



2002 Annual Report

2002 was RiGHT's third year as a land trust and it was a year of transition, growth, stability and great projects for the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust (RiGHT). It is hard to think of all that in just one year, but we did it! This Annual Report outlines our projects, transitions and facts and figures for 2002.

Board and Staff:

The year started off with the resignation of our Executive Director, Julie Gallegos. Julie went on to take a position with Conejos County as a Land Use Administrator. The transition from her position to hiring a new Administrative Director took several months. Thankfully Julie continued to work part time during this period. In June we hired Nancy Butler to fill the Administrative Director position. Susan Pierce continues as our Land Protection Coordinator.

Our Board lost a member as well, which makes more work for the remaining members to do. In November Michael Wisdom resigned due to a conflict of interest, besides the fact that he is one of the busiest men in the San Luis Valley. We are actively currently looking for new Board members who would commit to the organization's mission. The Board we do have is wonderful. Cathy McNeil, Pete Magee, Chris Canaly, Karen Henderson and Ralph Curtis all put in a lot of time and hard work to make this group succeed.

Programs

- *Land Protection*

Our land protection program continues to go well. We did not close on any conservation easements on 2002, in large part due to a new law that increases the benefits to those who place an easement on their property starting on January 1, 2003. We did continue to work on two significant easements that will conserve hundreds of acres of prime land in Rio Grande and Mineral Counties. We also started working on a third easement in Conejos County that we are excited about.

We did see a large increase in landowner inquiries from 2002, so much so that we compiled the data from the last three years. Since 1999, RiGHT has had an estimated 55 inquiries regarding land donations and conservation easements, representing a total of 94,000 acres within the SLV. The potential for us to hold easements is great and the fact that we are receiving more inquiries means that our efforts are paying off. People are getting to know who we are and what we do.

- *Education*

In 2002 RiGHT held two workshops. "Keeping Family Land in the Family", an estate planning workshop and "Getting Ready for Rain and Making the Most of It When it Comes", a sustainable agricultural practices workshop. We are proud as a land trust to continue to work with landowners on estate planning and sustainable ag practices. As Cathy McNeil says, "we have to keep the 'land' in land trust".

In addition RiGHT held a Conservation Forum in February and co-sponsored a Land Use Conference in August. Both were well attended and provided numerous organizations and agencies a venue to discuss conservation and land use in the San Luis Valley.

- *Wetlands*
Through a grant from the EPA, Rio de la Vista, has continued to coordinate the San Luis Valley Wetlands Focus Area Committee. This committee meets monthly and brings together a host of conservation oriented non-profits and State and Federal agencies in the San Luis Valley to implement wetland and conservation projects within the San Luis Valley.
- *Strategic Conservation Inventory and Plan (SCIP)*
SCIP is a program funded by Great Outdoors Colorado, the EPA and the Rio Grande (Soil) Conservation District. It is a collaborative effort, spearheaded by RiGHT, among the Valley's many conservation oriented non-profits and government agencies to inventory the existing land uses and conservation efforts taking place in the Valley. The inventory is quite comprehensive and with it RiGHT is developing a *Strategic Conservation Plan*. The *Plan* will focus our efforts as a non profit to make optimum use of our resources, for the maximum conservation benefit, without duplicating the efforts of others. In 2002 RiGHT completed most of the inventory, with the hard work of Pete Magee and his staff at the SLV GIS/GPS Authority. Look for our final document, which will include the inventory and our Plan in the summer of 2003.

2002 Budget

Income

Board Contributions	\$ 1,500
Grants	\$ 64,405
Individuals/Membership	\$ 12,531
InKind Income	\$ 1,981
Interest Income	\$ 1,015
<u>Workshop Income</u>	<u>\$ 1,035</u>
Total Income	\$ 82,467

Expenses

Director's Payroll	\$ 14,372
Fundraising	\$ 3,196
Insurance	\$ 2,037
Land Protection Expenses	\$ 3,567
Land Protection Staff	\$ 5,920
Memberships with LT's	\$ 624
Newsletter	\$ 713
Postage	\$ 1,861
Printing	\$ 1,325
SCIP	\$ 15,433
Office	\$ 1,204
Staff Training	\$ 415
Telephone and Internet	\$ 1,971
Travel	\$ 50
Water Protection	\$ 11,282
<u>Workshop Ex</u>	<u>\$ 7,484</u>
Total	\$ 71,454