

Phaedra Greenwood

I am a long-time resident of Arroyo Hondo and a parciente on the Acequia de Atalaya. For many years I have been concerned about the health of the Rio Hondo. Our household is dependent on this vital river for both irrigation and domestic use. Over the years I have watched the Rio Hondo deteriorate, which alarms me. For five years I served as secretary for the Committee to Save the Rio Hondo. Recently our small property was an important part of a UNM ecology study. The riparian areas that lie between the acequias and the Rio Hondo are a rich source of biodiversity. Along the Rio Hondo I have seen and photographed many wild animals including elk, cougar, bighorn sheep, bobcats, black bears, deer, raccoons, rabbits, skunks, weasels, foxes, coyotes, prairie dogs, otters, pack rats, three different species of mice, various snakes, lizards, toads, butterflies, and over 50 species of birds. With wildfires roaring all around us, threatening our watersheds, I think it would be totally appropriate to designate this little river that nurtures our stock, waters our gardens, orchards and crops and turns our valleys green as Outstanding Natural Resource Waters. All waters are sacred. Agua es vida. Thanks.









