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TEN YEARS OF PROMOTING
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
BY PROTECTING
OUR ENVIRONMENT

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

GRIP SETTLES APPEAL OF CHINO MINE DILUTION PROPOSAL

FREEPORT-McMoRAN AGREES TO WATER TREATMENT, SAVING 9,000 ACRE-FEET OF CLEAN GROUNDWATER ANNUALLY

GRIP has won its five-year fight against Chino Mine's proposal to dilute contaminated water with clean groundwater rather than use more effective treatment technology. The environmental group reached a settlement with the mine under which Chino will use an advanced form of reverse osmosis to remove metals and sulfates from the wastewater it will produce for hundreds of years after mining stops at the site.

"After five years of legal wrangling," said GRIP president Sally Smith, "this is an enormous victory for the residents of Grant County. After committing to this new technology, it is unlikely that Chino Mines ever will return to its irresponsible and unsustainable plan to waste nearly 9,000 acre-feet per year of clean drinking water. This adds up to an annual savings of three times the amount of water Silver City uses each year. In an arid state like New Mexico, we must do our utmost to conserve our valuable groundwater resources. Freeport-McMoRan is no exception." (Freeport-McMoRan acquired Phelps Dodge Corporation in March 2007.)

In exchange for Chino's commitment to use the new water treatment technology, GRIP agreed to withdraw its appeal of the mine's closure plan, approved by the state of New Mexico in 2003. GRIP had appealed to the Water Quality Control Commission both

the dilution plan and the mine's proposal to leave unreclaimed several hundred acres of waste rock slopes around the open pit.

"This is the best use of GRIP's limited resources," said GRIP Executive Director Allyson Siwik. "Eliminating dilution was our top priority. Reclaiming the outcrops of the piles nearest the pit is important, and we believe it would be the responsible thing for Chino to do, but saving up to 9,000 acre-feet of water, equivalent to 3 billion gallons/year, represents the biggest bang for the buck."

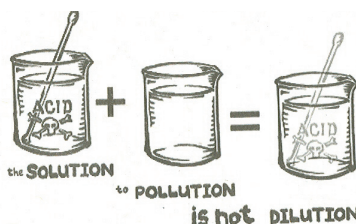
"We had to ask ourselves how much longer we could spend our supporters' donations on technical and legal hearings in Santa Fe," Smith added. "Freeport has enough money to drag out our appeal for several more years. We took the proposal seriously when they offered to settle in advance of yet another round of hearings."

Other aspects came into play in GRIP's decision. Based on the New Mexico Environment Department's current comments on the Chino five-year permit renewal application, NMED is requiring reclamation of the piles nearest the open pit. Although GRIP dropped its appeal of these aspects of the permit, the department appears to be unwilling to allow Chino to leave the piles unreclaimed. Additionally, it was clear that the Office of the State Engineer was unwilling to make a decision on the dilution question until closure

SEE CHINO APPEAL SETTLED ON PAGE 6

"We believe that because the mine now acknowledges advanced water treatment is technically feasible at Chino, it will be very difficult to convince the state to accept dilution again."

- Sally Smith, GRIP President



HIGH DEMAND SPURS HIGH COPPER PRICES

If you think gasoline prices are skyrocketing, take a look at copper. In 1911, a pound of raw, high-grade copper cost about 12 cents. As recently as 1956, the price was only 39 cents. But for much of 2008 that same amount of ore sold for around \$4 a pound. Since 2002 alone, copper's value has risen over 600 percent, making it one of the best performers in the precious metals market. (Prices also have risen dramatically for gold, silver, molybdenum, platinum, palladium, zinc, nickel, tungsten, and uranium.)

Copper mining in southwestern New Mexico has enjoyed an enormous boost from this turn of events, but what's behind the run-up?

The primary cause is increased world demand, fueled particularly by manufacturing and construction in Asia. China alone is said to be responsible for 64 percent of increased copper demand between 2003 and 2007. Russia and the Middle East, too, have industrialized at a furious pace. Vehicles, factories, power plants, houses, and electronic devices use lots of copper.

