



The Quivira Coalition

Education, Innovation, Restoration...One Acre at a Time



2005 Annual Report



2005 - Continuing the Mission

In 2005, The Quivira Coalition concentrated its energies on its four core program areas: 1) The Annual Conference 2) Outreach and Education 3) New Ranch Network, and 4) Demonstration Projects.

Our focus was on growing each program area modestly and steadily, with the goal of reaching more people and influencing more acres.

Fourth Annual Conference

Half Public, Half Private, One West: Innovation and Opportunity Across Boundaries.

“To ensure the long-term vitality of the values that we all cherish in the West – open space, wildlife, culture, economy – we need to unite our efforts and manage land as if fences didn’t matter.”
– from the Opening Statement by Courtney White, Executive Director

From January 13-15, 2005, over five hundred people - a new record - packed the Albuquerque Hilton to learn, listen, and shake hands as part of our Fourth Annual Conference. Divided in thirds between ranchers, conservationists, and state and federal land managers, attendees came from places as distant as California, Washington, Montana, even Canada.

The speakers were a diverse crowd as well, coming from ranches, agencies, and universities as far away as Mississippi, Hawaii, Washington, D.C., South Africa, and Albuquerque’s Valley High School! Topics ranged from goats to birds,

to a history of private property, to getting along with predators, to making a profit in the cattle business, to the Buddha.

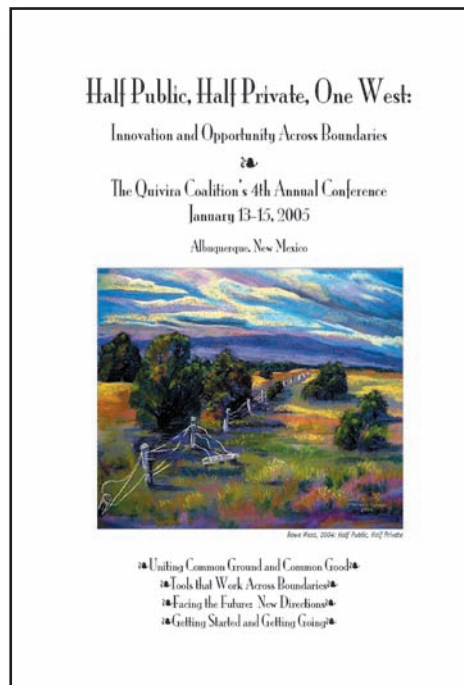
In one Conference highlight (of many), we were honored to have Allan Nation join us on Friday as our keynote speaker. Nation, a widely sought-after lecturer and teacher, publishes the *Stockman Grass Farmer*, which focuses on management-intensive grassland enterprises around the world.

We were also honored to be joined by Senator Pete Domenici, who encouraged the audience to “think big” when looking at natural resource issues. Impressed by the diversity in the room (we had a show of hands), Domenici expressed his support for any effort that was inclusive, including The Quivira Coalition.

In 2005, we expanded the Conference to include two all-day symposiums on Thursday, prior to the start of the main event. One was a Range School and the other was an in-depth exploration of the idea of “water-banking” – storing water in streambanks (where it would be naturally) instead of in reservoirs. Both events were well received and well attended – the Range School drew 100 people

and the “water-banking” symposium drew over 150.

The Conference began in earnest Thursday evening with a lively look at the “major possibilities” of minor breeds of



2005 Conference Attendance Statistics.

Conference	Rancher/Land Manager	Environmental	Federal	State	Tribal	Academic	Business & Restoration Business	Media	Public	Other	Totals	Percent Increase from previous Year
2002	101	39	77	19	0	19	11	4	42		312	
%	32.4%	12.5%	24.7%	6.1%	0.0%	6.1%	3.5%	1.3%	13.5%	0.0%	100.0%	
2003	118	47	68	17	11	36	30	7	41		375	
%	31.5%	12.5%	18.1%	4.5%	2.9%	9.6%	8.0%	1.9%	10.9%	0.0%	100.0%	20.00%
2004	155	69	65	20	13	26	37	4	27	6	422	
%	36.7%	16.4%	15.4%	4.7%	3.1%	6.2%	8.8%	0.9%	6.4%	1.4%	100.0%	16.00%
2005	176	68	78	22	15	39	39	9	38	8	492	
%	35.8%	13.8%	15.9%	4.5%	3.0%	7.9%	7.9%	1.8%	7.7%	1.6%	100.0%	13.00%

