



# Get A GRIP

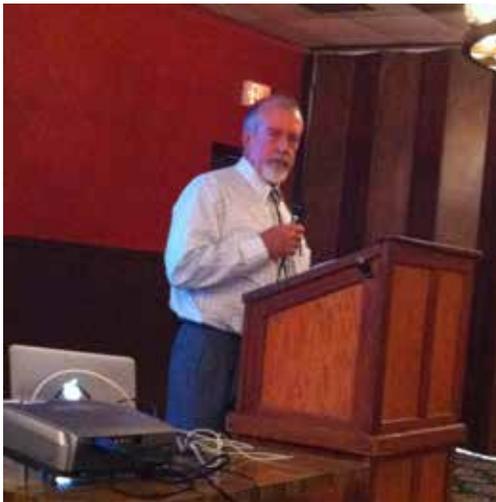
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## FORMER ISC DIRECTOR NORM GAUME: GILA DIVERSION WILL WASTE WATER AND MONEY

by Allyson Siwik, Executive Director

In testimony and a report presented to the Interstate Stream Commission at their monthly meeting in Tucumcari on April 30, former ISC director, Norm Gaume, told commissioners that the Gila River diversion proposal currently under consideration “would produce little or no water but with major waste of money, time and effort. A portion of the wild Gila River would be destroyed. More likely, many years, substantial human effort and millions of dollars would be wasted on the federal decision-making process that ultimately would reach the same rational conclusion that the ISC should make before the end of 2014.”



NORM GAUME (GRIP PHOTO)

What outcome can be expected if the New Mexico Unit of the Central Arizona Project were to be built? According to Gaume:

- The average net yield will be much less than half of the 14,000 acre-foot per year available under the Arizona Water Settlements Act (AWSA);
- The safe yield (minimum annual yield) will be very small or perhaps zero;
- The project will be hugely expensive to build [Current ISC and Bureau of Reclamation estimates range from \$400M - \$600M];
- Operations will be inordinately costly due to energy and exchange costs alone, and
- Existing water rates for project beneficiaries would more than double and \$100's of millions of state funding would be required for construction.

Gaume's analysis demonstrates that the unit costs of electricity and exchange alone exceed Deming's drinking water rates. The electricity cost to pump water over the Continental Divide is \$890/acre-foot. The exchange cost, or the amount New Mexico must pay for delivery of CAP water to downstream Arizona users, is currently \$146/acre-foot. These costs alone, not including cost of construction and the debt service, total \$1035/acre-foot or \$3.19 per 1000 gallons of water, compared to Deming's water rate of \$2.28/1000 gallons.

“Pursuing the Gila River diversion will foreclose funding for functional and effective non-diversion alternatives that are needed now,” Gaume told ISC commissioners, citing the Grant County Regional Water Supply

SEE AWSA UPDATE ON P. 4

## NM COURT OF APPEALS DENIES MOTION TO STAY COPPER RULE

RULING DOES NOT DECIDE MERITS OF CASE

by Allyson Siwik, Executive Director

In a decision filed on May 7, the New Mexico Court of Appeals denied GRIP's motion to stay the implementation of the Copper Rule until its appeal of the Rule can be decided. In September 2013, the Water Quality Control Commission adopted the Rule which allows contamination of groundwater beneath copper mine sites in New Mexico. The stay would have prevented the new Rule from being used by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in copper mine permitting decisions while the Copper Rule is under appeal in the NM Court of Appeals.

Douglas Meiklejohn, Executive Director and attorney with the New Mexico Environmental Law Center, stated that the Court's ruling is just preliminary. “Contrary to the assertions of state officials, the ruling does not determine the merits of the appeal. We requested the Court to delay implementing the rule until it determined whether the rule violated state law. We are confident that the Rule does indeed violate state law, because it permits copper mines to permanently pollute groundwater,” said Meiklejohn.

“It could be a year before a decision is made on our appeal. In the meantime, we are extremely concerned that without the stay of the Copper Rule Freeport-McMoRan will be allowed to contaminate the area's groundwater, the only source of drinking water for Grant County residents,” stated GRIP Executive Director Allyson Siwik. “Permitting decisions will now be made under the new Copper Rule related to groundwater discharges at the Tyrone and Chino mines. Freeport will be allowed to pollute our groundwater rather than implement measures to prevent pollution at their mine sites. This ruling is a tragedy for the citizens of Grant County who will ultimately have to deal with this contamination when the mines have played out and Freeport is gone.”

