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### Heinrich, Udall Introduce Legislation to Establish Cerro de la Olla Wilderness

On January 28, Senators Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall introduced legislation to establish the Cerro de la Olla Wilderness Area within the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument! The legislation would set aside over 13,000 acres within the monument as new Wilderness, permanently protecting a popular outdoor recreation destination for generations to come.



[Read more!](#)

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## **Recovering Lost Ground for New Mexico's Public Lands Agencies**

New Mexico Wild [has released new analysis](#) that details significant funding cuts at the agencies charged with protecting and managing New Mexico's air, land, water, and wildlife. The analysis shows that the deep funding cuts during the administration of former Governor Susana Martinez has led to staffing shortages and other shortfalls that threaten to imperil New Mexico's precious natural resources. Please send a message to your state legislators and urge them to provide the best possible funding for the agencies that protect and manage New Mexico's public lands!

**Contact Your State Representative!**

**Contact Your State Senator!**



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## **Over 2,500 Comments Submitted to Stop the Tererro Mine!**

New Mexico Wild members submitted over 2,500 comments to the Santa Fe National Forest to express concerns about an Australian corporation's proposed exploratory mining operation near the Pecos Wilderness and Tererro, New Mexico. The comments encouraged Forest managers to apply the most stringent environmental reviews possible and expressed opposition to any drilling projects in this region, which is still recovering from a previous project that resulted in the death of over 90,000 trout in 1991.

**Stay up-to-date on efforts to Stop the Tererro Mine here!**



## **Over 1,000 Comments Submitted to Protect Wilderness in Southern NM!**

The Holloman Air Force Base is considering three plans for expanded airspace for F-16 pilot training. Two of the plans would lead to military training over southern New Mexico Wilderness, including the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wilderness Areas. By the time a public comment period closed on January 31, over 1,000 supporters like you submitted comments to encourage Holloman to choose the plan that provides adequate airspace to train F-16 pilots AND protect southern New Mexico's Wilderness Areas. Thank you again for all you do to protect New Mexico's public lands and wild places!



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## **Land and Water Conservation Fund Moves Closer to Full Funding**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund supports conservation efforts on public lands in all 33 New Mexico counties, including the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. New Mexico's entire Congressional delegation is working to secure full and permanent funding for this important conservation program. Senator Tom Udall recently helped secure nearly \$60 million in additional funding for LWCF, and Senator Martin Heinrich visited Rio Grande del Norte with New Mexico Wild Northern Conservation Director to learn more about the precious resources in the proposed Cerro de la Olla Wilderness.



**[Read more about how LWCF money protects places like Rio Grande del Norte and what New Mexico Wild is doing to help our LWCF champions in Congress secure full funding here.](#)**

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## Wild and Scenic Rivers: What You Need To Know

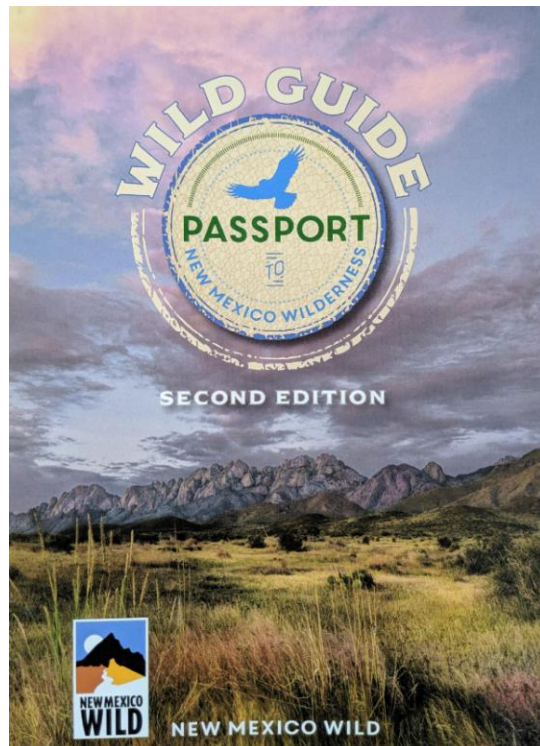
A broad coalition of local residents, small businesses, tribes, faith leaders, sportsmen, private property owners and more are encouraging Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich to introduce legislation that would protect approximately 450 miles of the Gila and San Francisco Rivers as Wild and Scenic. To learn more about what a Wild and Scenic designation is and how it works, [check out our FAQ](#).



## Wild Guide, Second Edition is Here!

Wild Guide - Passport to New Mexico Wilderness, Second Edition is out now! This comprehensive guide to New Mexico's protected wildlands is the only book that features each of the state's designated wilderness areas and wilderness study areas as well as other treasures such as the Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks national monuments. This second edition has been updated to include New Mexico's 13 new Wilderness areas, which were established in March 2019 when a federal public lands package became law!

[Purchase Your Wild Guide!](#)



**Staff Updates**



## Welcoming Julian Gonzales to our Staff

New Mexico Wild is thrilled to announce that we have hired Julian Gonzales as our new northern New Mexico Grassroots Organizer! Julian was born and raised in Santa Fe. He is married to Peggy and has three children. He is an avid hunter, angler, and all-around sportsman who enjoys recreating on public lands. He served 27 years in the military and is a decorated combat veteran, serving as First Staff Sergeant in the New Mexico Army National Guard. He has shifted his energy and is now a passionate advocate for wildlife and public lands. If you get him talking, he may tell you a story or two from catching a hybrid bass in a pond at Saddam Hussein's palace to catching wild, attacking javalina bare-handed. He carries a remarkable wealth of knowledge on mountain and Spanish traditions. Passing this knowledge is one of Julian's passions. He is a firearms expert, bowhunter education instructor, HE instructor, NM land navigation instructor, survival instructor, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish northeast chair for the habitat stamp program and livestock rancher.

## Upcoming Events



## Field Trip to Caja del Rio

Join the New Mexico Wild staff on Saturday, February 8th for a field trip out to Caja del Rio. This beautiful area is in danger of being developed for a new highway project. Come join us for a tour and delicious lunch and see why we are fighting to protect this place. RSVP to [will@nmwild.org](mailto:will@nmwild.org) to reserve your spot and get more details for this event. **Saturday, February 8th, 10am-2pm.** [Read more.](#)



## Volunteer Opportunities

**Volunteer with Our Wilderness Rangers:** The New Mexico Wild Wilderness Rangers are conducting solitude monitoring in the Dome Wilderness and are asking for volunteers. If you enjoy hiking and want to help us collect important data on visitor use in wilderness, please email [will@nmwild.org](mailto:will@nmwild.org) to set up a training.

Our Wilderness Rangers always have more work to do to keep New Mexico Wild. Contact [will@nmwild.org](mailto:will@nmwild.org) to learn about upcoming volunteer opportunities in your area, and keep your eyes open for future opportunities by visiting our new Ranger blog! [Read more.](#)

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