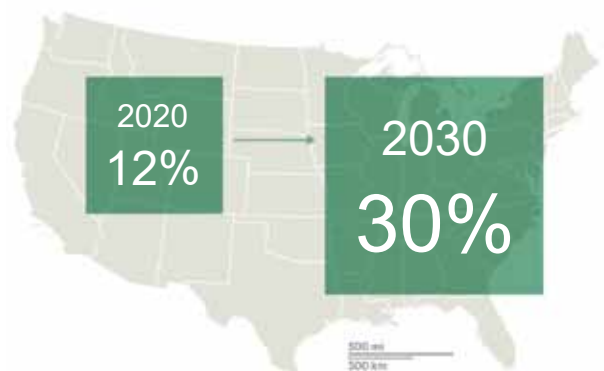
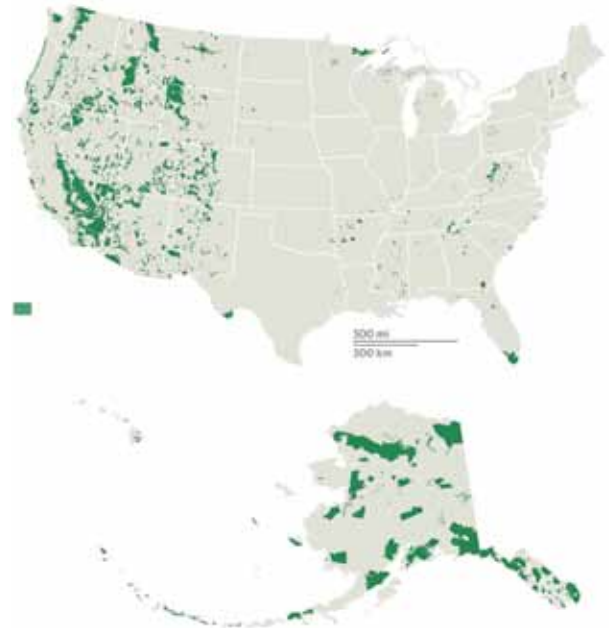
The climate crisis is here. We are feeling it in terms of a mega drought that is creating tinder dry conditions in the southwest. All of us are realizing that it is time for swift action, which is what the America the Beautiful initiative is attempting to do: setting a targeted emissions reduction goal of 50% below 2005 levels by 2030. It is going to take every sector of the economy to get there in the next eight years, but leveraging nature's capacity to sequester carbon will be incredibly important. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, nature, including forests, grasslands, wetlands and more, sequester 10 to 15 percent of US emissions each year. But the US is losing natural areas at a rate of one football field every 30 seconds. And as we've all seen, wildfires have been burning more ferociously across larger areas, which is adding to carbon in the atmosphere and decreasing the sequestration potential of forests and other lands.

The America the Beautiful initiative includes a sweeping vision for conserving and restoring 30% of US lands, waters and oceans by 2030. Successfully implementing this 30 x 30 vision would not only preserve the current rate of carbon sequestration in natural areas but also improve it. The Center for American Progress (CAP) estimates that successfully conserving and restoring 30% of US natural areas would expand nature's capacity as a carbon sink, a net equivalent of taking 47 million cars off the road! If we can achieve 30 x 30 in the US, CAP estimates its carbon sink would equal more than three times annual global emissions, and it would stabilize the potential for natural areas in the US to provide long-term climate benefits. According to CAP, conservation doesn't just help us weather climate change, it is a foundational piece of the climate solution.

Land trusts, like SFCT, can help by slowing suburban sprawl, which is the primary cause of the destruction of natural areas. The extinction crisis we are in the midst of is being caused by habitat fragmentation, where plants and animals don't have room to roam, thanks to manmade obstacles like roads, fencing and development, and therefore cannot adapt to a changing climate. If they cannot roam they get cut off from genetic diversity, which causes inbreeding and disease. So SFCT's focus on creating larger, connected conservation corridors can have an impact both on the land's ability to sequester carbon and in protecting biodiversity.



It takes time and money to preserve land. We welcome your support as we open the door of conservation to more people so we can speed the pace and impact of conservation to avoid the loss of biodiversity and increase nature's ability to sequester carbon. 2030 is not that far away. We can all make a difference when we protect nature, and SFCT is your local solution to some vexing problems.



Conservation Easements and Land Purchases

2021 was another busy year for SFCT as we closed on two more conservation easements that protect an additional 833 acres. We also donated a conservation easement to the Taos Land Trust on the entirety of SFCT's 300-acre Conservation Homestead. And we purchased a 614-acre property in Apache Canyon that is part of the Upper Galisteo Basin Watershed. In 2022, a few closed before mid-year, adding an incredible 1,881.66 acres of conserved land. This brings the total number of acres conserved by SFCT in Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, San Miguel and Taos Counties up to 45,117.1 in partnership with almost 100 landowners.

Commonweal Conservancy - White Rock Grotto - 822 acres



Our friends at the Commonweal Conservancy continue their amazing conservation work at the Galisteo Basin Preserve by partnering with us to protect another large parcel via conservation easement on the southwestern edge of the Preserve called White Rock Grotto. Not only will 822 acres of gorgeous terrain be protected, another five miles of trails are being constructed to add to the extensive trail network already there. Commonweal continues to place conservation easements over its trail network to ensure public access to the trails forever. See the next page for its final act of generosity in working with SFCT to conserve more than 6,000 acres of contiguous land that provides you with open space, recreation and scenic views.

Moonfrog – 10.5 Acres

The property, located just to the northeast of Ten thousand Waves, includes scenic open space consisting of mixed piñon juniper and ponderosa pine forest. The property is visible from Hyde Park Road, and a corner of it provides critical connectivity to Santa Fe County Little Tesuque Open Space to the north, which includes a stretch of the Little Tesuque Creek. Wildlife that utilizes the property include black bear, mountain lion, deer, coyote, gray fox, raccoon, skunk, porcupine, bobcat, Abert's squirrel, and wild turkey.



