

# Welcome to the Conference



*Manuel Hernandez  
NHEC Chairman*

On behalf of the National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC), we are pleased to welcome attendees to the **“9th Annual National Hispanic Sustainable Energy and Environmental Conference.”**

We are delighted to be in Albuquerque once again!



*Roger Rivera  
NHEC President*

We're pleased to say that last year's Conference was a success. Over 300 Hispanic environmental students and professionals attended, from every field, and from every part of the country. Unfortunately, this was a sharp decline over our 2000 conference, a decrease attributable to federal budget cutbacks due to September 11. However, we look forward to building on the progress we have made.

The Conference represents the culmination of a vision we had a number of years ago: a national event **“by and for Hispanics”** on a range of environmental and natural resource issues that affect our community. We believe that both the NHEC and the conference will grow, and that this effort is an important step in engaging our community, and providing a national voice on environmental issues.

Each year, we are pleased to provide a full “Travel Scholarship” to Hispanic/minority environmental college students to attend the Conference. This year we received enough funds to subsidize over 180 students. This year, students come from 24 states and Puerto Rico, and once again, we subsidized more women than men, a diversity goal of which we are particularly proud. The students represent every conceivable discipline related to the environment and include Asian Americans, African Americans, Anglo Americans, and Native Americans. When it comes to diversity, we believe in practicing what we preach.

However, we most certainly did not achieve any of this alone. Many individuals must be thanked. These include the Board Members of the NHEC, and of course the Conference planning committee. We thank them all for their hard work and dedication.

We must also thank our major Conference Sponsors, most particularly the National Park Service, the U.S. EPA, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control. Other sponsors include the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. As major “Conference Sponsors” their participation has been instrumental to our success. Their extensive support shows the depth of their commitment to the Hispanic community, and to their understanding of our credo: **because it's our environment too.**

We hope you enjoy the Conference, and we look forward to working with you to advance our common goals.



## The 9th National Hispanic Sustainable Energy and Environmental Conference

The Conference is the **only national** event of its kind, designed to educate the Latino community in general about environmental issues, and specifically, to inform Hispanic environmental and natural resource students and professionals about the many environmental career, business, and educational opportunities with the federal government, Corporate America, Academia, state and local governments, and with the mainstream environmental organizations.

The Conference will offer four days of networking and an array of substantive workshops, general sessions, site visits to nearby environmental facilities, and a major Exhibit Area/Career Fair. Site visits include tours of Albuquerque area, parks, forests, and laboratories.

The Conference is sponsored by the National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC) and a variety of federal environmental agencies, especially the National Park Service, U.S. EPA, Centers for Disease Control, the U.S. Forest Service, NRCS, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

### **NHEC is deeply grateful for their support.**

The Conference draws a range of Hispanic environmental professionals, including environmental engineers, forest and park service staff, environmental educators, natural resource and conservation managers, health and safety experts, environmental justice and community activists, and more. Last year, over 200 attended the Conference. Particularly for environmental recruiters seeking top Hispanic and other minor-

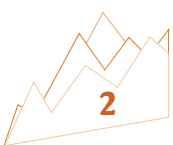
ity environmental job applicants, the Conference is an unparalleled opportunity to find—in one setting—top quality diversity candidates from hard-to-find disciplines.

Fundamentally, however, the Conference is designed to engage our community—to show that **“it’s our environment too”**, and to provide a national forum to explore the many environmental issues affecting Latinos, such as environmental justice, sustainable development, natural resource protection and more.

Like last year, the NHEC is once again providing “travel scholarships” for Hispanic/minority environmental students—from every discipline—to attend the Conference. These students—the next generation of environmentalists—come from across the nation, and NHEC underwrites their travel, (including airfare), four nights hotel, meals, and other incidentals. Through the Conference, they have the opportunity to network with other Hispanic/minority environmental professionals, and to learn first hand about careers, environmental stewardship and responsibility, and other vital issues.

In 2003, NHEC provided “travel scholarships” to 165 students. **This year, we expect to fund almost 200 students to the Conference.**

As the **only national** event for Hispanics on environmental issues, the Conference is a powerful tool for empowering our community, and helping to unify our voice. We’re glad you’ve joined us in Albuquerque, and in our mission.