The Motion to Stay was filed by the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP), Turner Ranch Properties, L.P., and Amigos Bravos represented by NM Environmental Law Center. In the Motion, the appellants argue that the case raises important legal questions that must be resolved by the Court of Appeals, and that irreparable harm to public water resources is likely if the Copper Rule is implemented. The Rule marks the first time since the

SEE COPPER RULE ON P. 2



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### Mission Statement

Recognizing that human and environmental systems are inseparable and interdependent, Gila Resources Information Project pursues two goals: to protect and nurture human communities by safeguarding the natural resources that sustain us all; and to safeguard natural resources by facilitating informed public participation in resource use decisions.

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GRIP was founded in 1997. It is supported by foundation grants and individual donations. Special gratitude for ongoing support is owed to the McCune Charitable Foundation of Santa Fe.

To become a member and receive a copy of *Get A GRIP*, a minimum annual donation of \$20.00 is appreciated. (\$10 for students and low-income residents.) GRIP is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt organization; your contribution is tax-deductible.

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www.vivaverdenm.com

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CONTINUED FROM COPPER RULE ON P. 1

state Water Quality Act was adopted that the WQCC has adopted regulations that would allow contamination of groundwater by an industry.

The Motion was supported by the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General and opposed by the NMED and the multinational copper mining corporation Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, which worked together to draft and advocate for the Rule.

### Misinformation Campaign Debunked

In their efforts to organize public support for the copper rule, the NMED and the NM Mining Association have conducted a misinformation campaign to convince the public that the illegal rule protects groundwater quality rather than allows pollution at mine sites. Public outreach materials from these entities consistently refer to the copper rule as "the most protective regulatory requirements for protecting ground water from the impacts of copper mining of any copper mining state in the country." However, the opposite is true. According to a legal analysis conducted by the NM Environmental Law Center, "the Copper Rule provides less protection than comparable laws in Arizona and Nevada, where copper is also mined." NMELC outlines the following specific examples:

1) Arizona law expressly prohibits pollution that may impair present or future uses of groundwater. New Mexico's Copper Rule does not.

2) In addition, Arizona law imposes strict limits on pollution that does not impair present or future uses of groundwater. Arizona law requires that pollution by "hazardous substances" be limited to the footprint of the mine waste dump and that pollution by "non-hazardous substances" be limited to the area within the mine property or within 750 feet of the pollution source, whichever is smaller. New Mexico's Copper Rule places no limit on how far groundwater pollution caused by a mine can spread.

3) Nevada prohibits pollution of all waters of the state. New Mexico's Copper Rule does not.

4) Nevada law requires that groundwater pollution be cleaned up within 30 years. New Mexico's Copper Rule allows pollution to remain forever.

When the facts don't support its position, the NMED resorts to name calling to push its position, referring to the New Mexico Environmental Law Center as a "left-wing activist group" in its most recent press release regarding the Court of Appeals decision on the Copper Rule Stay. Its strategy to marginalize and diminish the legal arguments of NMELC to further its agenda is transparent to most. We'll know within a year how the Court of Appeals interprets the facts of the case.

GILA CONSERVATION COALITION presents **WILD & SCENIC** FILM FESTIVAL where activism gets inspired

SYRCLS

Pinos Altos, NM  
**Buckhorn Saloon & Opera House**  
**Saturday June 7 6:30pm**  
\$12 at the door / GCC members \$10 / Students FREE  
Admission + GCC membership \$20

FREE RAFFLE -- GREAT PRIZES  
FROM LOCAL AND NATIONAL SPONSORS  
Live music from the NEW Gila River music CD!

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## NEW MEXICO COPPER RULE TIMELINE

\* In 2009, the New Mexico Legislature mandated the Water Quality Control Commission to specify water discharge regulations for the dairy and copper mining industries that would prevent water pollution and protect water quality.