SFCT's Conservation Homestead – 300 acres

Because a land trust cannot hold a conservation easement over land it owns, SFCT donated this conservation easement to the Taos Land Trust. The Conservation Homestead will forever offer open space, scenic views and recreational access to the public, and protect the habitat of a variety of mammals, birds and reptiles, including lizards, snakes, jackrabbits, chipmunks, squirrels, prairie dogs, coyote, foxes, deer and sometimes pronghorn antelope and bear. SFCT would not have been able to buy, conserve and restore this land without the generous support of the Eugene V. and Clare E. Thaw Charitable Trust.



SFCT's Apache Canyon – 614 acres

In June of 2021 SFCT purchased a gorgeous piece of land along Apache Creek in the Sangre de Cristo foothills. Our new property spans 614 acres southeast of Santa Fe, lying between the Santa Fe National Forest to the east and residential neighborhoods to the west. We were able to buy this land with the help of generous donors who share our vision of permanently protecting it for future generations.

The property features rugged canyons, a lush forest of willows, cottonwoods, and boxelders along the stream, and mixed conifer forest with some impressively big ponderosa pines. Apache Creek tumbles down from the mountains and runs for about a mile through this parcel before joining Galisteo Creek south of I-25. The property lies in a corridor identified by New Mexico Game and Fish as important for wildlife moving between the Sangre de Cristo Mountains to the north and the Ortiz and Sandia Mountains to the south – so protecting habitat and water resources here is a priority for SFCT.

We are working with the Santa Fe National Forest to get this land into public ownership so that it can be enjoyed by hikers, bikers, and equestrians long into the future. A forest service trail from Grasshopper Canyon to Shaggy Peak already runs nearby. Plus, a benefit of this property being added to the national forest would be its inclusion in the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project, which is a plan to restore forest and watershed health and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Healthy forests do a great job of sucking carbon out of the atmosphere and storing it in trees, grasses, and soil, which helps keep climate change in check. But a high-intensity fire undoes some of that progress by releasing carbon back into the air. So, thoughtful stewardship will be key for making sure our forests are part of the solution to climate change. Our hope for this land is that it continues to be a peaceful oasis for people and wildlife while quietly doing its part to benefit the climate.





Los Trigos Ranch Conservation Easement Amendment – 489.76 acres

On April 7th, we closed on an exciting conservation easement amendment that added 489.76 acres to an existing 114-acre conservation easement at the Los Trigos Ranch in San Miguel County. The Los Trigos Ranch has significant habitat and creates more landscape connectivity so that both plants and animals have room to roam to help their survival. Both of the ranches adjacent to Los Trigos along the Pecos River are already under easement: to the southeast, the Pecos River Ranch (SFCT easement), and to the northwest, the Forked Lightning Ranch (New Mexico Land Conservancy easement). Forked Lightning is in turn bordered by Pecos National Historic Park to the north. Thanks to this history of land protection in the area, amending the

existing Los Trigos easement to include the river will result in an impressive continuous stretch of protected land along the Pecos. Los Trigos Ranch is dominated by rolling piñon-juniper woodland with ponderosa pine in drainages and at higher elevations, and a diverse mix of native grasses throughout. The Pecos River flows for approximately 1.8 miles across the Property, flanked by healthy riparian habitat including willows, oaks, cottonwood, and boxelder, as well as sandstone cliffs that are home to bald eagles and other birds of prey. The Property possesses natural habitat, scenic, historical, and cultural resource values. We send our thanks to the Cowles family for protecting this land for generations to come.

Dorothy Stewart Trailhead – 9.4 acres

If you've ever enjoyed the Dorothy Stewart Trail from Camino de la Cruz Blanca, you have walked or biked across a 9.4 acre property owned by the Forest Trust that connects to the City Open Space. It might be small, but its significance is mighty! The Forest Trust wanted to forever guarantee public access to the City Open Space by placing this property that the trail goes through under conservation easement with us. Dorothy Stewart was an early member of the Santa Fe Art Colony who moved to Santa Fe in 1925. A printmaker, muralist and painter, she had a studio near Atalaya Hill. Part of that property was donated to the Forest Trust by her friend, Irene Von Horvath. We send our thanks to the Forest Trust for this act of generosity that truly benefits Santa Fe's trail lovers.



Commonweal Conservancy, Astral Valley – 1,382.5 acres



This conservation easement is part of the Galisteo Basin Preserve, owned and managed by the Commonweal Conservancy. Over the years, Commonweal has worked with SFCT to place more than 6,000 contiguous acres of easements over its land to protect the scenic, open space, biological, cultural, and recreational values of the property. Astral Valley is the latest conservation easement they have done that will now completely protect and guarantee public access to the 50 miles of trails they have created as well as the majestic open space that is full of archaeological sites. Commonweal, in partnership with SFCT, has done more than any other landowner in the area to contribute to creating the landscape-scale connectivity that is so vital to building resilience to climate change and the loss of biodiversity in the area. We all owe them a huge debt of gratitude for their vision and determination to make this possible.

Legend

● SFCT Protected Properties

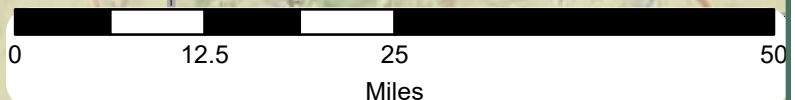
SANTA FE CONSERVATION TRUST

PROTECTED PROPERTIES & SERVICE AREA MAP

SFCT holds 98 conservation easements and owns 4 conservation properties.
We work primarily in Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and San Miguel Counties,
with two conservation easements in Taos County.

SFCT Protected Lands County Breakdown as of 7/21/2022

County	Acres	Properties
Rio Arriba	6,390.2	7
Santa Fe	17,331.6	78
San Miguel	21,353.2	15
Taos	42.1	2
Total	45,117.1	102



Board Profile — Julie R. Martinez, MD

By Sarah Noss

First, don't get your hopes up. Family Medicine Partners of Santa Fe – a medical practice run by physicians Julie Martinez and her husband Patrick Samora – is not accepting new patients. But you can, at least, experience Julie's care and advocacy for everyone's wellbeing through her work on the board of SFCT. Julie at first wondered how being on the board of a land trust coincided with her desire to improve the health of her community. At first, she said, the legal and real estate discussions at the board meetings went over her head. But over time, and as the organization started to deepen its community programs, she started seeing how her voice could make a big difference. "I realized, in addition to caring about how being in nature just makes sense in terms of everyone's health and happiness, that I also really care about equitable access to nature and to conservation," she said.

