





A New Mexico Vision for Conservation:

Conservation is embedded in traditional lifeways as a collective, multigenerational practice that respects the interconnections between people and nature and which protects the intrinsic value of Mother Earth. It is guided by those most disproportionately impacted by adverse health outcomes that stem from disconnection and displacement to home and land. Conservation cannot be done without addressing the dispossession, violence, and injustices that occur under oppressive systems including capitalism and colonialism.

OUR PROCESS:

We ground ourselves in the memories and traditional ways of our ancestors in order to reclaim our connection to the land.

We make decisions for our ancestors, ourselves, and our descendents.

We strive to be in relationship with Tribal communities, BIPOC communities, elders, and youth in a way that respects the languages and spiritualities in which we practice our connection to place.

We commit to a process that intentionally prioritizes the return of land and water back to the Indigenous peoples who are the original stewards of these places

By doing this work, we shift our view of the land and Earth to its intrinsic value and move away from the further exploitation and commodification of its land, air, and water

We are changing the dominant narrative of who is connected to the land and who controls that narrative. For BIPOC and immigrant communities specifically, there is a normalization that these communities can work on the land but not enjoy them. The latter is enforced by over policing of Indigenous and people of color.

Indigenous communities exist across the world. We must broaden the scope of history wider than the establishment of the United States to one that acknowledges the interconnectedness of all peoples that have inhabited this land base throughout history.

This work must shift from individual to collective action while understanding the systemic and institutional structures that are in place that uphold the status quo.

Being a part of the land is protecting it, and therefore we must protect the places where we live, work, pray, play and learn.

HOW WE MOVE:

Environmental racism has resulted in BIPOC communities being disproportionately exposed to toxic environments that adversely impact mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health across generations while also prioritizing the protection of remote places accessible to primarily wealthy, white communities.

Where we live, work, pray, play and learn are worth protecting.

We must protect cultural and historic places, our water systems (inclusive of acequias, rivers, lakes, irrigation, etc.), mountains and natural landscapes, and parks and open spaces while simultaneously ensuring that we are not unintentionally creating sacrifice zones or over policing Indigenous and communities of color.

Conservation and culture are not mutually exclusive. Conservation efforts must honor access for traditional ceremonies, practices, and which allow for the education of our current and future generations while protecting Mother Earth.

Protecting the land may mean restricting access to industries that may harm the land.

Resources should be allocated to both rural and urban communities to protect places from overgrazing, military, and extractive industries that harm the land and therefore the people.