\* In 2012, the NMED put together an advisory committee that included members from the copper mining company Freeport-McMoRan, environmental groups and technical experts to craft the new copper rule to present to the WQCC. The advisory committee met for eight months and in mid-August a draft rule was sent to NMED.

\* At Freeport's request, the NMED's upper management overruled the recommendations of the advisory committee, including those recommendations of its own technical staff, and incorporated language that would allow Freeport (and other copper mine operators) to routinely pollute groundwater with acid rock drainage, metals and other contaminants in the course of its mining operations.

\* In April 2013, the NMED presented its draft water quality rules for copper mines before the WQCC. The NMELC and its clients opposed the rules on grounds that they are illegal under the Water Quality Act. NMED's own technical staff involved in the copper rules development process did not attend the hearing to support the draft rules.

\* The WQCC voted 9 - 1 in September 2013 to approve the draft copper rules with little deliberation. In making its decision, the commission adopted, with one small non-substantive change, the Proposed Statement of Reasons submitted by NMED with substantial help from Freeport-McMoRan.

\* The NMELC and its clients filed an appeal with the NM Court of Appeals against the adopted Copper Rule in October 2013.

\* The NMELC and its clients filed in October 2013 with the WQCC a motion to stay the adopted Copper Rule until the Copper Rule appeal is decided.

\* The WQCC denied NMELC and clients' motion to stay the copper rule in January 2014. NMELC and its clients filed with the NM Court of Appeals in February 2014 a motion to stay the adopted Copper Rule until the appeal is decided.

## WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL AND GILA CD/DVD RELEASE EVENT COMING ON SATURDAY, JUNE 7

*ORIGINAL, LOCAL FILMS AND SONGS ABOUT  
THE GILA RIVER AVAILABLE ON DISC AT  
BUCKHORN OPERA HOUSE PRESENTATION*

by Richard Mahler, Newsletter Editor

Save the date: Saturday, June 7th!

Music and films about the Gila River take center stage on a special upcoming "release night" that coincides with a showing of the nation's top recent environmental films.

Subjects explored during the one-night 12th Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival include conservation of wild rivers, resistance to diversion projects, and grassroots activism around the world. The 2014 festival line-up includes two movies about the Colorado River, whose larger basin encompasses the Gila's watershed. Titles include *Damocracy*, *Streams of Consequence*, and *Powell to Powell*.

Sponsored by the Gila Conservation Coalition, the party and festival—including a raffle—are set between 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 7, at the Buckhorn Opera House in Pinos Altos. Admission is free to students, \$10 for GCC members, and \$12 for others. On-site purchase of GCC membership plus admission is \$20.

The music and film CD/DVD compilation entitled "Wild Gila Forever Free" will be released and available for purchase during the event. The Gila-related music CD contains 15 songs written and performed by area musicians. Several of these singers-songwriters will be on hand to perform their Gila River songs live. Original compositions on the disc are from Charlie Alfero, Barbie Williamson, Andrew Dahl-Bredine, Jeff Goin, Wally Lawder, Jeanie McLerie, and Greg Renfro, among others.

The DVD includes a short video produced by GCC and a documentary film class at WNMU entitled *The Gila River is in our Hands*, a film by WNMU film professor Peter Bill entitled *Burn to River*, and a production by filmmaker Nat Stone about local author, conservationist, and GCC co-founder M.H. "Dutch" Salmon entitled *Free Flow on the Gila River*. (See article about Dutch and the GCC on page 5 of this issue.)

The CD/DVD set is available for \$25, with proceeds benefiting GCC. All involved in the twin projects donated their time and talents in support of Gila River preservation.

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival was launched in 2002 in celebration of the "wild and scenic river" designation obtained through the intense efforts of northern California's South Yuba River Citizens League. A new assortment of inspiring films travels the country annually, supported by national sponsors and benefiting grassroots organizations devoted to community-based environmental activism.

Sponsors of this year's Grant County return-engagement festival are over one dozen local businesses, individuals, and organizations, including GRIP.



GILA RIVER NEAR MOGOLLON BOX CAMPGROUND (RICHARD MAHLER PHOTO)

Project as an example of a worthy project that could meet the water needs of 26,000 people in central Grant County for a fraction of the cost of a Gila diversion project.