"Demand will be very difficult to slow down unless you take a very bearish view on the long-term global economy," Lehman Brothers energy analyst Adam Robinson told the *New York Times* last January. Noted natural resources fund manager John Dowd: "We have yet to see any material slowdown in international demand for commodities."

SEE HIGH COPPER DEMAND ON PAGE 6

GILA RESOURCES INFORMATION PROJECT

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(575) 538-8078 (voice/fax)
GRIP@gilaresources.info
www.gilaresources.info

MISSION STATEMENT

Recognizing that human and environmental systems are inseparable and interdependent, Gila Resources Information Project pursues two goals: to protect and nurture human communities by safeguarding the natural resources that sustain us all; and to safeguard natural resources by facilitating informed public participation in resource use decisions.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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GRIP was founded in 1997. It is supported by foundation grants and individual donations. Special gratitude for ongoing support is owed to the McCune Charitable Foundation of Santa Fe.

To become a member and receive a copy of Get A GRIP, a minimum donation of \$10.00 is appreciated. GRIP is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt organization; your contribution is tax-deductible.

Your privacy is important to us. GRIP will never share your name or personal information without your consent.

SILVER CITY CLIMATE PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MAPS OUT AN ACTION PLAN FOR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTIONS



In its effort to combat climate change at the local level, the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement Citizens' Advisory Committee has been hard at work preparing an action plan to reduce emissions of climate-altering greenhouse gas emissions (GHG's) within the Town of Silver City and the greater community. Established in January 2008 by a Town of Silver City resolution, the Citizens' Advisory Committee consists of 10 members and is charged with oversight and assisting with development of a carbon emissions inventory, preparation of an action plan to reduce carbon emissions, and research and procurement of funding to assist with planning and implementation.

By endorsing the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, Silver City joins more than 850 communities across the country in its pledge to reduce carbon dioxide emissions

to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. The Agreement states that communities "will strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in our own operations and communities." In development of an action plan, the Silver City Citizens' Advisory Committee has discussed a variety of strategies and actions to reduce GHG emissions within the town, such as improving energy efficiency of town buildings, lighting, and water pumping and treatment; land use strategies such as walking and biking policies; and education such as home energy audits, school-based education programs, and community educational programs. The Committee will have an all-day retreat on August 9 to prioritize the activities in the action plan. The committee expects to have a draft action plan ready for review by Mayor James Marshall and City Manager Alex Brown in August prior to presentation to the Town Council in September.

The committee meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm in the GRIP office at 305A North Cooper St. All meetings are open to the public. Agendas are available one week prior to the meeting at the Town of Silver City website at www.townofsilvercity.org/legalnot.htm

GILA RIVER NAMED AMONG AMERICA'S 10 MOST ENDANGERED RIVERS OF 2008

In case you missed the news, the Gila, New Mexico's last free-flowing river, was named one of America's "most endangered rivers" by the organization American Rivers. The Gila River is threatened by a water diversion project that could degrade this unique riparian area and impose hundreds of millions of dollars of debt on taxpayers. "While all of the Southwest is facing serious water supply problems compounded by global climate change, draining the Gila simply isn't the answer," said Rebecca Wodder, President of American Rivers. At the press conference with Governor Richardson announcing the designation, Todd Schulke of the Center for Biological Diversity, one of the Gila Conservation Coalition partner organizations, explained that "the good news is that local water supply needs can be met without using Gila River water. There is substantial water supply underneath the Silver City area that, combined with municipal and agricultural conservation, can supply water needs in southwestern New Mexico well into the foreseeable future. This is one of those rare situations where the proverbial "win-win" solution is actually possible." Check out the full press releases and media coverage at www.gilaconservation.org.

UPDATE ON ARIZONA WATER SETTLEMENTS ACT

SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO STAKEHOLDER GROUP MOVES FORWARD WITH NEW PLANNING PROCESS

Stakeholders from the four counties of southwestern New Mexico continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss how the state may use 14,000-acre-feet per year of Gila River water and up to \$128 million in federal subsidy for construction of a water development project, as authorized under the Arizona Water Settlements Act of 2004 (AWSA). The AWSA planning process was established last October in order to determine how best to utilize the authorizations in a cost-effective manner while also balancing historical and future demand for water against uncertain supply and environmental protection.