Julie grew up in White Rock, NM and enjoyed the outdoors of the Jemez Mountains when she was growing up. Her mom, from Las Cruces and her dad, originally from Mora, met when her dad was in college at NMSU. He was a mechanical engineer at the Los Alamos National Lab, one of just 37 local Hispanic professionals employed there at the time. Despite that fact, she doesn't recall experiencing any prejudice. "I was just an average kid in the neighborhood and we all played outside, rode our bikes, and went swimming. It was really idyllic. It wasn't until I was in high school that I recognized our ethnic differences," she said. Julie went to Rice University in Houston for her undergrad, then to UT Southwestern for medical school in Dallas, where she met Patrick. They left big city to do their residencies in Pueblo, CO, then started practicing medicine in the San Luis Valley at a community health clinic in Alamosa, CO. Wanting to be closer to family, they moved to Santa Fe in 2008, where they worked with several medical practices, and in 2014, they started Family Medicine Partners of Santa Fe.

Julie and Patrick are the kind of people who want to give back. Julie said that as a younger person, especially in college and medical school, she received a lot of support from friends, family, and the local community. Living on student loans, money was tight, and lots of people supported them along the way. They are grateful for that help. "When you finally realize that things are better, I can pay my own bills, and I can help others, then you realize what's



important to you: things like healthy food, children's programs, equity. You start putting checks in the mail and you get invited to things, you get involved."

It was in that spirit of giving back that Julie got involved in the *Vámonos: Santa Fe Walks* program. She and Patrick wanted to participate because it not only improved people's health, but also because it made getting outside available to elders, people on walkers or in wheelchairs, people who don't have access to parks and trailheads, and because the simple act of walking together is a real way to get to know each other. "All this attention to equity, social justice and inclusion align with all the stuff I've grown up with – that privilege gives people access that others don't have. *Vámonos*, for us, was something we wanted to support because of its focus on equitable access to nature," she said. "As a board member, I also realized I had a place there to bridge the gap between the fiscal responsibility of being a board member and urging those who maybe are more business oriented to go on a *Vámonos* walk. They need to! When you walk with a nurse from Brookdale and their residents super slowly from one park to another, you see something very important. You see the value on the budget for that line item."

"Similarly, when we talked about the new endowment and what to do with the income from that, I realized that I cared deeply about using that income as a pathway for lower income landowners to participate in our work. I just was thinking that's what this organization is for—what else is it for but to involve as many people as possible in conservation while making it possible for them to enjoy nature?"

So over time, Julie found her voice on the board. She advocates for inclusion in everything the organization does, from hiring, to board recruitment, to bringing more people into the field of conservation, for truly living its values and for connecting the community to the landscape in meaningful ways. "The more people we interact with and bring into nature, the better SFCT's chances are for being here in perpetuity to protect the places we all love."



Vámonos: Santa Fe Walks

Helps you explore urban trails, get some fresh air and meet your community.

Based on data from the 2017-2019 Community Needs Health Assessment, 54% of surveyed Santa Fe County adults were obese or overweight. Then the pandemic hit. And, living like there was no tomorrow, many of us packed on some weight. Maybe you did, too? The problem is that obesity is associated with a higher risk of many chronic diseases, like arthritis, heart disease, strokes and diabetes. So really, we owe it to ourselves to get moving. You don't have to join a gym or buy a bunch of exercise equipment. You can simply walk. Walking helps you lose weight, lower your blood pressure and cholesterol. It lubricates your joints and gets your circulation going. Plus, there are many studies showing the benefits of being outdoors in nature. Nature speeds healing, calms you down, eases depression and is a powerful, inexpensive health intervention that can improve public health.

The members of the Santa Fe Walking Collaborative, convened by SFCT, want to invite you to take a walk with us in nature. Vámonos: Santa Fe Walks is a series of 30 free walks over a six month period from May through October. The walks start after work, last about an hour, and will introduce you to some of Santa Fe's 30 miles of paved, ADA accessible trails around our parks.

We started Vámonos to make access to nature more equitable and inclusive in our town. Lots of people don't like to walk alone. Many don't know where the trails are and don't want to walk on busy streets. Our elders, many of whom use walkers or wheelchairs, don't have as many opportunities to get outside. People living on the south side of town don't know about the trail system on the north and east sides of town, and not a lot of us have walked the wonderful Arroyo Chamiso trail on the city's south side. So now is your chance to get some fresh air, explore Santa Fe's trails and meet your community.

In addition to our after work walks, Vámonos also offers once a month Saturday morning hikes. The Saturday hikes usually last around two hours and will introduce you to many of our dirt trails around town, from the county Rail Trail, to the La Tierra Trails. Have you wanted to get outside but weren't quite sure where to go? Vámonos will show you where to go, and you'll meet some nice people along the way. We hope you'll join the 1,300 walkers who have participated in the free Vámonos walks since they started in 2018. You can get the schedule at www.sfct.org/vamonos.



Passport to Trails

Field Trips Start Up Again for the 21-22 School Year

After a year-and-a-half hiatus due to Covid, we were finally able to start up Passport to Trails field trips again in November of 2021. Over the course of the school year, we took over 350 kids out to trails and open space: almost 400 people in all including teachers and parents, on 17 field trips.

We programmed ten field trips to La Tierra Trails and were a little lucky that it was a very mild Fall! By mid-December we had brought over 200 fourth and fifth graders, teachers and parents from El Camino Real Academy and Nina Otero Community School on two-hour hikes in La Tierra Trails.

We followed up in May of 2022 with seven more field trips to Dale Ball Trails and the Santa Fe Canyon Preserve, where 139 fourth- and fifth-graders from El Camino Real Academy and their teachers and family members got to visit beaver ponds, see ancient fossils, and hike on trails that SFCT helped build for the City of Santa Fe and The Nature Conservancy.

