



The National Grassroots Organization of Republicans for Environmental Protection

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**NEW MEXICO CHAPTER OF REPUBLICANS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
PRESIDENT'S E-NEWSLETTER**

"Optimism is a good characteristic, but if carried to an excess, it becomes foolishness. We are prone to speak of the resources of this country as inexhaustible; this is not so."

Theodore Roosevelt - Seventh Annual Message to Congress, December 3, 1907

State of our State (Issues)

The Valle Vidal Protection Act was unanimously passed by the House of Representatives in July. The Bill, which was authored by Rep. Tom Udall and co-sponsored by Rep. Heather Wilson, now moves to the senate. If you have not yet called or written Sen. Domenici asking him to help support this needed legislation, please do so today.

The Surface Owner's Protection Act (**SOPA**) is a bill that will be introduced in the 2007 legislative session. SOPA is an issued relating to split estates, in that the property owners do not own the mineral rights below their property. The surface use agreement and compensation bill begins to restore the balance by ensuring that the oil and gas companies give written notice to the landowner and provide a written agreement (or post a bond) before operations can begin. Look for more in future newsletters.

Activities

- Oscar Simpson and Bill Wiley met with Albuquerque Journal representatives and Rep. Tom Udall to discuss a piece on the Valle Vidal.
- Our New Mexico Chapter signed-on to an advertisement thanking our Representatives in the House for working to pass the Valle Vidal Protection Act and urging Sen. Domenici to help pass this legislation in the Senate.
- Ken Whiton and Scott MacCurdy met with Rep. Heather Wilson's staff, to say thank you for co-sponsoring the Valle Vidal Protection Act.
- REP Members attended a Valle Vidal restoration project on Aug. 24-27, 2006.
- Dr. John Bartlit wrote an inspiring Op-Ed entitled 'Party's Environmental Moves Examined', which was published in the Los Alamos Monitor on Aug. 29, 2006. The piece is available for your reading pleasure at <http://www.rep.org/opinions/op-eds/86.html> . Dr. Bartlit has been a member of our New Mexico chapter since 1998.

Announcements

- Our chapter will have a booth at the Environment Appreciation Day at the State Fair on Sept. 22, 2006. If you would like to help with the booth, please call Scott MacCurdy @ 610-0501. There will be two shifts from 9-12 and 12-3. If not, stop by and say hello.
- REP's National conference is scheduled for Sept. 14-15, 2006 in Golden, Colorado. Tweeti Blancett, Ken & Betty Whiton, Martha Marks, Ruth Fish and Scott MacCurdy will be attending.
- Bill Wiley and Scott MacCurdy will be riding on the RailRunner on the morning of Wed. Sept. 13. This will be an excellent opportunity to discuss energy issues and KOAT will be covering the ride.

NM Issue Papers

New Mexico Issue Papers are briefs that are chapter will compile. The briefs will give a description of the issue and our position. The idea is to help keep our membership well informed of our positions on issues that affect our state.

Awards

Our annual New Mexico Chapter meeting will be in January and we would like to hear from you on Nominations for awards. The Gov. David F. Cargo Award is for a REP-NM member who has exhibited a long-term commitment to conservation and environmental protection. The Teddy is for a Republican business entrepreneur whose company, through innovation, technology or practice, has or will benefit the environment. Finally, we need a nomination for a local GOP politician whose actions/voting record have benefited the environment.

Survey

This will be the quickest survey in our chapter's history. How are we doing? Is there an issue that you feel our chapter should address? Send us an email: newmexico@rep.org. No response is a vote for "Keep up the good work". Thank you.

Member Profile -- *Phil Young*

Our chapter is full of incredible members who have led fascinating lives. Each newsletter we will profile a different member. Today, we will get to know Phil Young.

Phil Young is one of the most interesting of the National Park Service(NPS) "Greenbloods" (that is, a protective ranger specializing in fire, environmental law enforcement, and other ranger activities). He hails from Southern California and is a graduate of Humboldt State. He began his NPS career in 1975 at Bandelier. Subsequent assignments took him to Little Big Horn, Death Valley, Denali, Tonto, Jean Lafitte, Fort Laramie, and Santa Monica. He transferred to the Southwest regional office where he spent a decade managing emergency operations on Interagency Incident Management Teams. In 1991, Phil became an NPS Special Agent, specializing (quite successfully) in investigating ARPA violations. He retired from the NPS in 2000 and is now living in Santa Fe and working for the State of New Mexico Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) as a staff archeologist.

Phil is a devout Bullmoose Republican and is very active with REP. He is currently the Secretary of our chapter and routinely drives to Albuquerque to attend our monthly Executive Committee meetings. His experience and intellect has been an incredible asset to our chapter and we are so fortunate to have him.

A few years back Phil wrote a paper about National Parks and the economy. The final paragraph truly defines the unique perspective of green elephants.

"Parks and public lands are an important ingredient in the stew that is our national economy. The bottom line is that preserving our heritage is not only the right thing to do, but it makes good business sense. President Theodore Roosevelt knew that and I hope our elected officials in the future do too." *Phil Young*