At the request of the Stakeholder Group, the Bureau of Reclamation developed a draft framework to guide the AWSA planning process. Entitled *Arizona Water Settlements Act New Mexico Process Framework*, the document was reviewed at the June 21 Stakeholder Group meeting.

As drafted, the Framework provides a planning structure to:

- Conduct comprehensive baseline studies to identify current and future water supply and demand in the four-county area of southwestern New Mexico;
- Identify a broad and balanced range of water supply alternatives that close

the gap between supply and demand and evaluate each with a common and agreed upon set of criteria.

The Framework will guide development of a needs assessment documenting the region's current water sources and uses, baseline biological and watershed conditions, future projected water demand, and water development alternatives. Alternatives will then be categorized and screened to eliminate options with fatal flaws, based on a set of yet-to-be-defined criteria (e.g., technical, social, economic, environmental, institutional, and legal feasibility; acceptability to public; costs; risk and uncertainty). After this screening, alternatives will be selected for further development and analysis. It is expected that this phase of the planning process will be completed in 2010.

In the face of on-going pressure from elements within the Stakeholder Group to focus only on studies to determine if and how much water can be taken from the Gila River, GRIP and its partners in the Gila Conservation Coalition (Center for Biological Diversity and the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance) continue to advocate for analysis of the full range of alternatives. This is consistent with Governor Bill Richardson's June 2007

"It makes no sense to examine only a Gila River diversion project when inexpensive water supply solutions are available... Our water managers need to look at a broad range of water supply and demand management alternatives to meet our future water needs."

*- Dutch Salmon,
Gila Conservation Coalition Chairman*

and 2008 policy statements, which included a "no diversion" option, as well as with the new Process Framework.

"It makes no sense to examine only a Gila River diversion project when inexpensive water supply solutions are available," said Dutch Salmon, Gila Conservation Coalition Chairman. "Our water managers need to look at a broad range of water supply and demand management alternatives to meet our future water needs."

The next meeting of the Southwest New Mexico Stakeholder Group will be Saturday, September 13, 2008, in the Grant County Administration Building, from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. All meetings are open to the public and you are encouraged to participate.

>>> WANT MORE DETAILS?

You may download Stakeholder Group agendas, minutes and other materials via the GCC Gila Settlement Implementation webpage at www.gilaconservation.org/gilasettlement.shtml.

Missed out on another water meeting? Catch it on Silver City's own TV station, CATS Channel 17. Check the program schedule at www.catsilver.org.

WE ALL LIVE IN A WATERSHED: GETTING TO KNOW SILVER CITY'S WATERSHED

WITH DAVE MENZIE, GEOLOGIST WITH SURFACE WATER QUALITY BUREAU, NM ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Presentation: Friday, August 15, 2008; 7:00 pm
Silco Theatre, downtown Silver City
\$5 donation appreciated

Watersheds are areas that drain to a common waterway, such as a stream, river, lake, wetland or aquifer. Join geologist Dave Menzie in a visual tour of Silver City's watershed and a discussion of its environmental impacts and physical characteristics. Learn what you can do to protect this life-sustaining resource.

Hike: Saturday, August 16, 2008; 9:00 am
Meet at La Capilla, atop Chihuahua Hill on Richard St. between Cooper and Robert

Explore some of the Silver City streams and wetlands that provide wildlife habitat and solitude in our own backyard. Learn about the vision for restoring these important resources. Bring water, hat, sunscreen, sturdy shoes and a light snack.

For more information, contact GRIP at 575.538.8078 or grip@gilaresources.info.

GRIP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD



GRIP Executive Director Allyson Siwik with her daughter Gabriela atop Canador Peak along the Gila River



GRIP Executive Director Allyson Siwik was appointed in March by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Stephen Johnson to the Good Neighbor Environmental Board. Created in 1992, the GNEB is an independent, non-partisan advisory committee that provides advice to federal officials on environment and infrastructure issues related to the U.S.-Mexico border.