Gaume requested that the ISC make public all information and models related to calculating the net yield of a Gila River diversion project stating that ISC staff is trying to “avoid public knowledge or discussion of the certainty that the Gila River diversion project can yield only a fraction of the junior water right [14,000 acre-feet/year] or the likelihood that the safe yield might be very small or even zero. Why are New Mexicans being subjected to the misleading hard sell? I urge you to direct the necessary changes to the current flawed process so that it is forthcoming and will publicly provide, for review, the ISC’s best estimate of the water that the ISC calculates will flow to the water users.”

For more details on the analysis and Gaume’s report to the Gila-San Francisco Water Commission delivered May 20, visit [www.gilaconservation.org](http://www.gilaconservation.org)

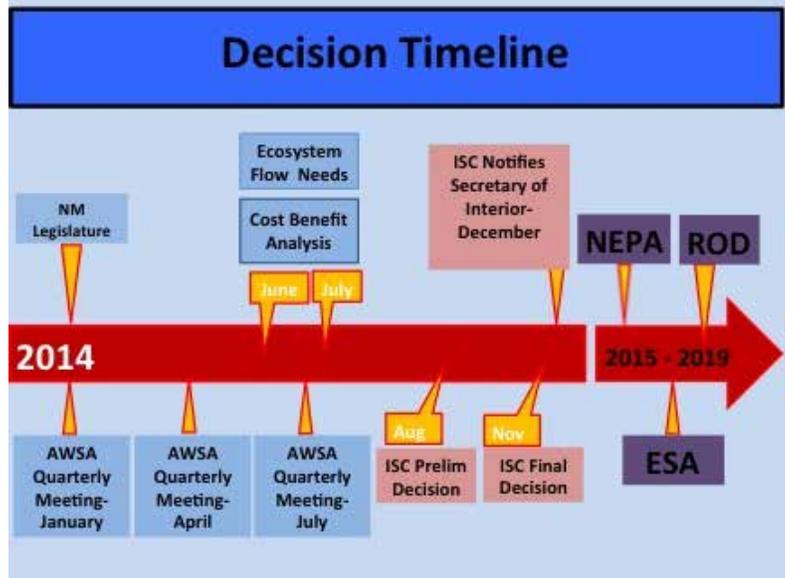
## GILA DIVERSION PROJECT ANALYSES SLATED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

Expect a flurry of AWSA activity in June and July as the ISC and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) re-release draft and final reports for a range of analyses made available for public review and comment.

BOR will release in June a draft appraisal level analysis of diversion, conveyance and storage alternatives, an appraisal level benefit-cost analysis and regional economic impact analysis of diversion and non-diversion alternatives. The documents will be available for 30-day review and comment before being finalized in July in advance of the ISC’s preliminary decision in August.

A number of ISC contractor reports are scheduled to be due in June, including an economic analysis of agriculture in southwest New Mexico from AWSA water and funding by NMSU agricultural economist Frank Ward, a revised BHI diversion project report, and ecological studies.

The next AWSA stakeholder public meeting is scheduled for July. The specific date and location have not been announced. Get the latest updates on GCC’s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/GilaConservationCoalition](http://www.facebook.com/GilaConservationCoalition)



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*You can use the envelope with this newsletter...  
 or go to [www.gilaresources.info](http://www.gilaresources.info)*

## GILA CONSERVATION COALITION MARKS ITS 30TH BIRTHDAY

by Richard Mahler, Newsletter Editor

"We were not incorporated, had no officers, and used my own post office box," M.H. "Dutch" Salmon recalls. "But the pro-dam people began to pay more attention to us. In fact, I think we had a pretty significant effect."

During a recent interview, the Silver City conservationist took time out to describe the early impact of the Gila Conservation Coalition, which Salmon helped organize in 1984 as a means of helping to protect the free flow of the Gila and San Francisco Rivers. A partnership of conservation groups promoting conservation of the Upper Gila River Basin and surrounding lands, the GCC was instrumental in stopping the Hooker and Conner Dam proposals put forward by government agencies during the 1980s.

"Thirty years ago the GCC was a loose coalition of river runners, canoeists, fishers, and enviros," says Salmon, an avid fisherman, prolific author, and long-time board member of both GCC and GRIP. "In the beginning it was very informal. There's no doubt that today the GCC is more efficient, better organized, and more effective than it was in the early 1980s."