livestock around the nation. We were honored to have the event organized and hosted by award-winning author and heritage foods advocate Dr. Gary Nabhan, Director of the Center for Sustainable Environments at Northern Arizona University.

Conference sessions on Friday and Saturday included: Keeping the Family in Family Ranching, Working With Predators, Managing Landscapes Collaboratively, Safe Harbor Agreements, Virtual Fencing, Ranching From Scratch, How to Start a Watershed Group, and more.

By all measures, the Conference was a big success. One reviewer put it this way on an evaluation form: “I loved the diversity of the speakers and their backgrounds. I believe this is one of the things that keeps bringing people back to these conferences – even if you don’t agree with all the ideas, you are stimulated.”



2005 Clarence Burch Award winners.

Another respondent said “I will use things from this conference. I have many opportunities to do things differently on my ranch, from grazing to noxious weed control.”

2005 Clarence Burch Award

In an era when relations between ranchers and the Forest Service are often chilly, and occasionally confrontational, stories about cooperation, progress, and hope too often get overlooked. One such story can be found a few miles south of Quemado, New Mexico, in northern Catron County – a county notorious for its cranky attitude toward the federal government.

On the Williams Ranch – half public, half private – one ranch family decided to switch rather than keep fighting. The 4th Annual Clarence Burch Award was proudly presented to:

- ◆ Jim and Joy Williams, The Williams Ranch
 - ◆ John Pierson, The United States Forest Service, and
 - ◆ Kirk Gadzia, Resource Management Services.
- Also honored:
- ◆ Janice Stevenson, Quemado District Ranger, USFS
 - ◆ Steve Libby, Range Officer, Gila National Forest, USFS
 - ◆ Marcia Andre, Supervisor, Gila National Forest, USFS, and
 - ◆ Dave Stewart, Director of Rangeland Management, Region Three, USFS.

Education and Outreach

In 2005, the staff of The Quivira Coalition conducted an extensive program of workshops, lectures, reports, and publications around New Mexico and the Southwest.

2005 Workshops:

- ◆ *Rangeland Health & Planned Grazing*, April 22 and 23 on the Jemez Pueblo, Jemez, NM.
- ◆ *Ranching with Oil & Gas – Working on Common Ground*, May 13-14 on Devil's Spring Ranch near Blanco, NM.
- ◆ *Mesteño Draw Restoration*, May 20-21 on Mesteño Draw Ranch near Mountainair, NM.
- ◆ *Rowe Mesa Grassbank Site Tour*, May 21, Rowe, NM.
- ◆ *Water Harvesting from Low Maintenance Ranch Roads*, June 24 – 25 on the Rowe Mesa Grassbank, Rowe, NM. ,
- ◆ *"X-Stream" Makeover of Cedro Creek Wet Meadows*, July 8th, Tijeras, NM.
- ◆ *Low-Stress Livestock Handling Clinic*, July 22 & 23 in Cuba, NM.
- ◆ *Comanche Creek Volunteer Weekends*: July 23-24, August 20-21 and Sept. 17-18, Valle Vidal Unit of Carson National Forest



Riparian Restoration workshop on Mesteño Draw Ranch with instructor Bill Zeedyk, May, 2005.

Outdoor classroom on the Ute Creek Cattle Co. Ranch, August, 2005.



near Amalia, NM.