Siwik, who now serves as the committee's New Mexico/Non-Governmental Organization representative, has 15 years of experience working with a broad range of stakeholders on such border-related matters. Since 2004 she has served as the U.S. Co-Leader of the New Mexico-Chihuahua Rural

Task Force under EPA's U.S.-Mexico Border 2012 Program. The group facilitates resolution of transboundary environmental issues in the southwestern New Mexico-northwestern Chihuahua area, including air quality degradation from unpaved roads and trash burning, cleanup and proper disposal of scrap tires, and problems related to water quality and quantity. GRIP has been involved in a number of border-area environmental projects, including analysis of copper smelter emissions and potential health concerns from short-term ambient sulfur dioxide concentrations; analysis of blood-lead levels in children; and coordination of an Environmental Justice Listening Session for the region.

The GNEB submits annual reports to the president and Congress that contain recommendations for action. The eleventh report, released in March, addresses natural disasters and the environment. Hard copies are available through the GRIP office at 538-8078 or may be downloaded from www.epa.gov/ocem/gneb. The board's twelfth report, now being prepared, will discuss innovative environmental strategies along the border.

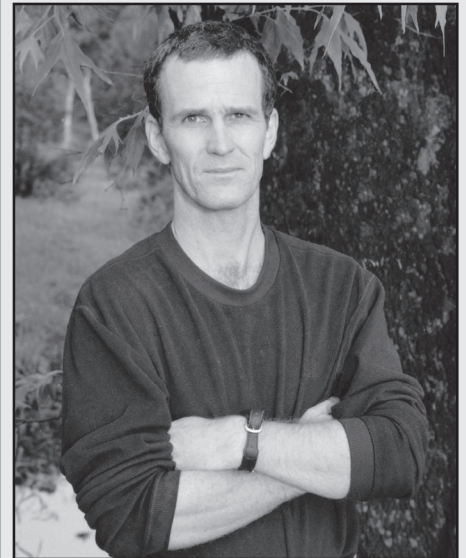
SUPPORT

THE GILA RESOURCES INFORMATION PROJECT TODAY!

Your financial contribution will help us continue our decade-long effort to protect our land, air and water for you and our children!

A donation envelope is enclosed in this newsletter for your convenience. You also may visit us at www.gilaresources.info and make a secure web donation.

GRIP BOARD MEMBER BERMAN AWARDED GUGGENHEIM



*Michael Berman,
member of GRIP Board of Directors
© Michael Berman*

GRIP congratulates founding board member Michael Berman on his recent receipt of a coveted Guggenheim Fellowship. The large-format photographer, who lives in the Mimbres Valley near San Juan, will use the grant to further his exploration and picture-taking in the northern Chihuahuan Desert, which extends roughly from Silver City deep into the Mexican state of Chihuahua and from near Tucson east toward the Big Bend area of Texas. In acknowledging his award, Berman said "it's a great honor that [a review panel] from outside the region would think our landscape is significant." In an essay accompanying his application, Berman described the Chihuahuan Desert as "a kind of puzzle" composed of many fragments. "What it could be, what it once was, is a beautiful mystery."

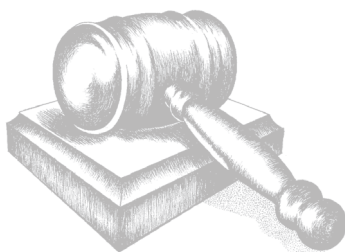
Look for *Premonitions*, a new exhibit of the photographer's work, at Silver City's Blue Dome Gallery, 307 N. Texas St., from Sept. 20 to Nov. 17. Berman also will lead a pair of six-hour workshops on Sept. 20-21 in conjunction with the 4th annual Gila River Festival. For information about the latter or to sign up for a workshop, contact the Gila Conservation Coalition at 538.8078. Berman's desert photographs can be viewed on-line at www.fragedimentedimages.com.

SHORT TAKES

THANKS FOR HELPING TO FIX THE BIGGEST BOONDOGGLE OF 2007!

