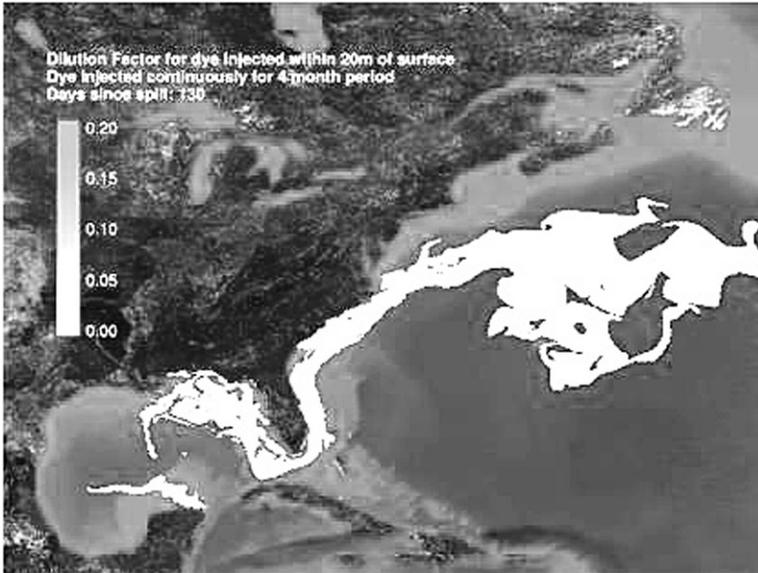




Get A GRIP

PROMOTING HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES BY
PROTECTING OUR
ENVIRONMENT SINCE 1998

► **Responsible Mining** ► **Healthy Rivers** ► **Community Planning** ► **Aquifer Protection** ► **Environmental Health** ► **Sustainability**



PREDICTED OIL SPILL DISPERSION AFTER FOUR MONTHS. (UCAR DIAGRAM)

BP OIL DISASTER: WHAT CAN WE DO?

by Allyson Siwik, Executive Director

Nearly three months after the BP *Deepwater Horizon* accident, citizens around the world continue to be angered and dismayed as 60,000 barrels of oil spew from the burst deep-water well each day. The pollution sullies beaches from Louisiana to Florida, killing wildlife and destroying economies in its path. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, ocean currents are expected to carry the gooey mess to Mexico's shores by December and eventually into the Caribbean and across the Atlantic.

What can we in southern New Mexico do as we watch this tragedy unfold? Here are some suggestions:

- *Support a ban on all off-shore oil drilling!* Sign the petition to President Obama at <http://www.350.org/drilling-ban> that requests an end to offshore drilling and demands a clean energy future.
- *Donate.* To the Gulf Coast Fund for Community Renewal and Ecological Health (<http://gulfcoastfund.org>), a special project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, providing emergency grants to non-profit organizations on the ground engaged in first response work as a result of the BP disaster.
- *Wean ourselves from oil addiction.* We must each do our part to reduce our carbon footprint by becoming more energy efficient, driving less, and consuming less "stuff." The less oil we use, the less need there is to continue drilling in high-risk locations such as deep off-shore waters or ecologically sensitive areas like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Visit the Viva Verde webpage for resources on how to become more energy efficient: www.vivaverdenm.com
- *Support strong environmental regulation of extractive industries, such as oil, gas, and mining.* Accidents happen. However, we can't trust industry to regulate itself. As the BP tragedy shows, lax environmental regulation, weak

SEE **BP OIL DISASTER** ON P. 7

GRIP CITIZENS' WATERSHED MONITORING GROUP TO FORM

Volunteers needed to track environmental quality of Silver City watershed

by Regina Ellis, VISTA Staffer

As part of its VISTA project to clean up legacy mine sites in the Silver City Watershed, GRIP is very excited to announce plans to organize a citizens' environmental monitoring group for the Silver City watershed. The project will kick off in July and we're looking for volunteers ready to get involved.

Current environmental monitoring in Silver City — such as surface water quality testing — is performed by government agencies. However, due to staff and budget constraints, designated sites typically are monitored every couple of years. But if trained local volunteers were able to monitor the area several times per year, critical information and knowledge would increase dramatically.

A citizens' watershed monitoring group will increase the number of residents involved in tracking the environmental quality of our watershed and build community awareness and capacity important for stewarding our water resources.

In collaboration with our partners — the New Mexico Environment Department, Town of Silver City and Grant County Trails Group — GRIP will train volunteers to detect such potential environmental problems as surface water contamination, severe stream bank erosion, trail deterioration, and other environmental concerns within Silver City's watershed. At present New Mexico



STUDENTS CHECK THE PH OF A LOCAL WATERWAY has only two programs listed in the National Directory of Volunteer Monitoring Programs, neither based in the southwestern region. Besides mobilizing volunteers in our own community to participate in these efforts, we hope to be a re-

SEE **MONITORING** ON P. 4