



CLIMATE ADVOCATES VOCES UNIDAS

Our Mission

To educate, engage and empower individuals, communities, and leaders to take ownership of and action on climate-related issues in their communities through a multifaceted process using media, scientific research and advocacy tools.

CAVU hopes to be at the forefront of a movement that has effectively solved the climate crisis by fundamentally shifting our society's relationship to the natural world.

Support CAVU online!



Engage online!



A Model for the West


CAVU has worked for more than 15 years to strengthen the connections and understanding our communities have to the natural world. During this time, I have seen firsthand how conservation and thoughtful restoration can bring a complete ecosystem back from the brink of collapse.

When CAVU began working in Costa Rica's famed Golfo Dulce, it was nearly a dead zone. For more than 4 decades pineapple and banana plantations had flooded the deep tropical fjord with massive amounts of agrochemicals. The result was a blanket of algae covering the bottom of the seabed, killing plant and plankton for fish and polluting the waters of the fjord. But now, after 15 years of concerted efforts by local communities and conservation organizations, the reefs have shed their algae, waters are clear and fresh, and multiple dolphin pods exceeding 300 individuals can be spotted on any given day. Golfo Dulce is once again vibrant with life. This is the kind of success that gives me faith and hope.

As you are probably aware, Western wildlife and landscapes are facing a similar peril. According to the UN, our planet will lose approximately 1 million species in the next century, many in our own backyards; it would be a much bleaker world for my children, and their children. I believe focused efforts to save Western wildlife and restore their unique ecosystems isn't only possible, but vital to our future. And I'm proud that CAVU is once again leading the way.

What you will read in this newsletter represents a tremendous amount of hard work by our small, dedicated staff, in coordination with more than 30 partners throughout the state and beyond. Whether it's working on climate change in our schools, reducing methane emissions or protecting wildlife corridors in the West, our aim is the same - connecting communities to real solutions, elevating local voices and cultivating the most powerful antidote to despair - hope.

As always, I would love to hear from you. You help make this work possible. Your feedback, your support, and your encouragement help sustain us through so much hard news during the year. We hear over and over again "keep going". So let me say thank you! I am excited about what we can do together, with your support, in 2020!


Jordan Vaughan Smith
Executive Director





CLIMATE INNOVATION CHALLENGE



Three cheers for the inaugural year of the Climate Innovation Challenge!

Why the Climate Innovation Challenge?

What if there were a way to think about mitigating climate change that recognizes the serious need to reduce emissions, but also recognizes the importance of reducing impacts to the human and natural systems we rely upon? In our minds, this is the value of teaching students about climate adaptation. As students learn to use science to inform their understanding of climate impacts, they also learn how these impacts can be evaluated and prevented. This gives them agency to directly participate in local solutions developed by them.

Climate adaptation can take place at the global, state, or national level, but it can also be a function of local communities, even down to the household level. While mitigation efforts like carbon pricing, eating less meat, and reducing energy use are very important parts of solving the problem of climate change, learning about and then supporting the natural resilience and adaptive processes of the natural world are equal parts of the equation that often get short shrift in the overall conversation about solutions. In invite you to join us in supporting this hopeful program for children.

See more at [CAVU.org/CIC](https://cavu.org/CIC) and join us for the student Video Showcase on January 18th, 2020 at the Bosque School!

Since May, CAVU has:

- Produced and distributed climate adaptation curriculum for 5th, 8th, and 11th grade
- Hosted a curriculum and video production training in collaboration with the Bosque School
- Worked with students from the Taos Day School to interview members of the Taos Natural Resource Dept. for their videos
- Provided supplemental lectures to classrooms in Santa Fe and Las Vegas NM

"CAVU has been a huge support for students and teachers in our classrooms as we move into the arena of intentional climate change science education and action."

Santa Fe Public Schools is thankful we have this local outfit producing high-quality instructional materials for our students who get to see their own beautiful backyards highlighted with New Mexico footage."

—Elena Kayak, Sustainability Program Specialist
Santa Fe Public Schools



Wildlife Without BORDERS

RECONNECTING WILDLIFE ACROSS THE WEST



As we've explored in our 4-part Wildlife Without Borders series, habitat connectivity is essential for the long-term survival of Western wildlife. Preserving the ability of animals to access food, water and other critical resources on an increasingly fragmented landscape is essential to help them cope with the stressors of climate change and other human-caused disruptions.