SFCT is proud of this program, which since 2018 works with primarily Spanish-speaking students and families on the south side of Santa Fe to introduce them to Santa Fe's 55-mile soft surface trail system. According to the Center for American Progress and numerous studies, no age group needs nature more than children. Studies consistently find that children who spend time outdoors in natural environments experience improved health and cognitive functions, strong motor coordination, reduced stress, and enhanced social skills. Students who spend more time in the outdoors, including students from low-income backgrounds, tend to perform better on standardized tests, demonstrate more enthusiasm

toward school, and have fewer attendance problems.

Studies have also found that spending time in nature is not only beneficial to a child's development, but it is also a crucial factor in the formation of a lifelong appreciation of nature. Increasing exposure to the outdoors for young children of color could also help break the cycle of under-representation later in life of people of color in the conservation field.

We send our thanks to the Lineberry Foundation, FHL Foundation, an anonymous foundation, Partners in Education and individual donors who have helped SFCT since 2014 on Passport to Trails, which has now taken almost 3,500 students to our local trails.



Why Safe Routes to School?

SFCT's programs are built to provide equitable access to everyone in our community to nature. So the opportunity to work on getting more kids to walk and bike to school was a no brainer for us.

Tim Rogers, SFCT's Trails Program Manager, wrote the proposal to access federal funding through the City to create a Santa Fe Safe Routes to School (SRTS) pilot program in 2020. Starting in 2021, we have been working with the Santa Fe SRTS Coalition – including the City, Santa Fe Public Schools, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, and other local partners – to write an action plan for a sustainable SRTS program in Santa Fe and to put in place the needed pieces of a program to make it successful. We are halfway through the grant, which ends next summer, so here is a brief update on goals and accomplishments so far.

Objectives

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is targeting approximately 7,000+ students and their families in the Santa Fe Public Schools from kindergarten through 8th grade. Our goal is to get more of these kids to walk and bike to school. The Santa Fe SRTS Program is initially focusing on activities with Nina Otero Community School, El Camino Real Academy, and Aspen Community School, while providing additional assistance with walking and bicycling education at Cesar Chavez, Sweeney, Ramirez-Thomas, and Wood-Gormley elementary schools, as well as Milagro Middle School and Ortiz Middle School. At the end of the grant period, our goal is to have the Santa Fe Public Schools and/or other SRTS Coalition partners adopt the program, hire a full-time coordinator, and implement it throughout our K-8 schools.

Benefits of SRTS in Santa Fe

- **Improving the Health of our Community.** When everyone gets involved in helping kids walk and bike to school, it improves the health of students, families and staff. More exercise impacts childhood obesity, lowers heart disease and childhood diabetes. Being outside improves mental health, lowers depression and builds self-reliance and navigation skills. All of these benefits are especially needed since COVID has come along.
- **Improving Air Quality and Traffic.** We surveyed 700 kids last year at six public schools and found



that over three-quarters arrived by private vehicle the morning of the class visit, while roughly 15 percent came by school bus. Under eight percent (7.7%) came under non-motorized power, including 5.7% on foot, 1.5% by bicycle, and 0.6% by skateboard or scooter. The more kids walk and bike to school, the less reliance there will be on private vehicles and school buses, which means fewer vehicles on the road, less congestion in school areas and cleaner air for all of us.

- **Saving Money and Improving our Quality of Life.** Walking and bicycling to school are less expensive than driving for families and less expensive than bussing for the school district. Reductions in congestion and crashes through the promotion of safe walking and bicycling reduce burden on the entire community. Making our communities more walk- and bicycle-friendly also makes them more attractive places for people to want to live, work, play, visit, and stay.
- **Raising Academic Performance and Attendance.** Walking or cycling to school means that students arrive at school awake and energized and contributes to higher testing scores. Walk-to-school programs have also been successfully used to combat truancy.

Life just isn't the same as when you were a kid and your mom maybe pushed you out the door and told you come back at dinnertime. The complexity and pace of our urban lives has accelerated, and kids need help to get to school. If you are an early riser and want to help kids walk or bike to school, let us know at info@sfct.org! We need dependable people to show up regularly to greet the kids and be a part of the solution to make our community happier and healthier.

Trails Report

2021 was a great year for providing you with more recreational opportunities. We were able to finish two new projects while continuing to maintain the City's 55 miles of dirt trails. Here's a breakdown of what we achieved.

Building an Accessible Trail at the Santa Fe Canyon Preserve

Last Fall, SFCT was honored to be asked to help build an accessible trail at the top of Canyon Road on the Nature Conservancy's Santa Fe Canyon Preserve. We believe that everyone should have access to nature, so we jumped at the chance to be of service. Nine work days followed, from October to December. SFCT's volunteer crews helped clear vegetation, touch up grading, improve trail surface and edges, address drainage and erosion issues, and build or rebuild retaining walls, steps, and viewing or rest areas. Working with our partners, we helped create a far more accessible and sustainable route to the Preserve's pond overlook, and to complete a new accessible loop to another observation and resting point and back toward Cerro Gordo trailhead. It was a pleasure for us to work on this project with Bob Findling at the Nature Conservancy, Jan-Willem Jansens at Ecotone Landscape Planning, Henry Lanman III and Teddy Jaramillo of Rocket Ramps, LLC, and Faith Okuna at Surroundings Landscape Architecture Studio. Now people with mobility issues can far more easily enjoy the history and riparian beauty of the Santa Fe Canyon Preserve! We plan to take the skills we learned forward to building another accessible trail at the SFCT property in the Galisteo Basin called the Conservation Homestead.

La Tierra's Chili Line Trail is Completed

If Tim Rogers, SFCT's trails manager, could build a trail anywhere, he'd do it on a historic rail bed. Rail



beds are beautifully engineered and fun to walk or ride on, plus they represent another time when transportation, culture and commerce intersected. Just outside of Santa Fe by the La Tierra Trails motocross track, a portion of the historic narrow gauge "Chili Line" rail bed was waiting for Tim to transform it into an educational and recreational resource that is a model for the development of rail trails on forgotten rail beds throughout northern New Mexico. The State Outdoor Recreation Division's Special Projects and Infrastructure Fund awarded SFCT a grant to create an interpretive trail on a quarter mile of the Chili Line. The trail is finished thanks to our intrepid trails volunteers, including a lot of help from the Santa Fe Fat Tire Society. Soon to come will be the interpretive panels telling trail users the history of the Chili Line, which originated in Antonito, CO and passed through three northern New Mexico counties and three pueblos on its way down the Rio Grande to Santa Fe.