Salmon traces the genesis of the group to a desire to provide a counterweight to the Hooker Dam Association (HDA), a local entity that supported construction of a dam across the Gila River a few miles upstream from its confluence with Mogollon Creek, near where a gauging station operates today. "The HDA was having regular meetings about this proposal," Salmon explains, "and I started to attend. For the first time it was not all pro-dam people at those meetings. Besides me and [the late] Bob Langsencamp, there was attendance by Mike Sauber, Jim Goodkind, and Herbie Marsden. We began to throw a wrench into this thing."

By the mid-1980s the Hooker project was abandoned. Yet close on its heels was a second dam-and-diversion proposal based on construction of the so-called Conner Dam. Public opposition, led in large part by the GCC, led to its withdrawal by late 1987. The group has also been active for many years in protecting scenic and ecologically sensitive areas from encroachment by motor vehicles as well as in improving such areas for low-impact recreation as well as wildlife protection.

Salmon notes that "except for an occasional letter to the editor" he was not involved in any kind of environmentalism prior to his first encounter with the Gila River in September 1982.

"I'd been living near Quemado, in Catron County, for two years prior to that time," he says. After relocating to the Mimbres Valley, Salmon made a fishing trip to the Gila directly east of the Mogollon Box. "This was exactly where the Hooker Dam was being proposed. I remember seeing bighorn sheep and other wildlife on this great piece of river and I made up my mind immediately that I didn't want to see any of it dammed."

Soon after this Salmon met Langsencamp, a State Land Office employee and a conservationist in active opposition to the proposed dam. "Bob thought we could beat [the Hooker proposal] and have a good time doing it," says Salmon, with a wry smile. "There was no organized opposition at the time."

"In spring 1983 I took a canoe trip—with my cat and dog—down the Gila which became the subject of my book, *Gila Descending*, which also resulted in a slide show that I took



GILA CONSERVATION COALITION CO-FOUNDER DUTCH SALMON (GRIP PHOTO)

around the state for the next few years, speaking to members of various fishing clubs, environmental organizations, and other groups."

The efforts of Salmon and the GCC paid off. In 1985 he became an appointed member of the Interstate Stream Commission, which studied and made recommendations regarding Gila River diversion and dam projects put forward by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Salmon believes the Conner Dam project died mainly because of potential conflicts involving endangered fish species, its poor cost/benefit ratio, and largely negative public reaction.

Yet a third proposal—the so-called Mangas Creek diversion—followed Conner and drew staunch GCC opposition. It eventually was judged to be too costly for the benefits accrued and dropped by the Bureau of Reclamation in 1990.

When asked what groups he feels are most responsible for pushing such schemes, Salmon cites "real estate interests, developers, bankers, the mining industry, and various chambers of commerce." But much has changed over the past three decades, he concludes: "We have a greener business community now, particularly among small businesses. Over 300 were opposed to the latest dam proposal in early 2014. And now, with the AWSA, the ISC is in the driver's seat, not the Bureau of Reclamation."

As Salmon sees it, the BOR is following the state's lead, but the ISC has its mind set on building a diversion project no matter what the cost. "They are bullheaded about it," he says, "despite the win-win solution that is at hand. Use the \$66-million in AWSA funding to implement non-diversion projects and keep the river as it is, preserving an irreplaceable resource for people and wildlife."

### WHAT IS THE GCC?

Organized in 1984 to protect the free flow of the Gila and San Francisco rivers, the Gila Conservation Coalition is a partnership of conservation groups—GRIP, Upper Gila Watershed Alliance, and Center for Biological Diversion—that promotes conservation of the Upper Gila River Basin and surrounding lands. The Coalition was instrumental in stopping the Hooker and Conner Dam proposals in the 1980s. GCC also achieved protection of the East Fork of the Gila River from road building and partial closure of the wild San Francisco River's bed to ORV use. GCC operates under the fiscal agency of GRIP.

## GILA RIVER FESTIVAL TURNS 10: COME HELP US CELEBRATE AMERICA'S FIRST WILDERNESS RIVER

by Claire Catlett, Program Associate

The Gila River Festival, now in its 10th year, is firmly established as a local tradition. This year's festival will be held September 18-21, with events in Silver City, the Gila National Forest and Wilderness, and on the Gila River.

