

SANTA FE CONSERVATION TRUST

Securing the Beauty of Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico



Santa Fe Conservation Trust

A Year of Natural Achievements - Annual Review 2009



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Preserving Your World Is Our Nature

As a founding partner of the Santa Fe Conservation Trust, I'm proud of the ways this organization serves our community, for New Mexico's ultimate value lies in what we are able to protect for future generations.

Stewart Udall

New Mexico is blessed with some of the most pristine landscapes in America—a beautiful land that supports and sustains us. Since 1994, the Santa Fe Conservation Trust (SFCT) has been on a mission to protect these disappearing natural areas.

The faith that our supporters place in their local land trust continues to reap wonderful rewards. Despite challenging economic times, in 2009 SFCT helped to secure the land, trails and star-filled skies everyone loves by:

- teaming up with eight new landowner partners to add more than 2000 new acres to our protected lands in the Galisteo Basin, the Upper Pecos Watershed, and along the Rio Los Pinos;
- making Santa Fe's trails safer and stronger by repairing dozens of erosion and safety problems along the 30-mile Dale Ball Trail System;
- rolling back light pollution by reaching hundreds of local residents with messages about star-friendly lighting solutions; and
- advancing conservation for the small-scale organic farms critical to our local food security.

As our story unfolds in the coming pages, you'll see that SFCT is more productive than ever. And, why we remain committed to preserving the places that matter to all New Mexicans.

Rici Peterson
Executive Director



We Save Land

New Mexico's stunning, untouched landscapes—the life-supporting lands essential for healthy wildlife, clean air, pure water, and food-producing soils—are rapidly disappearing. SFCT is helping to create a network of natural, open lands in and around our communities, forever protected for all living creatures.

By providing landowners with tools to place their lands into voluntary conservation status, we added eight properties totaling 2,027 acres to our portfolio in 2009. We now oversee protection of more than 33,000 acres in northern New Mexico.

We're also partnering with the Santa Fe Farmer's Market, the Permaculture Credit Union, and other non-profits to ensure our work reaches across socioeconomic and cultural groups. Together, we're making conservation affordable for small-scale farmers—the people who provide the locally grown, organic foods vital to our region's food security.

Along with our landowner partners the Kellys, our families have been enjoying this special place for over 30 years—the land, the river, the wildlife and the real sense of its uniqueness. Coming together with the Santa Fe Conservation Trust has made it possible to do what we have always wanted: to ensure that this land will remain just as it is, in perpetuity. We are grateful that the Trust and its dedicated staff have made possible a wonderful convergence of our interests with the public interests of New Mexico's people.

Harlan & Chris Flint,
Landowners along Los Pinos River





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I love the Dale Ball Trails. They're a wonderful gift to the people of Santa Fe, and I want to help preserve them to be used and loved by generations to come. Being a team leader with the Trails Alliance is so much fun. We work hard and enjoy one another's company, with the satisfaction of knowing our work means these trails will endure longer.

Judy Costlow, retired health educator and trails volunteer



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We Preserve Trails

Trails provide healthy exercise, connect us with nature, boost tourism economies, and enhance quality of life for all. SFCT envisions a system of well-built, well-maintained trails connecting New Mexico's people, neighborhoods, and communities.

As part of the Trails Alliance of Santa Fe—a three-way partnership between SFCT and the City and County of Santa Fe—we coordinate volunteers to help create and maintain the beautiful trails used by hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors each year.

Given the frustration I feel at so much going on in the world today, it feels especially good to be part of the Trails Alliance team. Working with my fellow volunteers and sharing our tools and our experience, we're creating a safe path for others to follow, and doing our part to help heal the Earth.

Nancy King, author and trails volunteer

We Promise the Stars

Light pollution is stealing the stars, in the process eroding our natural heritage and threatening the health of all creatures. SFCT is helping to restore the magical, starry night skies for which New Mexico was once famous.

Our Evening Star Events reach hundreds of supporters with illuminating messages about simple steps to help reduce light pollution and preserve our oldest natural wonder. Together we can brighten the future by restoring the dark to our state's wondrous night skies.

Thank you, SFCT, for the wonderful night on the “Evening Star Train” ! I loved being on a train filled with people dedicated to conserving our open space. I loved that the Trust helped to create the Rail Trail along its route, and that the train was stopping in the grand and beautiful Galisteo Basin Preserve (another phenomenal place protected by the Trust). But most of all I loved looking up into the dark night sky and realizing that you do not just stop at protecting mama earth beneath our feet, but you also work to preserve our views of the starry heavens above.

