



Selling out our future

FROM YOUR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When Donald Trump promised to “Drill, Baby, Drill” in his campaign for a second term, it seemed inconceivable that it would come so quickly and haphazardly. Just 16 months into his Administration, we face an onslaught of threats to treasured public lands including the Pecos Watershed, the Gila Region, The Chama Basin, Antelope Pass in the Peloncillos, and of course, Chaco. These places hold ecological, cultural, recreational, and spiritual value that is irreplaceable.

Of course, the threat is not simply drilling and mining, it is also the miles of habitat-destroying roads required to service the extraction activities, the runoff water pollution that will inevitably damage our streams, and the loss of wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

As depressing as this seems, there is hope. Public sentiment is building in ways we have never seen. The recent comment period about revoking Chaco protections generated thousands of responses on unusually short notice. People do care. Our members are leading the way. Thank you!



Mark Allison
Executive Director
New Mexico Wild

In New Mexico, we already have 110,000 oil and natural gas wells and as many as 20,000 abandoned mines according to the New Mexico Bureau of Geology. Yet the pressure to extract more from our mountains and valleys is accelerating. In the decades ahead, it is likely that we will have moved from an oil economy to a renewables economy, but the scars of this unfettered extraction will remain.

In late June, the Trump administration proposed rollbacks to oil and gas rules on public lands, reducing bonding requirements designed to ensure oil and gas companies bear the full cost of cleanup when drilling operations end. Without these protections, cleanup costs fall on taxpayers. The proposal would also reduce the public comment period for leasing decisions from 90 days to just ten, cutting off the communities most affected by drilling from meaningful input on decisions about their public lands.



Photo: The Wilderness Society

The administration has directed federal agencies to offer all nominated parcels of public lands for oil, gas, and mineral leasing regardless of resource conflicts, stripping away the environmental review that has long protected sensitive lands, habitat and cultural resources. The message is clear: Washington, DC is selling out our future. We are not powerless to stop or slow these tragic policies. At New Mexico Wild, this is a top priority. On the back of this Advisory are ways you can help us fight back.

What you can help us do

New Mexico Wild is fighting back. We're filing legal comments and actions, organizing communities, demanding Tribal consultation, and making sure decision-makers hear us clearly: our wilderness, our water, and our communities are not for sale.

We'll keep you informed about petitions and comment periods where you can provide feedback to Federal officials.

And right now, **a committed member has stepped up with a 1:1 matching gift** to our Legal+Outreach Fund which will help defray the costs of this fight.

Every dollar you give will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of \$50,000. But only until July 31, 2026.

Will you make a tax-deductible gift today to help us fight the unrestrained drilling and mining in our state? You can donate online or with the enclosed reply form and envelope. **Your membership matters!**



If you agree that our natural heritage is not for sale, please consider a special donation to help us fight the expanded drilling and mining proposals in New Mexico.

nmwild.org/donate

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