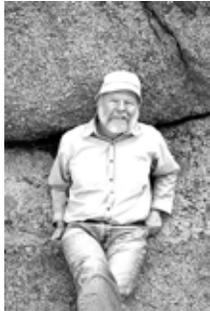
"Celebrating America's First Wilderness River" is the theme of the 2014 Gila River Festival, and we'll be commemorating two momentous wilderness milestones. We'll join with conservationists across the country to honor the Wilderness Act's 50th anniversary. In southwest New Mexico, we'll also celebrate the Gila Wilderness Area's 90th anniversary. As America's first wilderness river, with headwaters high in the Gila Wilderness Area, the Gila's verdant thread of life weaves through these celebrations.

While 2014 marks the anniversary of farsighted legislation protecting our wild public lands, it's also a year fraught with threats to our wilderness and river. This year, New Mexico will make its crucial decision under the Arizona Water Settlements Act. Will the state decide to divert the Gila River and destroy its fragile ecology and beauty? Or will New Mexico have the wisdom to follow in the footsteps of conservation pioneer Aldo Leopold, Wilderness Act author Howard Zahniser, and other visionaries who understood the intrinsic value of our beloved river and the surrounding wilderness? As members of the community of life sustained by a healthy Gila, we must take a stand for our river. As David Brower said, "the wild places are where we began. When they end, so do we."

The Gila River Festival planning committee is hard at work lining up a wonderful weekend. Our keynote speaker is none other than New Mexico native son Dave Foreman, the sometimes controversial and always dynamic conservation legend. At the 2009 Gila River Festival, Foreman enthralled the standing room only crowd, and no doubt he'll inspire us to action once again. Foreman, named by *Audubon* magazine in 1998 as one of the 100 Champions of Conservation of the 20th Century, is the author of several books, including *Take Back Conservation*, *Rewilding North America*, and *Confessions of an Eco-Warrior*.

What great events are returning? Carrying on festival tradition, we'll offer expert-guided hikes on diverse topics, such as wilderness, birding, native plants, endangered fish, and more. Field trip leaders will discuss the impacts of wilderness areas and wilderness rivers on our native flora and fauna. Again this year, we'll offer the Gila River kayak trip and bus tour, and the Sunday brunch and Gala for the Gila will be back by popular demand. This year's Gala for the Gila will include music by the Roadrunners and drinks by Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery. Sunday brunch will feature Sister Joan Brown of New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light speaking about "Wild Grace."

What's new this year? The Wilderness Film Festival will feature the history and significance of the 1964 Wilderness Act



ACTIVIST DAVE FOREMAN GIVES  
THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT 10TH  
ANNUAL GILA RIVER FESTIVAL  
(COURTESY PHOTO)

legislation and the value of our public lands. We'll host a workshop to construct a sacred water wheel on the Gila's stream bank, and conclude the festival with an interfaith blessing of the water wheel and our beloved river.

We hope to see you there, and look for your Gila River Festival brochure in the mail this coming August!

## EARTH MATTERS RADIO SHOW IS NOW ON THE AIR...AND THE INTERNET

by Richard Mahler, Newsletter Editor

Keeping abreast of environmental news involving southwestern New Mexico got much easier this year with the January sign-on of the region's new community radio station, Silver City-based KURU at 89.1 FM.

Earth Matters—a one-hour program "about earthly matters that impact us all"—airs four times each week on KURU. It is also available free of charge through podcasts archived on the Internet via [gmcr.org](http://gmcr.org). GRIP Executive Director Allyson Siwik is one of the show's regular hosts, alternating with Nathan Newcomer (local grassroots organizer for the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance) and Donna Stevens (executive director of the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance). Weekly installments feature interviews with local or visiting individuals whose work particularly affects the environmental health of southwestern New Mexico.

