



## *New Mexico Chapter President's E-Newsletter*

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### State of our State (Issues)

Since I last communicated good things have been happening. The President signed the **Valle Vidal Protection Act**. Locally, we saw the **Surface Owner's Protection Act** pass the Legislature and signed by Gov. Richardson. NM now leads the nation in this protection of land owner rights. In addition, the **Desert Rock Tax Credit** failed to pass. This bill would have provided for an \$85 Million tax credit for a new coal power plant in the Four Corners Area.

### Announcements

- **OTERO MESA**- Oil & Gas want to develop in area of 24,000 sq. mile aquifer (largest remaining in southern part of NM). Tweeti Blancett to speak in Alamogordo on 4/19 (6-9pm), followed by field tours 4/20-22. More Info to follow.
- Reps. Steve Pearce & Heather Wilson have signed with the **"Teaming with Wildlife"** initiative. Teaming with Wildlife is a coalition of more than 5000 Organizations working to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered by supporting increased state and federal funding for wildlife conservation.
- **REP NM Social Gathering** early May. Event info to follow.
- **Valle Vidal** celebration and workday in early July. Event info to follow.

### Issue Papers

[Global Climate Change](#) – This link is to REP's national policy paper on Global Climate Change. As a society, it is perhaps the single greatest conservation issue of our time. It encompasses and affects nearly every issue of conservation from land to water to wildlife. Please enjoy when you have a minute and get up to speed on this issue.

### Member Profile -- *Mark Aspelin*

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 Mark Aspelin, the newest member of our Executive Committee.

Mark Aspelin has been working at Sandia National Laboratories (Albuquerque , New Mexico ) for 2.5 years, providing technical support for the International Biological Threat Reduction Program, serving as an instructor for International Atomic Energy Agency courses on the topic of physical protection of nuclear facilities and nuclear material, and assisting with environmental management system implementation. Prior to joining Sandia, Mark worked as a Conservation Biologist for The Nature Conservancy of New Mexico (White Sands Missile Range field office); Business Process Reengineering Specialist at Intel Corporation (Santa Clara, California); Environmental Programs Manager at The Coca-Cola Company (Atlanta, Georgia); Biologist/Aviculturist for The International Crane Foundation (Wisconsin and Kenya); and Biology, Math & Geography Teacher at the Gstaad International School (Switzerland). Mark has a B.S. degree in Biology from the University of Notre Dame, a M.S. degree in Biology from Creighton University , and a MBA with concentrations in Corporate Environmental Management and Operations Management from the University of Texas at Austin . He also is a registered Project Management Professional (PMP). Hobbies include travel, soccer, trail running, hiking, birding, and playing classical & flamenco guitar.