Many of you responded to our request earlier this year (GetAGRIP, Winter 2008) to call our Grant County commissioners to encourage them to recruit and hire a new attorney. You expressed the need for independent legal service and to avoid the real or perceived conflict of interest posed by the county's former legal counsel, which was Freeport-McMoRan's law firm, Gallagher and Kennedy. The *Silver City Daily Press* reported that Abigail Robinson was hired by the commission in June. We think that commissioners did the right thing in dismissing Gallagher and Kennedy and obtaining in-house counsel. However, the County is embroiled in another conflict of interest question as they hired (without soliciting through a request for proposal process) Ms. Robinson's husband, Kevin Robinson, as project manager for construction of the new Fort

Bayard Medical Center. Mr. Robinson also happens to be the son of District Court Judge J. C. Robinson. John Saari, Grant County Manager, assured the *Daily Press* that the county will seek outside legal counsel for any issues related to Medical Center construction for the duration of the project, so there is "no potential for conflict." Seems like our commissioners still need some education on conflicts of interest!



WANT TO RECEIVE TIMELY INFORMATION RELATED TO GRANT COUNTY'S ENVIRONMENT & QUALITY OF LIFE?

It's easy to join GRIP's e-mail list. Simply visit our webpage at www.gilaresources.info and click on the Sign-up button on the left side of the screen. You'll receive e-mail notices on important meetings, events and issues related to our mission. We promise to keep your contact information private and our posts to a minimum.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

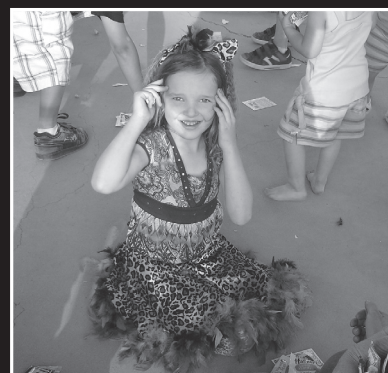
Interested in contributing to your community and local non-profit organizations? GRIP and the Gila Conservation Coalition are offering a number of volunteer opportunities for the Gila River Festival and other upcoming events as well as various administrative projects. Contact GRIP at 538.8078 or email grip@gilaresources.info.

GRIP TURNS TEN!

> Plenty of kids joined the grown-ups for the April 26 GRIP birthday party



> This girl's happy face helped light up the downtown Silver City festivities



> This "eco-piñata" was a highlight of GRIP's 10th anniversary celebration



CHINO APPEAL SETTLED (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

actually occurred— possibly decades into the future. This made it difficult for NMED to make a decision now on water treatment for the closure permit. GRIP's fear was that the dilution issue would fall through bureaucratic cracks and the situation would be allowed to remain unresolved.

Both GRIP and Freeport-McMoRan are bound by the settlement for 10 years. Beyond that the mine will be free to propose other water treatment options and GRIP has the right to oppose any unreclaimed waste rock piles still included in the mine's closure plan. "We believe that because the mine now acknowledges advanced water treatment is technically feasible at Chino, it will be very difficult to convince the state to accept dilution again," said Smith.

From the beginning, the Chino mine's closure plan and permit were a result of political pressure and a secret deal between former Governor Gary Johnson and Phelps Dodge. Just days before the public hearing on the permit was to be held in 2001, the state initiated back room discussions to agree to some of the major aspects of the Chino closure plan and associated water quality discharge permit, including the dilution proposal, allowing PD to leave uncovered the outcrops of waste and leach piles in and around the open pit, and less financial assurance than NMED and MMD staff had proposed. Contrary to the democratic and regulatory processes, the public and agency science were left out of the decision making. After a number of delays, the permit was issued in 2003.