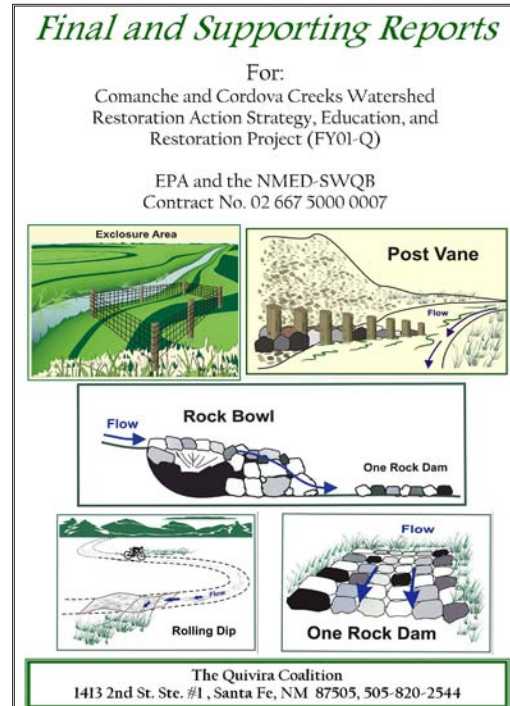
- ◆ *Reading the Landscape: Assessing Soil Conservation, Erosion Control and Water Harvesting Opportunities*, August 5, Los Trigos Ranch, Rowe, NM.
- ◆ *Reading the Landscape: Collaborative Ranching in Action*, August 19 on the Ute Creek Cattle Company Ranch Bueyeros, NM.
- ◆ *Outdoor Tour: Successful Riparian, Wetland and Erosion Control Treatments along Comanche Creek*, September 16, Valle Vidal Unit of Carson National Forest near Amalia, NM.
- ◆ *Land Health Basics — Soil, Water, Plants & People: Introduction to Monitoring and Plant Identification*, September 24, Carlito Springs (Bernalillo County Open Space) near Tijeras, NM.
- ◆ *Erosion Control and Induced Meandering*, September 30—October 1 on Rainbow Ranch along the Dry Cimarron near Folsom, NM.
- ◆ *Ranch & Livestock Seminar: Ranching for Sustainability and Profit*, October 6 at Ruidoso Downs, New Mexico, Sports Theatre, Ruidos, NM.
- ◆ *A Good Road Lies Easy on the Land: Water Harvesting from County Maintained Roads*, October 20-21, Philmont Boy Scout Camp, Cimarron, NM.

Publications and Reports

- ❑ April 2005 Newsletter: *Collaboration in Our Backyard: Lessons from Community-Based Collaboration in the West.*
- ❑ August 2005 Newsletter: *Collaborative Science: Making Research a Participatory Endeavor for Solving Environmental Challenges.*
- ❑ Winter 2005 Bulletin: *2004 Conference a Big Success.*
- ❑ Spring 2005 Bulletin: *The Rowe Mesa Grassbank™: A Model of Innovative Stewardship.*
- ❑ Fall 2005 Bulletin: *The New Ranch Network.*
- ❑ Comanche and Cordova Creeks Watershed Restoration Action Strategy, Education and Restoration Project EPA 319 - NMED grant Final Report.
- ❑ Comanche Creek Road Inventory Report.
- ❑ Costilla Watershed Restoration Action Strategy Plan (WRAS).
- ❑ Comanche Creek Uplands Quantitative Monitoring Report (2004 Data)
- ❑ Cedro Creek Restoration Assessment Report.
- ❑ Cedro Creek Baseline Monitoring Report.
- ❑ Nine Federal Grants Quarterly Reports.
- ❑ Rowe Mesa Grassbank™ Long-term Ecological Indicators Report.
- ❑ Rowe Mesa Grassbank™ Spring 2005 Production Report
- ❑ Rowe Mesa Grassbank™ Fall 2005 Production Report.
- ❑ Rowe Mesa Watershed Restoration Action Strategy Plan (WRAS).
- ❑ Rowe Mesa Forest Restoration Curriculum for grades K-12.

Talks and Presentations

- ☆ Annual Meeting, New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts, Taos, NM



November 2005, *Rowe Mesa Grassbank™: Collaborative Stewardship On Public Land* presented by Craig Conley.