Topics covered on Earth Matters—KURU's first full-length, locally produced and regularly scheduled program—have included state legislative issues, GIS mapping, wildfires, the Continental Divide Trail, the fate of the Gila River, food security, Mexican wolves, bicycles for kids, wilderness preservation, the local Green Chamber of Commerce, and the new Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

Tune in or stream Earth Matters at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday, or listen to archived podcasts via <http://gmcr.org/category/earth-matters/>. The program is a collaborative effort of Gila/Mimbres Community Radio (the nonprofit organization that operates KURU), GRIP, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, and the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance.



EARTH MATTERS CO-HOST  
DONNA STEVENS AT THE  
KURU MICROPHONE WITH  
GMCR'S KYLE JOHNSON  
AT THE CONTROLS DURING  
A RECENT LIVE BROADCAST.  
MORE THAN 50 EDITIONS  
OF EARTH MATTERS HAVE  
AIRED ON KURU SINCE THE  
PROGRAM'S LAUNCH.  
(GRIP PHOTO)

## SILVER CITY WATERSHED KEEPERS PROGRESSES DURING FOURTH YEAR

SCWK TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE EFFORTS

by Andrew Lindlof, Program Associate

The Silver City Watershed Keepers (SCWK) is a volunteer environmental-quality monitoring group coordinated by GRIP. The SCWK is a program whereby community volunteers of all ages and experience levels can work to protect the local watershed through monitoring, education, and outreach.

Currently, the SCWK collects water-quality data at four sites along San Vicente Creek's perennial channel. Members and volunteers actively monitor and record the following critical water-quality parameters: temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, salinity, total dissolved solids, transparency, turbidity, nitrates, and total phosphates. By observing the quality of water, the SCWK can interpret the health of the creek, which may be impacted negatively by legacy mine/mill sites and non-point source pollution.

Throughout the past four years (2010-2014) the Silver City Watershed Keepers has been coordinated successfully by GRIP OSM/VISTA members. However, given the close of GRIP's VISTA program in March, the SCWK made a seamless transition into the hands of dedicated community members via the SCWK Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Members Allyson Siwik (GRIP), Patrice Mutchnick (Western New Mexico University), Jim McIntosh (Aldo Leopold Charter School), John Mooney (NM Environment Department - Southwest Water Quality Board), Gabe Gilmore (WNMU student), Dave Menzie (retired NMED-SWQB and new volunteer), and Andrew Lindlof (former GRIP VISTA member and current part-time GRIP staff), have met the challenge of maintaining existing monitoring programs, and promoting scientific literacy within the community and its schools. They are working hard to expand the program in new ways.

The TAC recently selected an exceptional interim summer 2014 program coordinator. Silver City native son and WNMU student Gabe Gilmore will coordinate monthly community water-quality monitoring events, trash cleanups, and other projects. Gabe will also work closely with the TAC to build capacity within the program through funding and community outreach. One of Gabe's first events during the summer will be a water-quality monitoring event at the upcoming Fourth Annual Big Ditch Day on the morning of July 19 in Big Ditch Park between Highway 90 and Bullard Street. The event will feature experiential lessons on water quality using monitoring equipment, interactive chemistry tests, and documenting our observations of the environment.

Traditionally, the SCWK meets with community members at least once every quarter (spring, summer, fall, winter) to collect water-quality data and observe the condition of the channel and flood plain. For summer 2014, the SCWK will meet monthly at four monitoring sites along San Vicente Creek (between Big Ditch Park and the Wetland Restoration Site). For current updates or to participate in monthly monitoring events, contact the SCWK by phone: 575-538-8078, or email: [grip@gilaresources.info](mailto:grip@gilaresources.info)

## PROJECTS COMPLETED BY WATERSHED KEEPERS AND ALDO LEOPOLD CHARTER SCHOOL COLLABORATION

by Andrew Lindlof, Program Associate

In early 2014, several watershed stewardship projects were started through the collaboration of the SCWK, GRIP, Aldo Leopold Charter School Youth Conservation Corps, and Stream Dynamics, Inc. A crew of 10 ALCS students was chosen to participate in a series of three YCC projects geared towards fostering watershed stewardship and increasing scientific literacy within the community.

Over a period of four weeks, the ALCS crew successfully completed the first project of installing over 120 bilingual storm drain warning labels around Silver City. The blue and green labels—displaying “Don't Pollute! ¡No Contamine! Flows To Waterways” [see below]—remind Silver City residents that all materials funneled through storm drains eventually flow into San Vicente Creek that recharges our groundwater south of town.