# The National Hispanic Environmental Council

## Mission Statement and Goals

**T**he National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC) is a national, non-profit, membership-based organization founded in 1996, and located in the Washington, D.C. area. NHEC seeks to educate, unite, and engage our community on environmental and sustainable development issues; encourage Hispanics to actively work to preserve and protect our environment; provide a national voice for Hispanics before federal, state, and non-profit environmental decision-makers; and actively assist Hispanics to pursue the many career, business, educational, and policy opportunities in the environment and natural resources field. We develop programs—in partnership with our supporters—that accomplish this mission, and furthers our guiding credo: **“because it’s our environment too.”**

Our goals are:

### Education

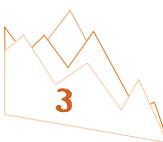
Work to enhance the long-standing historical and cultural environmental ethic that exists in the Hispanic community, and to promote on-going interest in and action by our community on environmental justice and sustainable development issues. Work to educate Hispanics on the importance and necessity of being good stewards of the environment, because of the fundamental principal that “it’s our environment too.”

Simultaneously, strive to educate our community about the enormous economic development potential inherent in the environment; that it is a major source of jobs, minority business, and academic opportunity, and that we have the right to a fair share of these benefits.

### National Advocacy and Representation

Provide a voice for Hispanics by serving as a national advocacy organization on a broad range of environmental and natural resource issues that affect our community. We work to:

- ❖ Promote and expand environmental education programs for Hispanic youth, especially in urban school districts. An entire generation of young Hispanics are growing up without the benefit of any environmental education programs in their schools. Similarly, advocate for increased environmental training in higher education targeted to Hispanics, to ensure we are building the next generation of trained environmental professionals and leaders.
- ❖ Promote and expand greater professional development and advancement opportunities for Hispanic environmental professionals in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.
- ❖ Promote and expand greater opportunities for Hispanic businesses in the multi-billion dollar environmental services industry, especially in government and in the private sector. Fundamentally, work to ensure that the Hispanic business community receives its fair share of environmental contracting.
- ❖ Promote and expand the role of Hispanics in key environmental decision-making bodies, where environmental policies are being made that affect our community. Particularly, work to ensure that the major national environmental organizations, federal agencies, and other entities have Hispanic representation. Fundamentally, work to ensure that our community has a seat at the environmental decision-making table.



# The National Hispanic Environmental Council

## Mission Statement and Goals

### Fighting Stereotypes and Dispelling the Myth

Strive to dispel the myth that Hispanics do not care about or are involved in the environment. Highlight the many individuals and Hispanic organizations who work every day as good stewards of the environment, yet who labor under misconceptions and stereotypes that somehow our community does not care about America's natural resources and heritage.

### Information Clearinghouse

To the extent possible, serve as a central clearinghouse/repository of information on environmental issues and opportunities—of every kind—and their impact on Hispanics. Collect and disseminate this information to the Hispanic community.

### Networking Link for Hispanic Environmental Professionals and Community Organizations

To the extent possible, serve as a networking linkage among Hispanic environmental professionals and activists, for the purpose of support, encouragement, and professional advancement.

### Opening the Doors of the Environmental Movement to Our Community

Whenever possible, work cooperatively with the mainstream environmental organizations, the public sector, and with Corporate America, to open the doors of opportunity for Hispanics in all areas of the environment. We seek collaborative stewardship of the many opportunities—and responsibilities—inherent in safeguarding our environment.

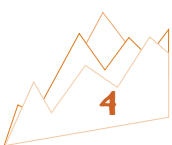
For more information on our programs and goals, call or write:

#### **NHEC**

106 N. Fayette Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Tel. (703) 683-3956 ❖ Fax (703) 683-5125

Or visit us at our web page: [www.nheec.org](http://www.nheec.org)



# Conference Supporters

NHEC salutes its sponsors for their support of our organization and the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Their participation makes this event possible, especially the “travel scholarships” we provide to students, and we are deeply grateful for their support.