- ☆ 8th Biennial Conference of research on the Colorado Plateau, Flagstaff, AZ, November 2005, *Rowe Mesa Grassbank™ Collaborative Stewardship In Action* presented by Craig Conley.
- ☆ NM Highlands University, lecture on *Monitoring and Management on The Rowe Mesa Grassbank™* to a class on Silviculture, Spring 2005, presented by Craig Conley.
- ☆ Society for Range Management, Ft. Worth, TX, February 2005, *Rowe Mesa Grassbank™ Collaborative Stewardship In Transition* presented by Craig Conley.
- ☆ Annual Meeting of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, in West Yellowstone, Montana attended by Courtney White.

In addition, The Quivira Coalition was the subject of two significant magazine stories:

📖 The cover story of High Country News (September 5), *Rangeland Revival*.

📖 Orion Magazine (December 2005) *Between Hoofprints*

The New Ranch Network (NRN)

The New Ranch Network consists of ranchers, scientists, consultants, specialists, conservationists, volunteers and others who are willing to assist a rancher or other landowner in 'making the leap' to progressive stewardship through collaboration. The NRN 2005 accomplishments include:

☞ At The Quivira Coalition's Fourth Annual Conference, in January 2005, we hosted a day-long Range School, sponsored by the USDA Forest Service, featuring instructors from Colorado Extension Service and the USFS. Over one hundred people attended.

☞ Cost-shared the employment of Kirk Gadzia as a Coach for Tom and Cinda Cole, who recently purchased a ranch near Silver City, NM. The Coles are eager to manage their property for land health goals, including restoring their substantial riparian area and improving the uplands for wildlife. Kirk helped them set goals and create a long-term vision for the property.

☞ We accepted a grant proposal from the Upper Eagle Creek Watershed Association, located in the Blue Mountains north of

Morenci, Arizona. The grant enabled them to complete a comprehensive watershed restoration plan in cooperation with the Forest Service. A group of eight ranch families, most of whom are public lands permittees, the Association recently became a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. In August 2005, their work paid off when the Arizona Department of Agriculture awarded them over \$700,000 in grants to implement their watershed plan.

☞ We accepted a grant proposal from the Canelo Hills Coalition, a group of Forest Service permittees and private lands ranchers located south of Sonoita, Arizona, to train three Coalition members in new monitoring protocols developed and taught by the University of Arizona and the NRCS.

☞ We accepted a grant proposal from rancher Anne Verner, a public school science teacher and member of the Upper Verde River Adaptive Management Partnership – an association of Forest Service permittees located near Prescott, Arizona – to cost-share an environmental education program at Chino Valley High School. This program focuses on land health, ranching, and public lands.

☞ We accepted a proposal from the Diablo Trust, a twelve-year old ranching and conservation collaborative based in Flagstaff, Arizona, to implement an



Low Stress Livestock Clinic, Springerville, AZ, September 2006

innovative social and ecological monitoring program in cooperation with faculty members at Northern Arizona University.

∇ We paid the expenses for Guy Glosson, a rancher, educator and member of the New Ranch Network, to teach a two-day low-stress livestock handling clinic in Springerville, Arizona, in mid-September. The clinic was organized by the Upper Eagle Creek Watershed Association, who provided a substantial in-kind match. The clinic was advertised to five Forest Service Districts in the area.

∇ We have launched the New Ranch Network web site (www.newranch.net) which will be a Directory for folks looking for contact information and other assistance.

NM Environment Department, NM Game & Fish, Trout Unlimited, NM Trout, the Valle Vidal Grazing Association, the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Bill Zeedyk, Steve Carson, and others. Work along Comanche



Comanche Creek Project Tour, Valle Vidal, Carson National Forest, September 2005.

Demonstration Projects

In 2005, The Quivira Coalition extended our Dry Cimarron and Comanche Creek projects, began a new one on Cedro Creek and began rethinking how we should manage the Rowe Mesa Grassbank™. Our goal with each of these projects is to “walk the talk” of progressive land stewardship, collaboration, monitoring, and restoration.