GRIP's legal battle began in August 2003 when the Santa Fe-based nonprofit law firm, the New Mexico Environmental Law Center filed an appeal to the Water Quality Control Commission on behalf of GRIP. Phelps Dodge tried for two years to get GRIP's case dismissed. However, its efforts were unsuccessful as the New Mexico Court of Appeals ruled that GRIP had the right to have its case heard by the WQCC. Phelps Dodge saw the writing on the wall. GRIP's appeal and related permit conditions forced the company to reassess its dilution proposal. During 2006 and 2007 the company developed and tested a treatment technology that would remove enough heavy metals and sulfates from contaminated mine effluent to meet water quality standards for discharges of treated water. GRIP and the New Mexico Environment Department reviewed the results and determined that Chino appears capable of eliminating dilution sufficiently. Under the settlement agreement, this new

water treatment proposal will be included in the five-year renewal of Chino Mine's closure permit scheduled for approval this year.

"We applaud the mine's research and development efforts," said Siwik. "Our technical consultant proposed this kind of technology five years ago, but only with Chino's expertise and commitment could it be adapted to the specific chemistry of the Santa Rita pit and surrounding area."

HIGH COPPER DEMAND (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Historically, copper production has been a good indicator of the global economy's health. Its price rise has been roughly in sync with economic activity. (After aluminum and iron, copper is the planet's most used metal.)

The weakening of the U.S. dollar and economy has contributed to the surge by inflating prices and driving investors out of the stock and bond markets and into commodity speculation.

Another factor in the boom has been the shift from smelting to solvent extraction-electrowinning (SX/EW). The latter is a closed-loop process for extraction of copper from mined ore, waste dumps, and tailings. Ore is stacked on a leach pad and soaked with dilute sulfuric acid, after which the solution is collected and combined with an organic extractant that combines with the copper. Stripped from this liquid solution, the metal particles flow into a separate tank and are recovered through electroplating. The result is a 99.999 percent pure copper sheet.

Freeport-McMoRan, which uses SX/EW at its Chino and Tyrone mines near Silver City, has seen its stock price soar from \$67 to as high as \$127 per share during the past year. The Phoenix-based firm is among the world's largest copper producers and also mines the metal in Asia, South America, and Africa. It reportedly earned a \$2.7-billion profit in 2007.

"After its [spring 2007] purchase of Phelps-Dodge, Freeport seemed to use most of its profits to reduce long-term debt," said Bill Brancard, director of the Mining and Minerals Division. "But during the last six months or so, it appears the company is putting that money into capital investments." While Freeport has approached Brancard's office to discuss a few minor Grant County expansions, he says that so far this has translated into very little additional mining activity. "Their primary expansion projects have been in Arizona and Colorado as well as Africa's Congo."

However, given high copper prices, ore bodies that were previously uneconomical to mine are now considered

profitable. For example, current plans are to mine the Lee Hill Pit at Chino rather than use it for a leach pile as was previously planned as recently as 8 months ago. This change will now require that new leach capacity be developed at Chino, most likely expanding the existing footprint of the mine. "Life of mine" estimates have also increased, indicating that active mining will go on longer than anticipated a year ago. In the case of the Tyrone mine, 8 years longer than the 8 - 10 year estimate Freeport gave in their Tyrone appeal testimony last summer.

One side-effect of record copper prices in the U.S., is increased theft. Wire and plumbing pipe are disappearing overnight, along with electronic parts and even cemetery plaques.

LONE MOUNTAIN COPPER PROJECT

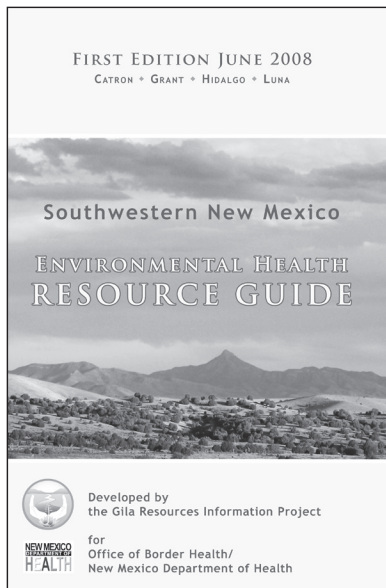
BACK ON THE TABLE?