## Major Sponsors

National Park Service

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office of Minority Health;  
and the National Center for Environmental Health

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

## Gold Sponsors

USDA Forest Service

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Silver Sponsor

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Geological Survey

## Bronze Sponsors

Clear the Air

Office of Surface Mining, U.S. Dept. of Interior

Sierra Club

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Dept. of Energy, Albuquerque Office

## Other Supporters

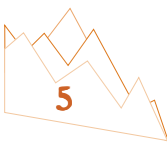
Edison Electric Institute

NOAA—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Pitney Bowes

WERC

World Wildlife Fund



# Conference Supporters

## Other Exhibitors

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry  
Centers for Disease Control, Epidemiology Program Office  
East Bay Regional Park District  
Environmental Defense  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology  
Peace Corps  
Purdue University  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
State of Washington, Dept. of Ecology  
Student Conservation Association  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.  
University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
U.S. Public Health Service  
Wilderness Society  
World Wildlife Fund  
Yale University, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

*(List accurate as of time of printing)*



# Environmental Site Tours

Sunday, April 4, 2004

Each year, the NHEC Conference offers our students—America’s future environmental professionals and leaders—the opportunity to visit a variety of environmental sites. These tours have spanned a range of environmental and natural resource interests, including environmental engineering, water management and reclamation, natural resource management, pollution abatement and environmental remediation, park management, wilderness/wildlife conservation, historical and cultural preservation, and more.

During the site tours, students have the opportunity to see the latest techniques and to learn from experts in the field. The tours are also an opportunity to explore and value—up close—America’s scientific, natural, cultural, and historical treasures. They are designed to be substantive and educational—but also fun.

**There will be seven site tours this year, hosted by our federal sponsors.** The site visits will begin around 9 am and depart from the Marriott Hotel. Most tours last all day. Students will travel by bus, and we will provide a box lunch and bottled water. All students will be back at the hotel by 5:30 pm at the latest. Some tours have size limits, so be prepared to go to your second choice. Most tours actually begin once you board the bus; you may see a video along the way, or your guide may speak on the drive to the site.

All students will be escorted to and during their site visit. All tours have been planned by professionals, with your safety in mind. Always follow their instructions.

Please remember—step lightly and respectfully on the earth. And most important, take only pictures and memories—do not disturb, damage, or take home with you any artifacts, rocks, plants, or anything else without the express permission of your tour guide. (Take note: when on federal land, you must obey federal law. In many places,

especially national parks, it is illegal to disturb or damage natural resources).

Regarding dress, keep several things in mind. First, all tours include time outside, so bring sturdy walking shoes, and be sure to watch your footing. Be sure to wear pants (not shorts), but no tank tops or other inappropriate clothing. Dress like you’re going on a hike.

Regarding the weather, please note that the weather is highly changeable in Albuquerque this time of year. It can be 70 degrees in Albuquerque, or it can be 50 degrees in the mountains, so prepare for both. **Be sure to dress in layers (bring a light jacket), wear a hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses! And drink plenty of water.**

Finally, remember to bring your camera and binoculars. You will be seeing some of America’s most spectacular scenery and historical sites. Listen, learn and enjoy!

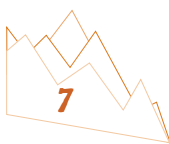
## Joint National Park Service-U.S. Forest Service Environmental Site Tour to Pecos

In 2004, the NHEC Environmental Site Tour to Pecos will include areas operated by the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

### ❖ Pecos National Historical Park (sponsored by the National Park Service)

The visit to Pecos National Historical Park will reveal the challenges of managing a park with both natural and cultural resources. The park attempts to interpret over 12,000 years of human history, including the ancient Pecos pueblo, two Spanish Colonial Missions, Santa Fe Trail sites, a Civil War battlefield, and the “Forked Lightning” cattle ranch of movie star and philanthropist Greer Garson.

Nestled in a circular valley clasped by steep mountains, Spanish conquistadors named these mountains Sangre de Cristo, “Blood of Christ,” but in 1862, it was the blood



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of warring armies that bathed the land near Pigeon's Ranch, part of the battle of Glorieta Pass. This battle represented the high water mark for a bold Confederate offensive into Union Territory on the western frontier. The resulting battle was fought along canyon and ridge from March 26th through 28th, 1862 and culminated in the retreat of the invading Confederate forces back to Texas.

The park is also heavily involved in a wide variety of natural resource issues including fire management, exotic plant species, and reforestation projects. The most recent natural resource project included the thinning of heavy pinyon/juniper fuel load adjacent to the Visitor Center at the park. Students will have a chance to see the ancient pueblo ruins and tour the modern Visitor Center.

## ❖ **Pecos Wilderness/Santa Fe National Forest** *(sponsored by the USDA Forest Service)*

Congress established the Forest Service in 1905 to provide quality water and timber for the Nation's benefit. The Forest Service manages national forests for additional multiple uses and benefits and for the sustained yield of renewable resources such as water, forage, wildlife, wood, and recreation.

