

CONTINUED FROM SAN VICENTE ON P. 1

volunteers, including students from the Western New Mexico University football team, Down to Earth and Aldo Leopold schools, and other area residents passionate about the creek. I've also organized clean-ups along Silva Creek, which flows into the San Vicente. GRIP has met regularly with the Grant County Trails Group, which shares our goal of removing trash and further establishing public trails along San Vicente Creek. Working together, we are making significant strides towards creating a "river walk" that would follow the creek from downtown all the way to the Silver City Golf Course. I've also made a presentation to a Border Area Mental Health board meeting, successfully urging BAMH to sell its land along the creek to the Town of Silver City in order to extend this trail through the Big Ditch.

I've worked on many projects with kids and schools designed to educate local youth about our natural resources. In July, for example, I coordinated a week-long project with The Wellness Coalition's Youth Volunteer Corps on watershed education and stewardship that included a hike along the San Vicente for the Coalition's "young leaders." As part of the seventh annual Gila River Festival in September, we partnered with José Barrios Elementary School to design masks and puppets for a parade themed "Wildlife of the Gila." During the festival I also led a clean-up at the Mogollon Box Campground and a willow planting at the Iron Bridge Tract.

Last July I helped organize the first annual Big Ditch Day Festival, in partnership with the Silver City Main-Street Project and Gila Conservation Education Center. The event featured live music, guided hikes along the creek, local vendors, and education stations.

I've enjoyed my service with AmeriCorps VISTA on behalf of GRIP. The relationships with community members and organizations have made the experience rewarding and productive. During my final months here I plan to write grant applications that seek to support the sustainability of the SCWK—and to prepare GRIP for its third and last VISTA member, who takes over from me in February.

If you wish to join the Silver City Watershed Keepers or talk to me about any of my other projects, please write dan@gilaresources.info or call 538-8078.

NM 2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS JAN. 12

SIGN UP FOR GRIP E-MAIL LIST TO GET IMPORTANT UPDATES

The 30-day state legislative session runs through February 16. Given that it's a short session, most of the focus will be on New Mexico's budget. However, we may need your help to prevent attempts by industry to rollback our environmental protections. Please sign onto the GRIP e-mail list at www.gilaresources.info if you wish to receive updates and action alerts, enabling you to better participate and get your voice heard in Santa Fe!

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