City Trails Maintenance Contract

When the pandemic hit, SFCT's trail maintenance contract with the City that we had held since 2014 was cancelled. We continued to maintain the trails with our wonderful volunteers into the middle of 2021 with the help of a local foundation that covered most of the contract. The Frost Foundation and local donors filled in the rest. In 2021, the City issued a couple of purchase orders for the maintenance of the Dale Ball and La Tierra trail systems, and they were wonderful partners in the development of the Chili Line Trail. So while we are not back under contract, the City, especially Parks Director Melissa McDonald, and SFCT are working to continue to ensure that you have safe and accessible dirt trails to enjoy. Dirt trails don't just happen: In 2021, SFCT and its volunteers devoted 59 days and 930 hours of volunteer labor maintaining our local trails! Anna Hargreaves was our top volunteer – read all about her on the next page.



Volunteer Profile - Anna Hargreaves

By Sarah Noss

The thing about trails is that the good outings stick with you forever. You can remember where you were. Who you were with. What kind of day it was. The epic mountain bike ride—or crash. The impending thunderstorm or amazing sunset. That tanager, or lizard, or claret cup, bursting forth in an explosion of red. Trails impact us in so many ways. But they don't just happen. They are usually designed and always forged by many users over time. And, at least around Santa Fe, someone takes care of them. Meet Anna Hargreaves, who is one of many SFCT volunteers who helps to keep the City's 55 miles of dirt trails safe and enjoyable so they can work their magic on you.

Anna has been an SFCT trails volunteer for eight years. After she retired from the NM Department of Health where she worked on chronic disease prevention, she joined the Wednesday trails maintenance work days, which is when SFCT's group of volunteers descends on the local trails with gloves, water and McLeods to contour the terrain.

"Our work has evolved over the years," Anna said. "Tim is a good leader. He's very organized. Most of what we do is debarb the edges and install grade reversals to manage erosion." The volunteers work on every City dirt trail, including Dale Ball, La Tierra, Sun Mountain and La Piedra Trails, even the Atalaya Trail, which SFCT has adopted on behalf of the Santa Fe National Forest. In addition to being outside, Anna loves the camaraderie. "You come away feeling good, you've made friends, you are energized," she said

In 2021, SFCT's trail maintenance volunteers donated 59 days and 930 hours of volunteer trail maintenance. Anna, for three years running, has been SFCT's top volunteer. In 2021 she contributed 96 hours of work over 30 workdays! "I love the organization because it is so in line with my interests and concerns," she said. "The trails and your programs, the environment and conservation of the land. But the great thing for me is the community engagement piece, because it is what I did at the Department of Health: getting people outside and preventing disease."

Anna was born in northern England. Her father, who had never left the country, got a job with the World Health Organization (WHO) setting up offices for the organization all over the world. That meant that Anna found herself in the Philippines from six months old until she was eight. Then from age 8 to 12, as her dad set up the offices for the world



Photo credit: Drew Stewart

headquarters of WHO, Anna went to a French school in Switzerland. After that, a WHO office in Egypt was needed, so Anna went to a French school in Alexandria until she was 15. She finished off her secondary career at a boarding school in England. "I hated that," she said. "I was used to a lot of freedom when we lived abroad." After college, drawn once again to live abroad, she became an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher, first in Spain and then in the former Yugoslavia (now Croatia). She worked for three years in Zagreb, where she met her first husband, Frank, an anthropologist. Their first glimpse of New Mexico was thanks to the School for Advanced Research, which invited Frank to be a visiting scholar from 91-92. "I came with him and fell in love. It's such a multi-cultural and historic place. I was just enamored," she said.

Sadly, Frank died the following year. "When he got sick in the early 90s, I was appalled that there were no leaflets or training materials on how to prevent melanoma," Anna said. "That's how I got into public health."

Anna met her current husband, Drew Stewart, in Minnesota at a cancer support group. He loved the Twin Cities and really didn't want to move to New Mexico, Anna said. "But I told him, if you want to be with me, you have to move with me. And now he's one of the biggest trail users. He's a hiking fanatic!"

"We're lucky to have the trail system," Anna said. "When you do trail work," she said, "you are part of something much larger that's impacting the entire City." So if the trails are doing their magic on you, don't forget to thank the volunteers like Anna who keep the trails safe and accessible so we can get outside to get some fresh air!



© Eric Saltmarsh

Night Sky Monitoring Project

Protecting Your Starry Sky

Last year around this time, The City decided to approve a contract to convert 2,060 streetlights to energy-efficient LED light bulbs, part of a preliminary plan to convert 3,500 streetlights across the City. This was a laudable effort to save on energy costs, but the City decided to install 3,000 kelvins in residential neighborhoods and 4,000 kelvins on main thoroughfares. Even though the City said the new lights would be shielded, high intensity blue light emitted by LEDs at or above 3,000 kelvins actually spreads and can bounce up into the night sky, creating a glowing canopy of light over the City, reducing our ability to see the night sky.

There are health and environmental reasons to lessen light pollution. According to the American Medical Association (AMA), artificial light, especially LED blue-violet light over 3,000k at night, affects circadian cycle in humans which affects cell cycle regulation, DNA damage response, metabolism and hormone production. The AMA noted growing evidence "with the strongest epidemiologic support" for a link between certain types of artificial night lighting and breast cancer, prostate cancer, diabetes and kidney disease and pregnancy outcomes: particularly reduced birth weight, shortened gestational length and increases in preterm births. The City says the 4,000K on busier streets is better/safer for drivers, but there is scant evidence of that, as studied by the AMA and others.

Most beings, plants, insects, animals, and humans, are attuned to the 24-hour seasonal cycle of light and

dark that has ruled our planet since the beginning. Sleep, mating behaviors, the timing of migration, foraging and predation are all determined by the length of nighttime darkness. Just 15 minutes of artificial light during evening hours can disrupt the circadian clock by 1-2 hours. Light pollution is subtle. It can cause nocturnal plants, such as cacti, not to open their flowers and it also disorients night time pollinator insects such as moths, which can negatively affect the food supply of wildlife.