The U.S. Forest Service also manages a portion of Federal Wilderness. Wilderness is described as federal land designated by Congress as a place where "earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

Given the non-intrusive manner in which the wilderness is maintained, recreation in these areas provides the opportunity to see nature in its purest form.

In 1964, Congress designated nearly 200,000 acres of land near Pecos, New Mexico as the Pecos Wilderness. In 1980 an additional

55,000 acres were added bringing the total to 223,667 acres of unspoiled wilderness.

The wilderness extends through two Ranger Districts in the Santa Fe National Forest and into the Carson National Forest to the north. Within the boundaries of this expansive area are several landmarks including Truchas Peak which tops 13,103 feet.

The terrain varies from open meadows in the Pecos River Valley to the steep canyons of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range. Wildlife ranges from deer and elk to big horn sheep, turkeys and grouse. It is not uncommon to run into cattle in the wilderness, as some ranchers are permitted to graze their cattle in parts of the wilderness.

Fifteen lakes and eight major streams sustain both plant and animal habitat, including the native Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout.

## ❖ **Petroglyph National Monument Tour** **Cultural and Archeological Tour** *(sponsored by the National Park Service)*

*"Each of these rocks is alive, keeper of a message left by the ancestors... There are spirits, guardians; there is medicine..."*

William Weahkee, Pueblo Elder

This tour will provide the opportunity to experience the resources of Petroglyph National Monument and to understand the complex management issues that face this cooperatively-managed urban park. It will start at Las Imágenes Visitor Center on Albuquerque's Westside. National Park Service resource specialists will introduce students to the natural and cultural resource issues that have faced the monument since 1990, when Petroglyph was added to the National Park System.

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Following the resource introduction, students will be led on a 2.5 mile tour into Rinconada Canyon. Petroglyph National Monument contains more than 20,000 images pecked in stone—some recognizable as animals, people or crosses, and others more mysterious. All are inseparable from the landscape and from the spirits of the people who created them. The images carved onto these black rocks spotlight the culture of those who long ago inhabited this area.

The West Mesa, a 17-mile long table of land west of the Rio Grande, emerged about 150,000 years ago when lava flowed from a large fissure in the earth's crust. Over time softer sediments on the mesa's eastern edge eroded away, leaving a jagged-edged escarpment strewn with basalt boulders. This is the setting for the petroglyphs.

Long ago ancient people discovered that chipping away the rocks' thin desert varnish revealed a lighter gray beneath and left a lasting mark. American Indians believe these images are as old as time. Archaeologists estimate that the images were made four to seven hundred years ago by the ancestors of today's Native people. Some images may be as old as 3,000 years.

Following the hike students will return to Las Imágenes Visitor Center for lunch. Following lunch and a tour of the Visitor Center, students will learn more about the inter-relationship between the Spanish settlers and Native peoples and culture.

Today's American Indians consider the entire monument a sacred landscape. The landscape lives in the stories that people pass along from one generation to the next. Like places of worship throughout the world, the area demands respect and care. The day will end with a presentation on the threats and

challenges of preserving this special place for present and future generations.

## **Environmental Clean-up, Mitigation and Remediation Site Tour**

*(sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)*

Environmental clean-up and remediation—who does it, how is it done, who pays, and who is harmed?

This extensive tour will give students the opportunity to visit three sites in varying locations and in varying degrees of clean-up. This tour will give students an in-depth look into environmental clean-up programs, technologies, and methods that are based on a range of environmental laws and policies—federal, state, tribal, and more. This is also a unique opportunity to explore the tensions—and partnerships—that are often required to mitigate a variety of environmental hazards.

### ❖ **Santa Ana Pueblo:**

The Pueblo of Santa Ana—a Native American tribal area—is about 20 miles north of Albuquerque, and is actively involved in watershed protection and community-based environmental education. The Rio Grande flows six miles through the Pueblo's lands, weaving a lush habitat for several endangered species. Over the last century, though, various river modifications and uses have contributed to degradation of the riparian area and surface water quality. The Santa Ana Department of Natural Resources (SADNR) has spent the last several years clearing invasive species, stabilizing the bank structure, restoring the river's natural hydrology, and re-establishing native riparian habitat. This ties into a long-term effort to protect both surface and ground water resources. SADNR has also established a network of ground water monitoring wells, a

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surface water program, and a database to gauge trends, successes, and future planning needs.