In order to create Wildlife Without Borders, the CAVU team interviewed over two dozen people, from farmers and ranchers to governors and US Senators. While our team certainly learned a lot during this process, perhaps the most surprising revelation was that the sentiments among those working on this issue are fairly universal. Those we interviewed agreed that this is a solvable problem, and that the process of solving it will benefit both human and natural communities.

Like many of CAVU's past productions, the characters in Wildlife Without Borders cover the gamut in terms of political, cultural, corporate, organizational and government affiliation. With such a wide spectrum of people working to preserve wildlife habitat and movement, you might expect that these folks valued collaboration and cooperation. In that case you'd be right. In the words of State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard, "I don't think we'll be successful if we don't collaborate." Many different issues have been lauded as the panacea for partisanship, and while those have their merits, the preservation of land and wildlife has been met with widespread success in states such as Wyoming, New Hampshire, New Mexico and Colorado. The push for habitat connectivity is a nation-wide, bipartisan movement.

The success of these legislative efforts are big steps in the right direction, but our interviewees often spoke to the necessity of a deeper shift in the way we view wildlife and the natural world, perhaps best expressed

by Senator Tom Udall: "The current approach in many places is to say, 'Things on the land are commodities.' I think the better way to think is, this is about community."

From the wildlife crisis emerges an opportunity to redefine our relationship to the wildlife and the land in terms of community, and realign our needs with the needs of wildlife populations and ecosystems. As in other CAVU projects, Wildlife Without Borders has been an experiment in precipitating shifts both in policy and perspective. And if the characters in our series have anything to say about it, a paradigm shift is just over the horizon.



Did you know?

In April of 2019, Comex New World Cobalt Ltd., surrounding national forest the area for gold, copper, devastating legacy. Acid tens of thousands of fish

CAVU is working the Tererro mine, copper branding the campaign important information

MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION ON METHANE



Regulating Methane Emissions Remains a CAVU Priority

According to recommendations from the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we must act urgently to reduce highly potent but short-lived pollutants like methane, in conjunction with steady cuts in long-lived greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide.

Despite this recommendation the U.S. Federal government is continuing to rollback clean air regulations, with both the Bureau of Land Management and the Environmental Protection Agency

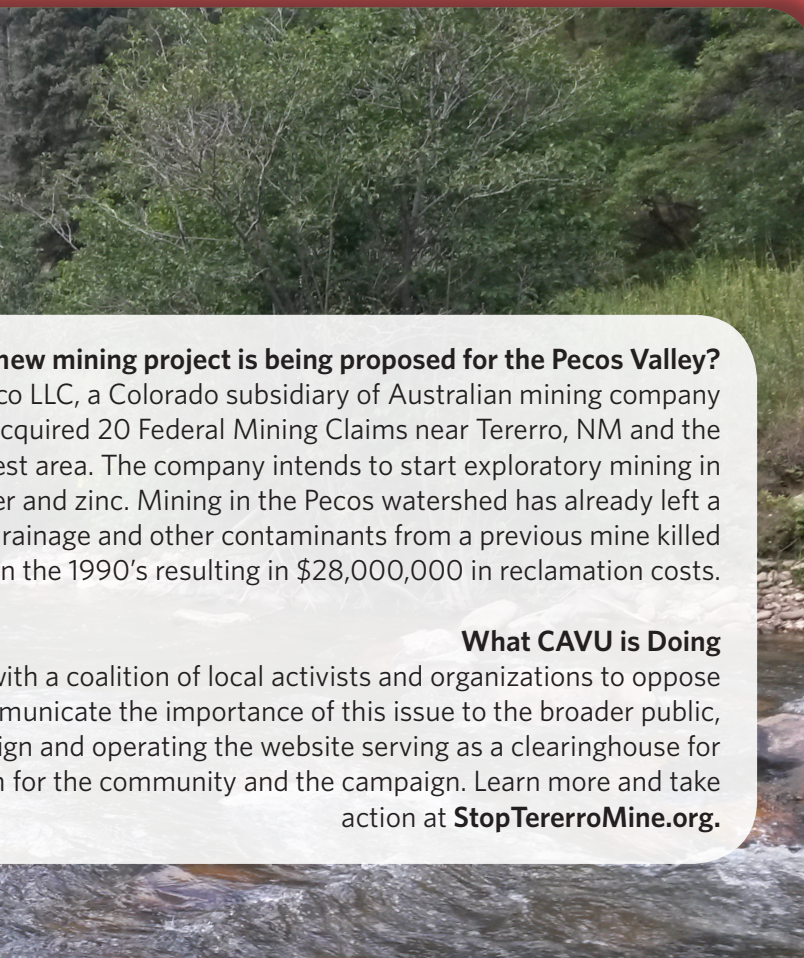
walking away from their oversight and enforcement of the oil and gas industry.