We realized that, going forward, it would benefit all of us to collect data about the light dome over Santa Fe, which is why we are creating the Night Sky Monitoring Project. We need science to guide us in determining if the ordinances protecting our dark skies are working or need to be strengthened. Streetlights in the blue spectrum have an impact, but so, too, do the bright, unshielded lights at local businesses, government buildings and even homes. SFCT is currently working with the County to install night sky monitoring devices around the periphery of Santa Fe. These devices will collect information every five minutes during the night over a period of 10 years so that we can factually know if our ability to see the stars is getting better, worse or staying the same. It is going to cost about \$7,000 to get the equipment in place, then just \$600 per year to maintain the equipment. If you'd like to help cover these costs, contact us at info@sfct.org. We are also seeking a few volunteers to help collect the data on a regular basis.

Meet our newest staff member:

Christian Talamantes

This February, Christian Talamantes joined the SFCT staff as our new Community Engagement Specialist. Tasked with expanding our outreach to the community, he'll be working with teachers, parents and students to do some on-the-ground organizing to get more kids to walk and bike to school. He'll help expand our field trip program, Passport to Trails, to include more schools and introduce more kids to the dirt trails that are such a wonderful free resource to our community. He'll also help spread the word about the Vámonos: Santa Fe Walks program, which takes people on walks on our ADA accessible trails in town. Finally, he will oversee our new Night Sky Monitoring Program, working with volunteers to maintain the monitoring equipment that is gathering data on light pollution in the Santa Fe area that impacts our dazzling night skies.



Christian grew up in Texas and southern New Mexico. As a Boy Scout and Royal Ranger, he began to study and fell in love with nature. A student of wilderness survival, farrier science, horsemanship and tracking, he spent most of his young life pursuing those passions by seeking mentors, practicing his skills in the woods, and working on area ranches. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology at New Mexico State University. While at NMSU he played in bands and worked as a research assistant, conducting both lab and field work with the guidance of his mentor, Dr. Kevin Oshima, professors and veterinarians. Eventually Christian formed the band, Next 2 the Tracks. A mix of rock, blues, and outlaw country, Next 2 the Tracks toured the United States opening for acts such as, Marshall Tucker Band, Molly Hatchet, The Outlaws and others. During these tours, Christian saw the effects of modern civilization on nature and wildlife, which inspired him to focus his songwriting on addressing man's impact on nature. After touring with Next 2 the Tracks for several years, Christian moved to Santa Fe for the city's art, culture, proximity to the mountains, and to work on his band's next album. During this time, he became a volunteer with the Santa Fe Conservation Trust and a member of the Pajarito K9 Search and Rescue team. Christian joined SFCT in early 2022 as our Community Engagement Specialist and is excited to connect with people in the region to preserve the beautiful spaces of northern New Mexico and inspire others to do the same.

In loving memory:

Margaret Christie Bohn Alexander, 1948 - 2022

Margaret was a dear friend, a dedicated SFCT Board member, co-founder of the Trails Alliance of Santa Fe, and inspiration behind the La Tierra Trails Master Plan, among other local trail initiatives. She was a fixture at our trail work days. When she was no longer up for the digging and scraping, and unsatisfied with mere "duffing" duties, Margaret started hiking in with her dog and showing up with apple slices for the volunteer crew!

Every time we put a rock down "lichen side up" we think of Margaret. She will be dearly missed. If you'd like to peacefully ponder Margaret's legacy, please visit the Recovery Bench installed in her honor near the northeast corner of La Tierra Trails (just west of Junction 32). If you'd like to learn more about Margaret, take a look at her profile article published in our 2019 Annual Report, which can be found on our website here: www.sfct.org/news/publications/



Banff at the Motorama

Nothing like watching outdoor adventure films while being outdoors, grilling, sipping, and dining alfresco with friends and family! When the coronavirus forced the Lensic Performing Arts Center to remain closed last year for the Banff Mountain Film Festival, we had to pivot and decided to show new movies in a retro setting – at the *now defunct* Motorama drive-in theater.

Our drive-in experience featured good old-fashioned extreme mountain biking, slacklining in the Norwegian mountains, an epic ski mountaineering on K2 (the infamous Himalayan peak), “bolting” in creation of a climbing mecca in Spain, and discovering the “ghosts” of Mount Everest.

If you were there, you’ll never forget the crowd favorite on the first night of Banff, *Cholitas*, a moving documentary about five Bolivian indigenous women, who, as a symbol of liberation and empowerment (and wearing traditional skirts and clothing), journeyed to climb the highest mountain in the Americas. Their adventure was nothing short of profound inspiration! On the second night, *24 Leeches* was an entertaining and moving story told by an 8-year-old and scripted from campfire conversations during a 10-day canoeing and camping trip to the Slate Islands of Ontario. His reflections on camping, nature, and the changing climate of our earth demonstrate that kids will shape the future of conservation if we can help them get close to Mother Nature. We were sad to learn that the boy in the film, Josiah, died two years later from an infection, the result of treatment for leukemia. Nationwide feedback to the filmmaker, his father, indicates that many children are being positively impacted by the film and thus, Josiah is living in the hearts and minds of kids across the country.

And what would the Banff Film Fest be like without stunning scenery – from British Columbia, the Himalayas, southwestern Yukon, Lake Superior, the Alps, and the Andes to name a few. The sunset from Motorama (the old Santa Fe Downs) was beautiful



as well, and oh, the grass under our feet! Each evening welcomed over 200 cars and close to 500 moviegoers. Early-bird ticket buyers were entered into a prize draw from local vendors, including The Running Hub, Santa Fe Brewing Company, Taos Ski Valley and Fire & Hops. Blankets, chairs, truck beds, campers – everyone got comfy and cozy, viewing from their own spaces yet close enough to say hi to their neighbors.

