



New Mexico Chapter President's E-Newsletter – Spring 2008

State of our State (Issues)

This newsletter is a bit over-due, but we have all been very busy since our annual meeting. Nationals and locals have been working diligently on raising support for reforming the 1872 Mining Law. Over the past 6 weeks, Scott MacCurdy participated in a press conference, recorded a Radio Spot ([Click here to listen](#)) which ran on 770 KKOB, and participated in an on air radio interview on KUNM radio; all in support of reforming the 1872 Mining Law. With an estimated 15,000+ abandoned mines in NM, reforming the 1872 Mining Law will be of considerable help to NM water, wildlife and wilderness. The bill now resides in the Senate's Natural Resources Committee. I would ask all of our members to please call Senator Domenici and urge him to support reforming the 1872 Mining Law. Sen. Domenici can be reached at 505.346.6791.



In April Bill Wiley and Scott MacCurdy attended an outing in Otero Mesa and did trail restoration in addition to hiking Alamo Mountain.

Finally, please keep on the lookout for our upcoming fundraiser. We have a few important items that we could use a little help with. Details will follow in a few weeks.

Announcements

- **2nd Annual Gear Swap** – May 18 from 10am-4pm at 142 Truman. Stop by our table and say hello.
- **GOP Primary** – June 3
- **REP NM Chapter Social Gathering** – Aug
- **REP Annual Meeting** – Slated for Nov 2008 in Orlando, Florida.

National Policy Paper

[Federal Public Lands Policy](#) – This link is to REP's national policy paper on management of our Public Lands.

[NM Issue Brief : Rio Grande National Conservation Area](#)

The proposal, encompassing more than 303,000 acres of Taos and Rio Arriba Counties, also includes two new Wilderness Areas totaling about 24,000 acres: Ute Mountain and Rio San Antonio Gorge. These are some of the most spectacular lands in all of New Mexico. The Rio Grande first cuts into the Sevilleta lava flow that makes up the Taos Plateau just north of the Colorado border. Eight miles later, at the New Mexico state line, the river is 200 feet down, and the gorge is 150 feet across. West of Questa, where Big Arsenic Spring bubbles from the rock, the river is a glinting green ribbon eight hundred feet down. The opposite rim is over half a mile away where, on summer mornings, bald eagles soar southward in pairs. At John Dunn Bridge the river enters The Box, an 18-mile stretch of 900-foot cliffs, where white-water rapids are famous among boaters. Protection of these areas will also ensure critical winter range for both Elk and Mule Deer.

These special designations for some of our most spectacular BLM lands will ensure these places are protected against public land sell offs, that prime wildlife habitat is preserved, and that hunting and fishing opportunities are here for us and our children in the future.

Solution: This issue will not likely move forward until after the election, at which time we will look to our congressional delegation to draft a bill and successfully move it through the House and Senate.

For More Info Contact Scott MacCurdy

[Environmental Web Resource](#)

[REP Store](#) – The REP Store is up and running. Click, buy and show your support for REP.

[Member Profile – Kathy McCoy](#)

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 Kathy McCoy, who has been a REP Member since 1998.

After a career in advertising sales, McCoy entered the University of New Mexico and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in her mid-forties. Although her intent was to enter the field of technical writing, a move to the East Mountains in New Mexico shifted that focus. Because of growth issues in the community, she co-founded the East Mountain Legal Defense Fund, a non-profit organization which revolved around water, land use, and development.

For over 10 years, the East Mountain Legal Defense Fund addressed issues that threatened to negatively affect the rural character of the East Mountains, most notably being a proposed Wal-Mart Super Center. After more than two years, Wal-Mart withdrew their application.

In 2003, then State Representative, Ron Godbey, who was resigning from the position, approached McCoy and asked if she'd be interested in running for his seat. The Governor appointed her to finish Godbey's term and McCoy ran in 2004 and won the seat.

McCoy has always had a special connection to conservation issues. She spent part of her childhood growing up in the Pine Barrens area of New Jersey where her father introduced her to the importance of the natural environment.

She moved to New Mexico permanently in 1977 where she gained an even stronger sense of preserving special places.

She was a charter member of REP America, when the local chapter was formed, and she continues to believe that Republicans can and should be a voice for conservation. And as a legislator, she's learned that competing interests in the state often require difficult decisions.