Comanche Creek

Since 2002, we have been the chief organizers of a collaborative restoration project focused on Comanche Creek, located in the western half of the Valle Vidal unit of the Carson National Forest, near the Colorado state line. This project is funded by the EPA, under its Clean Water Act mandate, and includes the Forest Service, the

Creek for 2005 overlapped two restoration grants encompassing over six miles of creek under restoration. Despite a high water event that damaged almost all previously installed elk-exlosures, much work was accomplished through the dedicated work of volunteers, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC), Quivira Staff and implementation contractors.

2005 Accomplishments:

- * Middle Reach Assessment and Mapping.
- * 404/401 permits submitted and approved.
- * Upper Reach Road Inventory Monitoring.
- * Upland Photo Monitoring Points. Riparian Geomorphology Survey on the Middle Reach.

* Twelve vane treatments were installed by volunteers and RMYC. Vanes direct stream flow away from eroding banks to reduce sediment production and promote streambank vegetative growth.

* Fifty-two mini-exclosures had been constructed along the lower reach. Due to a flood event in May of 2005, most of the mini-exclosures were damaged or down. New specifications for building these exclosures were developed and various volunteer groups came out in record numbers to help re-build about 42 structures.

Mini-Exclosures are small fenced areas installed in strategic places and designed to increase woody streamside vegetation and protect overhanging banks from elk and livestock grazing and trampling.

* A Rock Plug was installed by RMYC to protect Forest Service Road 1950 from an encroaching eroding bank.

* Upland erosion control treatments have been installed over the past 4 years and include treatments such as: One Rock Dams, Rock Bowls, Headcut Control Structures, Baffles, Rock Divits, and a Worm Ditch. To date, 171 treatments have been installed within the Comanche Creek Watershed.

In 2005, three Comanche Creek Restoration interpretive signs were created and will be installed in June 2006 on selected sites along FSR 1950 along Comanche Creek.

All information pertaining to this project can now be found on the new Comanche Creek Website (www.comanchecreek.org).



Volunteers install a picket baffle during a workshop on the Dry Cimarron, Folsom, NM, October 2005.

Dry Cimarron

The Dry Cimarron is another collaborative, EPA-funded restoration project – this time focused on a three-mile stretch of private farmland along the Dry Cimarron River, located a few miles west of Folsom, in northeastern New Mexico.

In 2005, the grant was extended through June 2006. Restoration on the river was expanded to include reaches on the west end



Middle school students help restore Cedro Creek, Tijeras, NM, July 2005.

of the ranch. Three major earthwork projects were implemented in September and volunteers installed eight more in-stream structures to stop headcuts from moving upstream and protect eroding banks. In 2006, a final workshop will complete the restoration work with two cross vanes being installed, willows planted and structures repaired along with follow-up vegetation monitoring.

Cedro Creek

Cedro Creek is a perennial, intermittent creek approximately nine miles long and located within the Cibola National Forest/Sandia Ranger District on the eastern side of the Manzano Mountains in central NM. The restoration of Cedro Creek is being implemented through a FY04 EPA Wetlands Grant Clean Water Act Section 104(b) (3) grant administered by NMED-SWQB with task implementation by The Quivira Coalition. The goals of this grant are to increase wetland areas within the Cedro Creek Watershed and train up to 40 people in Wetlands and Riparian Restoration Techniques.

2005 accomplishments included:

- ⊕ Watershed Assessment
- ⊕ Restoration Design
- ⊕ Mapping
- ⊕ 404/401 Permitting

- ⊕ Two Partnership Meetings
- ⊕ Vegetation Monitoring
- ⊕ Geomorphology Survey
- ⊕ Student Workshops
- ⊕ A 2-day *Water Harvesting for County Roads* Training

Rowe Mesa Grassbank

Operations Overview

2005 was a busy year for the Grassbank. As soon as roads were passable in early April, Michael Moon, our new ranch manager, took on the daunting task of getting the 30 miles of water system back on-line and over 50 miles of fences repaired. Cattle (142 mother cows and their calves from two permittees) arrived on May 9th, a week ahead of the scheduled date. Our first grazing season ended in mid-October - a complete success!