The second project is a continuation of the SCWK monthly water-quality monitoring program for San Vicente Creek. In addition to monitoring, the ALCS crew has worked hard to document and clean up trash from many of Silver City's waterways, and to conduct surveys along Pinos Altos and Silva Creeks in an attempt to identify additional ephemeral and perennial water-quality monitoring sites for the SCWK program.

The third project will deliver a digital GIS map to the Town of Silver City outlining storm water flow paths on Silver City streets, locations of excess sediment deposition on town roads, potential and existing water harvesting sites, and the delineations of Silver City's urban sub-watersheds. To collect all the necessary data, the crew physically walked all of the roads south of Hwy. 180 within the town limits, and recorded street gradients, existence of ridge lines and basins on the roads, and documented all sites showing evidence of sediment spilling onto roadways and all sites displaying features that would favor a water harvesting opportunity. The crew then worked with GIS software to enter the collected data and design a user-friendly map.

Due to the success of this effort, ALCS has shown great interest in maintaining the partnership into the next YCC year, with the goal of continuing and expanding current projects.





## **Gila Resources Information Project**

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- **COPPER RULE APPEAL DENIED**
- **GILA DIVERSION CHALLENGED**
- **GCC CELEBRATES 30TH B'DAY**
- **EARTH MATTERS RADIO SHOW**
- **WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL**
- **WATERSHED KEEPERS UPDATE**
- **10TH GILA RIVER FESTIVAL**

*Printed on recycled paper.*

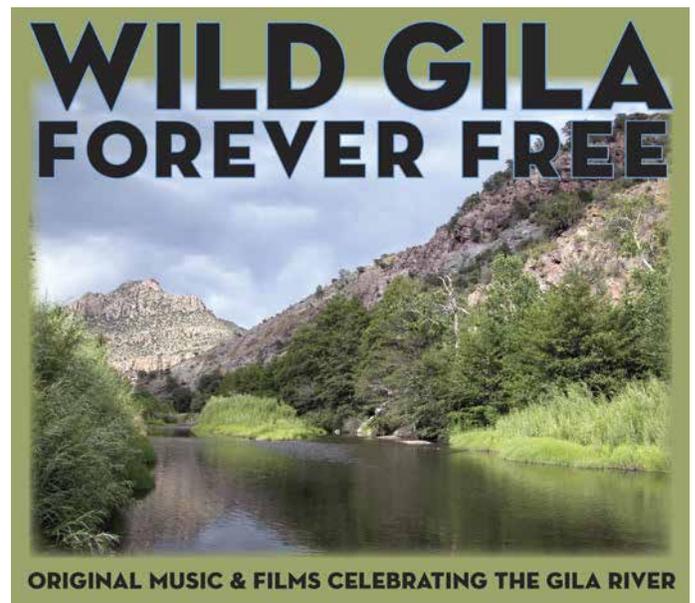
## **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**JUNE 7 - Wild & Scenic Film Festival and Wild Gila Forever Free CD/DVD release party** - 6:30 pm at the Buckhorn Opera House, Pinos Altos. \$12 at the door, GCC members \$10; Admission plus GCC membership \$20. Students FREE. Free raffle with admission. More info at [www.gilaconservation.org](http://www.gilaconservation.org)

**JULY - Arizona Water Settlements Act public meeting** - Date, time, and location to be announced.

**JULY 19 - Fourth Annual Big Ditch Day** - Big Ditch Park, Silver City, along San Vicente Creek between Bulard and Hudson streets. Various events for all ages.

**SEPTEMBER 18-21 - 10th Annual Gila River Festival: Celebrating America's First Wilderness River** - Various locations, including the Gila River and Silver City. Full schedule and registration available in July at [www.gilaconservation.org](http://www.gilaconservation.org) or 575.538.8078. Volunteers and sponsors are needed and welcomed.



*GET YOUR COPY OF THIS BRAND-NEW CD/DVD  
RELEASE ON JUNE 7TH AT THE WILD & SCENIC FILM  
FESTIVAL AND RELEASE PARTY IN PINOS ALTOS  
(SEE ARTICLE ON PG. 3 FOR DETAILS)*