Of course, the Banff Film Festival World Tour in Santa Fe would not be possible without our sponsor partners and donors. Last year, in 2021, 37 sponsors/donors stepped up to make the drive-in happen. We are so grateful for their willingness to jump in as soon as we were able to get together in person again! The same can be said for our stellar and devoted Banff volunteers who took tickets, directed traffic, and stepped up in a big way to make both nights at Motorama such a joy to experience.

See you all next time at the Lensic!





STAND UP FOR NATURE

A COMMUNITY CONSERVATION CELEBRATION

Community Conservation Celebration

A Virtual Success!

Virtual: occurring or existing primarily online

Who knew what a second year of producing our annual fundraising event in the virtual world would look like? We originally planned to have a “hybrid” event – both online and in person at the Violet Crown. However, as the event neared and COVID surged, we sadly had to cancel the live portion of *Stand Up for Nature*, SFCT’s annual fundraising community conservation celebration.

In a word (or two) here is what it looked like – you “stood up” in a big way! You tuned in and watched for a second year in a row. You helped local restaurants by purchasing meal and wine package passes from the Cowgirl, 315 Restaurant & Wine Bar, and Gruet Winery. And you certainly gave back to nature through your generous donations during the paddle raise, before and after the event, and perhaps as one of the 23 businesses and individuals that sponsored us this year!

We kicked off 2021 *Stand Up for Nature* with a pre-show of uplifting and original music and dance hosted by none other than Jono Manson. Our pre-show “cocktail hour” included performances by Jono, Lara Manzanares, Indigie Femme, Jaime Michaels, and a special hoop dancing performance by the Lightning Boy Foundation’s Steve and ShanDien LaRance, danced and recorded just for SFCT. How honored we are by all!

New this year was a deeper dive into the virtual world of technology with a *live* Mistress of Ceremonies, Gail Trotter, who made the online program much more fun and spontaneous from a studio at Hutton Broadcasting. Also taking place live in the studio was our paddle raise, happening in real time and masterfully executed by our auctioneer, MacKenzie Allen. Even without an in-person audience to radiate energy, Mac kept the onscreen momentum going so that we could achieve our fundraising goal that evening!

Our dear friend, the highly regarded and much-admired Bill deBuys, graciously agreed to lead a conversation with Debbie Cress, new Supervisor of the Santa Fe National Forest. Our featured speakers’ conversation was inspiring and touched upon the role of public lands, recreational infrastructure, and the critical interdependence of people, communities, and ecosystems.

We were also thrilled to screen a video about SFCT’s progress over the past couple of years, for rather than slowing down during the second year of the pandemic, our work escalated. The video featured children’s programs highlighting our newest – *Safe Routes to School*. Senator Tom Udall had us over to his home to talk about the impact of SFCT’s visionary work connecting people to the land as well as connecting land to land through easements, thereby ensuring wildlife corridors, biodiversity, and young conservationists for the future. And we were proud to introduce the new Conservation Homestead – a 300-acre parcel in the Galisteo Basin that SFCT is restoring as a conservation showcase and preparing as a recreational and educational site.

The support and participation of so many viewers, volunteers, donors, conservation professionals, businesses, sponsors, trail users, teachers, and kids has been deeply felt this past year and we are humbled by, and grateful for the plenitude!
(for you all!)

A special shout-out to the Event Committee that dove in for a second year to produce such an inspiring event – another virtual success!



Audited Financial Statements

January 1 through December 31, 2021

Financial Position

Assets	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$466,449
Accounts Receivable	\$197,025
Prepaid Expenses	\$9,115
Fixed Assets	\$3,654,614
Operating Reserve	\$796,981
Stewardship Reserve	\$986,030
Endowment held by SFCT	\$1,000,000
Endowment held by SFCF	\$188,255
Total Assets	\$7,298,469
Liabilities & Net Assets	
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$49,752
Payroll Liabilities	\$12,145
Passthrough Payables	\$7,860
Total Liabilities	\$69,757
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$4,830,807
Board Designated	\$42,385
With Donor Restrictions	\$2,355,520
Total Net Assets	\$7,228,712
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$7,298,469

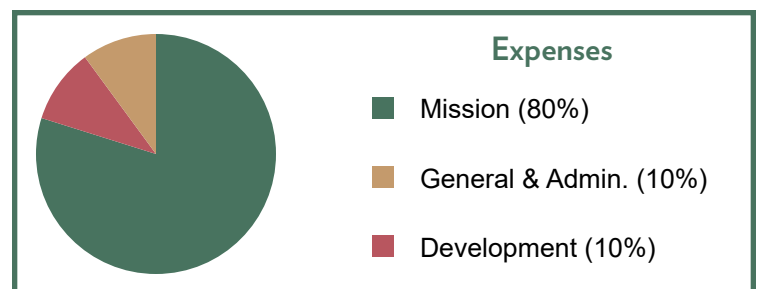
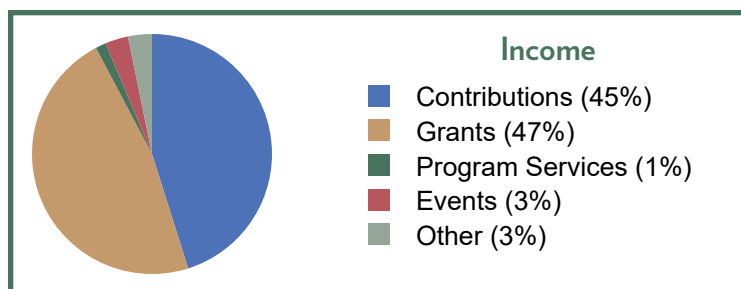
Activities

Operating Income	
Contributions & Grants	\$2,152,344
Fundraising Events	\$105,585
Program Services	\$48,566
Total Operating Income	\$2,306,495
Operating Expenses	
Mission Programs	\$590,880
Development	\$74,583
General & Administrative	\$74,583
Total Operating Expenses	\$740,046
Net Operating Income	\$1,566,449
Non-Operating Income & Expenses	
Investment Income	\$110,121
In-Kind Contributions	\$3,498
Restricted Grant for Purchase of Land	\$995,481
Total Non-Operating	\$1,109,100
Total Net Income	\$2,675,549



Above: Building a one rock dam on The Conservation Homestead

Filed forms 990 can be found on our website at: www.sfct.org/news/publications
Complete audited financials available upon request.