Michael and his family moved into the ranch headquarters in mid-June.

With contributions from the 2005 Investor Campaign we hired Rainharvest, a local water harvesting contractor, to design a rain water collection system for the headquarters. The first part of the system was installed in October. We hope to add to it in the spring 2006. Our ultimate goal is to supply most of the headquarters water

Cattle grazing the the Rowe Mesa Grassbank, 2005.



needs through water harvesting.

Bill Zeedyk led a *Water Harvesting from Low-Standard Roads* workshop on the Grassbank at the end of June. In conjunction with the workshop, Steve Carson did major road drainage reconstruction along the 10 miles of Forest Service Road 324 from the Grassbank entrance to the headquarters. This was a huge undertaking and overall was quite successful. The few rains we received in the fall clearly showed the value of well- drained ranch roads.

A new monitoring program has been implemented for the Grassbank which includes:

- production monitoring at 18 locations in the spring and fall;
- line point intercept transects at 18 locations;
- Grazing Response Index (GRI) applied to all pastures to assess use, recovery and to set the stage for development of next year's grazing plan; and
- qualitative land health assessment using the Jornada 17 indicators.

The first Collaborative Forest Restoration Project (CFRP), implemented by the Four Corners Institute, has been completed on 300 acres. The fire to burn the slash was completed in April and was extremely successful. The second CFRP project (900 acres) - managed by the Conservation Fund - will begin treatment in the fall of 2006.

Rethinking the Grassbank Model

In July, we began discussions with our partners to begin the development of a new financial and operational structure for the Rowe Mesa GrassbankTM. The goal in restructuring the Grassbank is to make the operations financially sustainable for the long

run while protecting, and strengthening its core missions of exchanging and leveraging forage for conservation on public lands in northern New Mexico while supporting the ranching tradition.

Currently, the Rowe Mesa GrassbankTM operations' budget comes from the Forest Service (50%) and various grants (50%). Not only is our own Grassbank's TM financial equation hard to replicate, but asking grazing associations and other organizations to wade into the increasingly competitive waters of nonprofit management and fundraising may be asking too much.

A new model has emerged that we expect to implement over the next five years. At the core of this new model is the development of a new grazing association that will use a portion of the permit to own livestock and in which The Quivira Coalition will be a member. This association will provide an opportunity for us to partner with beginner ranchers from communities surrounding Rowe Mesa in managing the operation of the Grassbank and will provide revenue to support the core operations of the ranch. The second major element of the new model is the development of a herder training and support program that takes the Grassbank to the cattle on other allotments and helps support multiple allotments in the long term management of conservation treatments and sensitive resources.



The Quivira Coalition 2005 Asset & Ordinary Income and Summary
 Period ending December 31, 2005
 (Cash Basis)

All financial documentation is shown before 990 tax reporting and annual audit.

ASSETS

Current Assets	\$343,406
Fixed Assets	\$494,894
Other Assets	<u>\$12,624</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$850,924

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	\$158,760
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>\$110,083</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$268,843

January—December 2005 Ordinary Income

INCOME		Percent
Program Contractual	\$103,214	13%
Public Contributions	\$123,965	15%
Government Grants	\$331,305	41%
Foundation Grants	\$199,079	25%
Product Sales	\$9,841	1%
Registration Income	\$30,233	4%
Other	\$3,702	1%
TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME	\$801,339	