In 2005 the Canadian mineral exploration corporation, Augusta Resources, acquired 100% interest in the Lone Mountain Copper Zinc Project, encompassing about 640 acres located at the southern end of Kirkland Road in Arenas Valley, 5 miles east of Silver City. The company obtained state permits to conduct exploratory drilling to better assess copper and zinc resources identified in the 1970s and '80s. News of a potential underground mining operation caused quite a stir in the area, with the Silver City Town Council discussing a possible resolution opposing mining operations within the city limits and extraterritorial zone. Augusta Resources never pursued plans to develop the Lone Mountain project. But the 2005 partnership formed to conduct the mineral exploration for Augusta has now reorganized into the Southwest Exploration Group and signed a Letter of Intent with another Canadian firm, Continent Resources, to continue mineral exploration.

Our assessment is that although copper prices are high, it is unlikely the project will get developed in the foreseeable future. This appears to be another case of a junior exploration company trying to get a major mining firm to buy its mining claims. Given that the big firms have more mines than capital or available equipment, the Lone Mountain project looks to be a long shot.

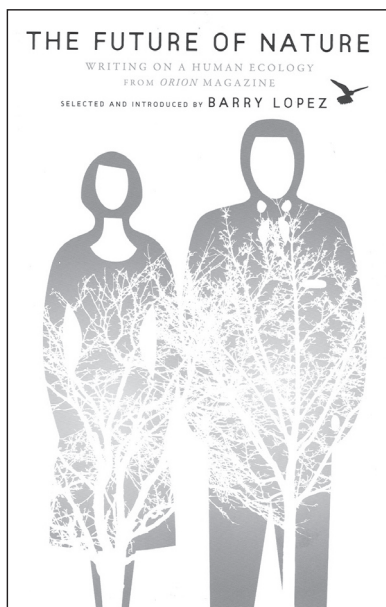
NEW TO THE GRIP LIBRARY

AVAILABLE FOR SHORT-TERM LOAN



Southwestern New Mexico Environmental Health Resource Guide. English/Spanish. June 2008. Produced by GRIP under contract to the Office of Border Health/New Mexico Department of Health. Developed to help citizens address environmental health issues in their communities, the bilingual Environmental Health Resource Guide provides community members and organizations with local, state and federal contact information for the most common environmental health topics in the four counties of southwestern New Mexico (Catron, Grant, Luna and Hidalgo counties). The guide also offers answers to a variety of frequently asked questions by environmental health topic. Download the electronic version from www.gilaresources.info or call GRIP at 538.8078 to request a hard copy.

The Future of Nature: Writing on A Human Ecology, from *Orion* magazine. Selected and introduced by Barry Lopez, 2007. Described as "required reading for those interested in a livable future, this collection explores the barriers that divide humanity from the natural world and reveals the damning results of that division. *The Future of Nature* looks through our pervasive ecological crises to the root causes in human culture and offers a path beyond." Anonymous donation.



The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming. Laurie David and Cambria Gordon. 2007. "[This] is the comprehensive resource readers can look to for understanding why global warming happens and the ways it impacts our planet, and how we can work together to stop it. Irreverent and entertaining, and packed with essential facts and suggestions for how to effect change, *The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming* offers a message of hope." Appropriate for kids and adults. Anonymous donation.

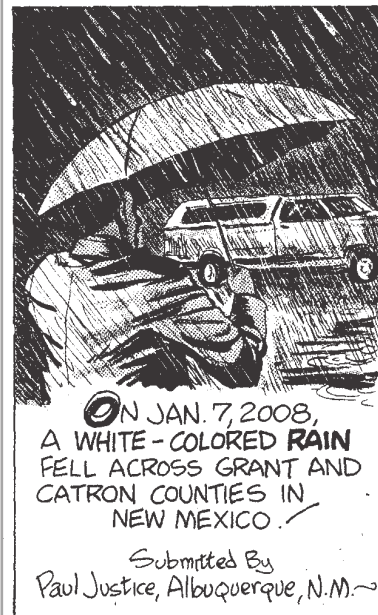
New Mexico Residential Water Issues: How Can We Use Water Wisely in the Home? DVD of June 11, 2008 GRIP Living Green Program presentation with Cheri Vogel, Water Conservation Coordinator with the NM Office of the State Engineer. Cheri discussed the range of conservation measures that we as individuals can implement inside and outside our homes to save water.