In recognition of this urgency, CAVU has remained part of the coalition leading New Mexico towards meaningful statewide methane rules. The Governor's Executive Order on climate change mandated that the New Mexico Environment Department and New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department work to develop such rules. We are currently in the midst of this process, but like many democratic processes this one is slow and methodical; don't expect to see a set of draft rules until next summer at the earliest.

In the meantime, CAVU is continuing to make sure methane waste and pollution remains a visible issue in our state. We have been working on revamping the Methane Matters website, **MethaneMattersNM.org**, to be a hub of information on methane waste and the rulemaking process. We will be filming throughout the state this winter and spring to create a series of video portraits on the Methane Matters website of the people most affected by methane waste and its regulation.

We've also been participating in stakeholder meetings, the Governor's Oil and Gas Technology conference and meeting with policy makers to ensure they recognize the need to create lasting comprehensive methane regulations for New Mexico's global oil and gas industry. Recent polling among New Mexicans has revealed strong bi-partisan support for statewide methane regulations, jumping to nearly three quarters of the voting population. Your voices are being heard!

Stay current by following **CAVU.org** and get involved by visiting **MethaneMattersNM.org** to keep track of opportunities to sign petitions, attend meetings, and provide comments as draft rules become available.



New mining project is being proposed for the Pecos Valley?

co LLC, a Colorado subsidiary of Australian mining company acquired 20 Federal Mining Claims near Tererro, NM and the west area. The company intends to start exploratory mining in copper and zinc. Mining in the Pecos watershed has already left a drainage and other contaminants from a previous mine killed in the 1990's resulting in \$28,000,000 in reclamation costs.

What CAVU is Doing

with a coalition of local activists and organizations to oppose communicate the importance of this issue to the broader public, design and operating the website serving as a clearinghouse for information for the community and the campaign. Learn more and take action at **StopTererroMine.org**.



Dispatches from the Classroom

by Atherton Phleger

As CAVU's program director, I've had the opportunity to visit some of the classrooms participating in the Climate Innovation Challenge (CIC) to provide supplemental lessons about climate adaptation and the intricacies of creating videos for CIC. Perhaps my favorite part has been the eagerness with which the students have engaged in climate-smart decisionmaking. What's a relatively complicated subject for many adults (myself included) seems to come naturally to kids, and why shouldn't it?



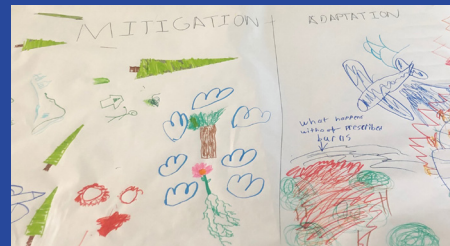
CLIMATE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

with future droughts, the floodgates of creativity burst open.

In Santa Fe, students already had ideas about how they could reduce their community's carbon footprint, so we focused on a different question: How can we make sure the mitigation choices we're making also help us become more resilient? Expect to see bold new arguments for solar panels that help their users weather the follies of an embattled electric grid, or how we can substitute drought-resilient and locally grown produce for imported meat.

Bringing adaptation into the classroom is important for many reasons, not least of which is the impact it can have on students' wellbeing. Our hope is that CIC will benefit not only these students, but the broader public that interacts with their video productions online or at the Showcase. If our experience is any indication, we'll all be better for it.

In Taos, students had a lot to say about protecting their communities from wildfires, from doing prescribed burns to commandeering firefighting aircraft. And once the students realized that the dry-farming techniques they had long seen demonstrated by older relatives could help their Pueblo cope



SUPPORT

Put your dollars to work, become a CIC supporter!

Today's youth are already working to solve the climate crisis. You can help them create local solutions by becoming a Climate Innovation Challenge supporter. Your donation will amplify their voices, share their creative ideas, and train tomorrow's leaders.

Donor Levels:

\$5,000 Global Changemaker

\$2,500 Champion of Hope

\$1,000 Resiliency Leader

\$500 Climate Defender

\$250 Adaptation Advocate



Every dollar and every student makes a difference.
To donate online visit cavu.org/donate



CLIMATE INNOVATION CHALLENGE





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DONATE WITH PURPOSE

Sip in Style!

'Tis the season to give and receive.
In that spirit, make a donation to CAVU of \$250 or greater
and receive a branded 20 oz. YETI Rambler mug!



Explore our programs and donate online at cavu.org/donate today!