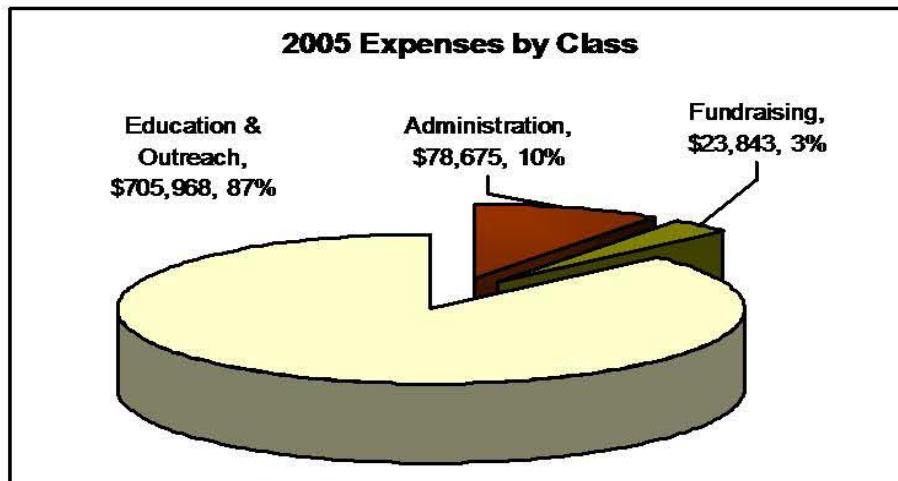
In-kind Professional Contributions \$33,461.00

The Quivira Coalition 2005 Expense Summary

Period ending December 31, 2005

(Cash Basis)

Advertising & Promotion	\$1,372	0.2%
Burch Awards	\$26,545	3.0%
Computer Hardware/Software	\$5,597	0.7%
Dues and Subscriptions	\$498	0.1%
Event Food	\$34,588	4.3%
Insurance	\$46,130	5.7%
Interest Expense	\$4,604	0.6%
Licenses & Fees	\$6,944	0.9%
Materials & Supplies	\$56,156	6.9%
Office Supplies	\$3,087	0.4%
Payroll Expenses	\$251,420	31.1%
Postage and Delivery	\$10,248	1.3%
Printing and Reproduction	\$24,969	3.1%
Professional Fees	\$225,746	27.9%
Property Taxes	\$1,644	0.2%
Office, Venue & Equipment Rental	\$34,438	4.3%
Office & Equipment Repairs	\$10,635	1.3%
Resale Products	\$4,599	0.6%
Telephone	\$7,863	1.0%
Travel & Accommodations	\$31,569	3.9%
Utilities	\$6,309	0.8%
Other	\$13,525	1.7%
Total Expense	\$808,486	



Staff

Courtney White,

Executive Director

Craig Conley,

Associate Director

Tamara Gadzia,

Programs and Finance Manager

Sheryl Russell,

Administrative Coordinator

Deborah Myrin,

Education & Mapping Coordinator

Catherine Baca,

Grassbank Administrator

Michael Moon,

Rowe Mesa Grassbank Manager

Genevieve Head,

GIS & Archeology Coordinator



Quivira Coalition Staff: (Back Row - left to right) Michael Moon, Tamara Gadzia, Catherine Baca, and Courtney White. (Front Row - left to right) Sheryl Russell, Deborah Myrin and Craig Conley (Gen Head not shown).

In 2005, we were very pleased to have Deborah Myrin join the staff. Deborah came to us from northern Utah as an intern on the Rowe Mesa Grassbank™.

2005-2006 Board of Directors**

Ernest Atencio; Chair, Executive Director, Taos Land Trust

Sid Goodloe; Vice Chair, Rancher, Carizzo Valley Ranch

Virgil Trujillo; Vice Chair, Rangeland Manager, Ghost Ranch

Sterling Grogan; Secretary, Biologist, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District

Bob Jenks; Treasurer, Resource Management Solutions

Roger Bowe, Rancher

Joan Bybee, Educator, Rancher, Mesteno Draw Ranch

Frank Hayes, U.S. Forest Service District Ranger, Clifton, Arizona

Rick Knight, Professor, Colorado State University

Mark McCollum, Rancher

Tim Sullivan, The Nature Conservancy

Maria Varela, Rural Economic Development Planner

***Affiliations are listed to convey the breadth of experience that these individuals bring to the governance of The Quivira Coalition.*