Your Donation Preserves the Places We All Love and Need!

The Santa Fe Conservation Trust depends on your generous support to ensure our land, trails and sky are protected for future generations. Providing conservation services in perpetuity means we depend on, and are grateful for, your support today and in the future. Gifts of any size are welcomed and deeply appreciated! Please use the envelope provided and send in your donation today. Gifts can also be made online at sfct.org/donate/

Types of Giving

Outright Gifts

Donations can be made in the form of cash, checks, stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares, real estate and personal property. Please contact SFCT at (505) 989-7019 for stock transfer instructions.

Sustaining Member Gifts

A scheduled donation, which can start with as little as \$10 a month, might be easier on your budget. Plus it gives SFCT a steady, reliable stream of 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.

If your life changes, you can choose to increase, decrease or suspend your monthly gift. All you have to do is check the box on the envelope, call us at (505) 989-7019 or go online to sign up at sfct.org/donate/

Matching Gifts

Does your company offer a Matching Gifts Program? If they do, submit their form and double your donation.

Vehicle Donations

Do you have an old vehicle you don't use anymore? Donate it to SFCT! We make it easy. Just go to www.careasy.org/nonprofit/santafeconservationtrust or give us a call at (505) 989-7019 for more information.

In Kind

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

Volunteers

SFCT has a wide variety of volunteer opportunities: program support, mailings, data entry and other office duties, planning and assisting with events, collecting data for the Night Sky Monitoring Project, doing trail maintenance and helping on workdays at The Homestead. If you'd like to make a gift of your time, please contact us.

Designate SFCT for your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA

Age may just be a number, but if that number is **72** (or higher!), you can now make your required minimum distribution a tax-free gift to SFCT directly from your IRA. This gift will not count as taxable income for you, and will make an amazing impact preserving the land you love.

Please contact your financial advisor for details.

Include SFCT in your Estate Plan

Does nature sustain you? Are you concerned about access to nature for your children and grandchildren? Including SFCT in your will is easy to do and will ensure that the land, trails and skies of northern New Mexico will be protected for future generations. Let us know if we are in your will or estate plan, and you'll become a member of the **Atalaya Legacy Society (pg 28)**. You'll be invited to an annual lunch for insider updates on our work and, if you wish, be acknowledged in our publications. Explore your giving options at www.sfct.org/planned-giving/, or give us a call at (505) 989-7019.



Monthly Donor Profile — Juniper Hunter

By Sarah Noss

It was fun talking to Juniper Hunter, because his experience growing up here in Santa Fe was similar to what many of us had. Born on Washington State's Olympic Peninsula in a cabin on his uncle's tree farm, Juniper became a New Mexican on his first birthday. Initially the family came to Reserve, where, in the early 70s, his dad worked in a sawmill before it eventually closed. In 1976, Juniper then moved to Santa Fe with his brother and mom who, for many years, worked on Canyon Road; housekeeping, cooking, and managing the household of a wealthy family. "When my brother and I were young, we spent our days on the land, up in the watershed, exploring the acequias, in the Santa Fe River, in the arroyos, up in the foothills near Atalaya. Out all day on our own. No food. No water. No sunscreen," he said smiling.

Juniper said his public school experience in Santa Fe was not that happy for him, so he applied to go to boarding school at Fountain Valley School of Colorado in Colorado Springs and was accepted, based in part, he thinks, on Adelma Roach's recommendation to an admission agent that Juniper was a good artist. He said that his experience at FVS was life-changing for him. His wife, who is the US CEO of a Bavarian renewable energy distribution company, BayWa r.e., also went to Fountain Valley, as did his siblings and his two sons. No surprise that he currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Fountain Valley School, and that he supports Lewis & Clark College, his alma mater, which also asked him to apply to join their Board. "Maybe," he said, "but that would be a big carbon footprint to travel to Portland multiple times per year."

These days, Juniper describes himself as an empty-nested homemaker. "I saturated my kids in science because I was so enthusiastic about it growing up," he said. It obviously rubbed off on them. His oldest son just got his Masters in Environmental Data Science and just began a fellowship working with Superfund site data. His second son got a degree in biology and minor in computer science and does failure analytics for Waymo. His youngest, a daughter, is a junior at Lewis & Clark. She is a psychology major and very passionate equestrian. With his time now a bit more freed up, Juniper is a member of the Santa Fe Ski Patrol, serves on two search and rescue teams, and is a volunteer with the Medical Reserve Corp through the Department



of Health. Taking the knowledge he gleaned from his mother and his own stints as a landscaper and Master Gardener, he also grows about 20% of his calories from his home garden, which is full of fruit trees, culinary herbs, flowers and vegetables.

Juniper started making monthly gifts to SFCT in 2014 and hasn't missed a month since. "I like to think about the effect of my altruism and how those institutions affect me and the community. I think SFCT is valuable for me and my community," he said. "The areas my brother and I ran around in, I had a first-hand appreciation for losing those places...over time, I saw all those areas get developed," Juniper said.

In addition to SFCT's land conservation work, Juniper appreciates SFCT's efforts to protect the night sky. "The LED streetlights the City installed have a lot of blue in them. Light in the blue spectrum strongly affects organisms, our own well-being, migrating birds, insects, the aesthetics of our town, our mental health, how well we sleep. All this could be improved in Santa Fe." He added, "From a climate perspective, it also brings up a set of challenges if you think more holistically. There are massive carbon emissions at night. And I get people being scared at night. But if we can use tools, like lights more in the amber spectrum, reducing them, pointing lights down, the City could reduce carbon emissions and enhance the night sky. Growing up in part in Eldorado, I appreciated seeing the Milky Way. It is something that I felt very privileged to have been able to enjoy."

SFCT appreciates Juniper's long partnership with us. Monthly donations don't have to be big to add up, and combined with the monthly gifts of others, the income can be sustaining as SFCT works to protect the land, trails and skies of our area to improve your quality of life. Please consider becoming a monthly donor today.

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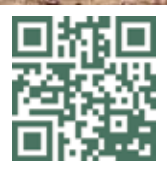


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