



Jessica Lawrence <cewgnm@gmail.com>

Trout Unlimited / Intel New Mexico

Jessica Lawrence <cewgnm@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 11, 2018 at 2:35 PM

To: tmitchell@tu.org

Cc: John Bartlit <jrbartlit@aol.com>

Mr. Mitchell - I am copying a message below from the Community Environmental Working Group's acting chair.

*Thank you,
Jessie Lawrence
CEWG Facilitator*

Mr. Mitchell,

The Community Environmental Working Group (CEWG), which meets monthly in Corrales, has read news of the environmental project being done jointly by Trout Unlimited and Intel New Mexico. One brief account was April 10 in the Rio Rancho Observer: http://www.rroserver.com/news/article_eaa1d19e-3cc8-11e8-8b53-a3647cf7b35a.html

The CEWG has been working since 2004 to make environmental improvements at Intel and has had a substantial number of successes. Our areas of work, our methods and results are on our web site at <http://www.cewg.org/>. The CEWG is interested in learning more details about your project to improve the Rio Grande watershed. Do you have a newsletter or press release from Trout Unlimited that you could send us? How did the project begin and with what ideas? Who were your chief working contacts at Intel? Were there problems to solve and how were they worked out? Your experience might well spark ideas that we could use in our work.

We also invite you or another representative to attend one of our meetings on the third Wednesday of every month at 5:15-7:00 p.m. at the Corrales Senior Center. We would appreciate any further information you can provide about your joint project.

Thanks for your environmental work.

Very truly yours,
John Bartlit, Acting Chair, on behalf of the Community Environmental Working Group



Jessica Lawrence <cewgnm@gmail.com>

Trout Unlimited / Intel New Mexico

Toner Mitchell <Toner.Mitchell@tu.org>
To: Jessica Lawrence <cewgnm@gmail.com>
Cc: John Bartlit <jrbartlit@aol.com>

Wed, Jun 13, 2018 at 2:48 PM

Hello Jessica and John,
Thank you for the invitation to your next meeting. Hopefully I'll be able to attend.

First off, I'd like to clarify that TU and Intel's partnership in NM has yet to begin. Beginning in August of this year, Intel will help us complete restoration of the Valle Vida's Comanche Creek main stem, which feeds the Rio Costilla near the Colorado border. I was hoping to find in my files a good summary of the history of restoration in Comanche Creek, but I haven't found anything. So I'll have to break it down here.

Comanche was damaged by an era of resource extraction (grazing, mining, and logging) around the turn of the last century. Since then a great deal of erosion has taken place, manifest as channel incision and head cutting. To be more exact, there are named tributaries that were actually not surface waters before the damage; cattle trailing and wagons actually pierced fen wetlands (a form of slope wetland), which have been draining for almost a century.

The first organization to see Comanche as a project opportunity was the Quivira Coalition out of Santa Fe around 2000. Quivira pioneered a low cost/high effect methods of Bill Zeedyk, using natural materials such as logs and rocks to increase channel meandering and sediment deposition on banks, the effect of which is to increase bank vegetation, floodplain access, and aquifer elevation. On small tributaries, the repair of headcuts has resulted in the same thing, with the additional result of increased groundwater storage and wetland expansion.

TU's initial involvement in this work involved generating volunteers for group work sessions. Our local chapters also contributed small amounts of funding for tools and project logistics. Then in 2015, funding from Coca Cola (through the National Forest Foundation) enabled TU to conduct this work on a broader scale, the company's objective being to offset water used in making their products with water retained in the landscape. Calculating this offset is in their wheelhouse, but the equation they devised indicates that more than 300 acre feet of water have been retained on the land to date. The Comanche partners have a little more work to do, which Intel will be helping us out with this year through NFF and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, but we're hoping to take the lessons we've learned and apply them to other damaged Rio Grande tributaries.

As I've said, a big effect of this work has been the raising of groundwater elevations through induced meandering, sediment deposition (and consequent channel aggradation). Higher groundwater levels help sustain streamflows through dry periods such as this awful year, and groundwater, being generally cooler, helps in the survival of the Rio Grande cutthroat trout, NM's state fish that we're trying to keep off the Endangered Species list. Another wonderful benefit is the productive relationship that has developed between conservation groups and the cattle grazing association in the Valle Vidal. The association has been integral to project success, by adapting his management to ensure the durability of our stream installations, and by contributing other ideas to address problems like elk impacts. Finally, involvement from our corporate partners has been leveraged by Pittman Robertson funding, through which NM Game and Fish will be able to triple every dollar spent with work in upland areas (more meadow restoration, forest treatments, etc.).

I've attached a couple photos, unfortunately taken at different times of year. The winterish shot shows a

degrading channel; you'll see it channeling to the right, where it's downcutting and dropping the water table. The other pic is of the installation we put in to stop the draining. This is at the top of the watershed; we've progressed several miles downstream since then, and Intel will be helping us address a reach of Comanche Creek near its confluence with the Rio Costilla.

I hope that answers your questions, and please let me know if you have others.



Toner Mitchell

New Mexico Water and Habitat Coordinator

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From: Jessica Lawrence <cewgnm@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, June 11, 2018 2:35 PM
To: Microsoft Office User <toner.mitchell@tu.org>
Cc: John Bartlit <jrbartlit@aol.com>
Subject: Trout Unlimited / Intel New Mexico

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2 attachments



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Jessica Lawrence <cewgnm@gmail.com>

Trout Unlimited / Intel New Mexico

Jessica Lawrence <cewgnm@gmail.com>

Thu, Jun 14, 2018 at 9:44 AM

To: Toner.Mitchell@tu.org

Cc: John Bartlit <jrbartlit@aol.com>

Thank you for this response, Toner. We appreciate all of this information, and I'm sharing it with the other CEWG members.

It would be wonderful if you could attend an upcoming meeting. Our next meeting is next Wednesday, June 20, from 5:15-7:00 PM at the Corrales Senior Center. If you can make it in June, you might make a few brief informal comments about Trout Unlimited, or you could just observe. As another option, perhaps we could put you on the agenda for a presentation in the coming months, if you'd be interested in that.

Please let me know, and again, thank you for this information.

Jessie Lawrence

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