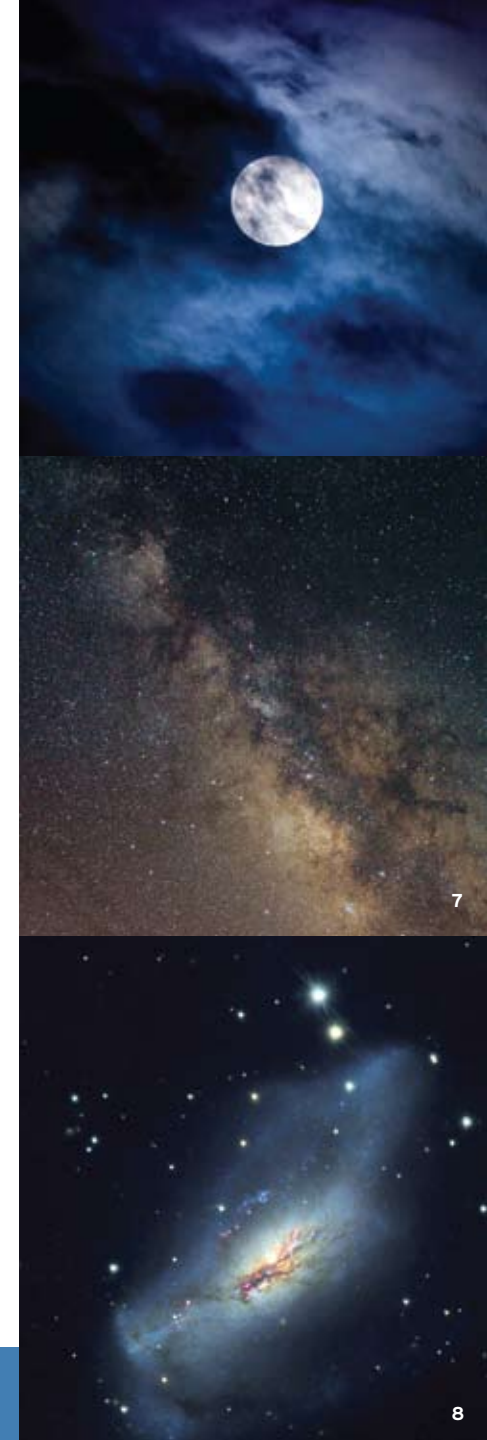
For each of these generous gifts I am deeply grateful and send you all blessings.

Suby Bowden, architect

We enjoyed your star party in the Galisteo Basin very much, including the beautiful view of the Milky Way, which was very much a part of our childhood in West Texas. Now we can't see it from our house because of light pollution.

Later that week, we noticed that our landscaper had installed three garden lights that, though low wattage, still threw glare directly up into the sky. Recalling your astronomer's message that Santa Fe is losing its night sky “one light at a time,” it was easy to make a decision to remove them. With luck, others will do the same and we'll gradually conquer light pollution. Thank you for a memorable evening—and for all you do for New Mexico's magnificent night skies.

Larry and Lauren Prescott,
Santa Fe residents





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We Work Natural and Financial Wonders

On a lean operating budget, SFCT performs huge accomplishments. Our small, dedicated staff is operationally efficient. Even in a struggling economy, we're stable, strong, and more productive than ever.

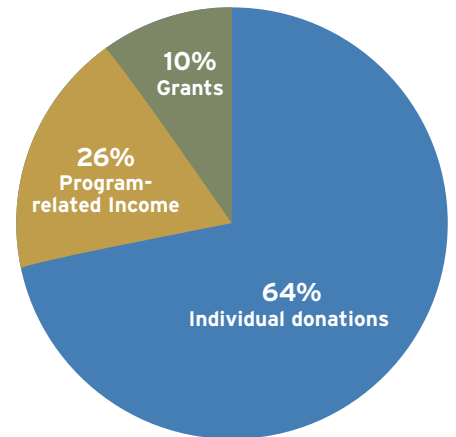
With a 2009 operating budget of only \$342,000, we were able to help protect eight new properties and 2,027 acres; repair Santa Fe's aging, well-loved trail systems; reduce light pollution; and advance conservation for small-scale organic farms.

There's much more on the horizon at SFCT. Your generous support will allow us to continue giving back to nature what New Mexico has been so blessed to receive. Let's keep on protecting the land beneath our feet... the starry skies above... and the trails that connect our communities.

INCOME SOURCES

2009 Operating Budget \$324,000

Audited financial statements available on request.



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5. Don Usner
6. Mitch Tillison

7. Teresa Wilson
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SANTA FE CONSERVATION TRUST

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