Farewell, My Subaru 2008. Written by Doug Fine -- Mimbres

Valley resident, author and National Public Radio contributor. "The details of Doug Fine's experiment in green living are great fun-- but more important is the spirit, the dawning understanding that living in connection to something more tangible than a computer mouse is what we were built for. It'll make you want to move!" Donated by the author.



Ripley's **Believe It or Not!**

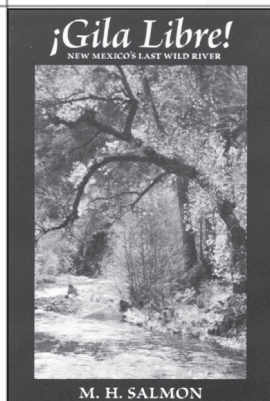


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You know you've really made it when Ripley's *Believe it or Not* has found you out. Oprah has touted us as a retirement hot spot. But now we're known for "the day it rained milk". Check out writer Mike Smith's webpage, *My Strange New Mexico*, for his account of last January's "milky rain" event and the unusual theories that have cropped up as to its cause. www.mystrangenewmexico.com/the-columns/2008/6/26/the-day-it-rained-milk.html.

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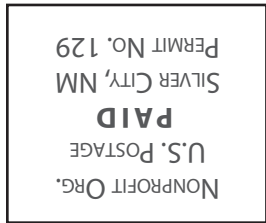


GILA LIBRE! NEW MEXICO'S LAST WILD RIVER

BY M.H. "DUTCH" SALMON

COMING THIS FALL FROM UNM PRESS

Gila Libre! New Mexico's Last Wild River is GRIP board member Dutch Salmon's story of a geographic anomaly that includes roughly four million acres of the nation's first (1924) designated wilderness area, New Mexico's largest national forest and the state's only undammed river. Visitors may spot a beaver and a coati mundi on the same day, an elk and a javelina on the same hillside, or catch a flathead catfish and a wild trout in the same pool. Apaches roamed along the Gila's banks, as did mountain men and outlaws. *Gila Libre!* tells the river's story to date, extolling what is still a unique Southwest resource and speculating on its future — which includes the threatening proposal for a major state and federal water project.



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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 4 - Arizona Water Settlements Act Implementation Group and Technical Subcommittee meetings - 10 am-3 pm; Grant County Administration Building, Silver City.

AUGUST 7 - Just Add Water: Restoration on the Gila River - 7 pm; Silco Theatre, downtown Silver City. Community forum on Gila River restoration efforts with representatives of The Nature Conservancy, Upper Gila Watershed Alliance, and U.S. Forest Service. Sponsored by the Gila Conservation Coalition. For info, call 575.538.8078 or visit www.gilaconservation.org.

AUGUST 15-16 - We all Live in a Watershed: Getting to Know Silver City's Watershed - 7 pm; presentation at Silco Theatre. downtown Silver City. Hike: August 16; 9 am; meet at La Capilla, Silver City.

AUGUST 23 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. 7:30am - 3pm at Bayard Community Center. Only residential wastes will be accepted. Contact Darby Smith at 602.725.8480.

SEPTEMBER 13 - Arizona Water Settlements Act Stakeholders Group meeting - 8:30 am-1 pm; Grant County Administration Building, Silver City, NM.

SEPTEMBER 18-21 - A Source of Inspiration, 4th Annual Gila River Festival - A celebration of the Gila River as experienced through creative expression with workshops on plein air painting, landscape photography, native plant dyes, field sketching, and nature writing, as well as lectures, hikes, kayak trips and performance art. For full schedule and descriptions, visit www.gilaconservation.org or call 575.538.8078.

SEPTEMBER 20-NOVEMBER 17 - Premonitions: Photographs of Michael Berman - Blue Dome Gallery; 307 N. Texas St., Silver City. Opening reception September 20; 5 -7 pm as part of Gila River Festival.