This site tour will offer a solid technical presentation with hands-on, real-life examples of how classroom learning can be applied to environmental protection in the field.

## ❖ **Sparton Technology, Inc.: A Brownfields Site Example**

About one year after the start of cleanup activities, the former Sparton Technology, Inc., electronic component manufacturing facility was renovated into the new Melloy Dodge new car dealership at 9621 Coors Road NW in Albuquerque. Sparton had ceased operations in 1994, during which time investigations were conducted to determine the extent of impacts to the environment. In 1996, EPA and Sparton were unable to agree on a remedy to address the ground water contaminant plume. As a result of this impasse, Sparton, EPA, and other governmental entities began civil actions in U.S. District Court.

On March 3, 2000, the U.S. District Court in New Mexico signed a Consent Decree that resolved the lawsuit. Parties subject to this decree were Sparton, EPA, the City of Albuquerque, the Bernalillo County Commissioners, the NM Environment Department, the NM Attorney General's Office, and the NM Office of the Natural Resources Trustee. The Consent Decree requires Sparton to install a ground water containment and restoration system to address the entire contaminant plume, along with a soil vapor and extraction system. Sparton has also implemented a successful off-site ground water recovery system to halt expansion of the plume. An on-site ground water recovery system was initiated and is currently being evaluated to determine its suc-

cess. Ground water remediation efforts are expected to take several years. After the Consent Decree, Melloy Dodge of Albuquerque signed a lease with Sparton to use the facility as a new car dealership. After renovation, Melloy Dodge opened its dealership in April 2001. Remediation activities are underway concurrent with the operations of the dealership. As a result of all these actions, Melloy and others have been able to bring back jobs and commerce to the formerly idle Sparton property.

## ❖ **South Valley: A Superfund Site Example**

In 1983 the South Valley Site became New Mexico's first Superfund site. Routine sampling had found chlorinated solvents in two water supply wells. These two wells were taken out of service, and EPA installed a new municipal supply well.

Investigations revealed a complex geological setting with organic contamination from several companies in the South Valley area. Contamination consists of chlorinated solvents and petroleum products and occurs at depths of up to 400 feet below the surface. The EPA is the lead agency for the investigation and cleanup of the chlorinated solvent sites at the Superfund Site and the NM Environment Department oversees the cleanup of the petroleum sites.

To deal with its complexity, this Superfund site was divided into six units. Activities for three of these units have been completed, while the other three are in various stages of remediation. Examples of the on-going remedial actions include pump and treat of contaminated ground water through a state-of-the-art treatment plant from both the shallow and deep aquifers and enhanced soil vapor extraction in the shallow aquifer.

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Since it went on-line in April 1996, the GE South Valley treatment plant has pumped and treated over 2.8 billion gallons of water. As a result of this rigorous pumping, the extent of contamination in the shallow treatment system and the deep treatment system have decreased in both concentration and plume size. In 2000, EPA's five-year review at the Site concluded that the remedial actions are protective of human health and the environment

## **NRCS—Committed to Protecting and Conserving Our Natural Resources Tour!**

*(sponsored by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service)*

### **Tour Description**

This tour offers students a first-hand look at the conservation work underway in and around Santa Fe, NM. Santa Fe—the capital of New Mexico—is nestled at the southern tip of the Rocky Mountains, at an altitude of 7,000 feet. Yet this is still considered the foothills of the Rockies! The city occupies 33.4 square miles in a valley above the Rio Grande amongst mountains that reach to over 12,000 feet. Santa Fe is considered by many to be the cultural and historic center of the Northern New Mexico—an area known for its scenic beauty, vast natural resources, and a diverse culture of Native Americans, Hispanos, and Anglo Americans that is now hundreds of years old.

Thousands of acres of wilderness surround the city. Yet, like many places in America, invasive or non-native species have taken hold, with negative impacts on the economy, environment, and habitat of the area. Among other things, on this tour you will see how NRCS, other agencies, and private land-owners treat certain invasive species, particularly salt cedar and Russian olive, species known for their detrimental impact on riparian areas and water consumption. You will explore the

techniques, methods, and policies natural resource managers use—and must follow—to deal with this growing problem. You will also learn more about the career, internship, scholarship, and other opportunities at the USDA NRCS.

You will also view the preservation and enhancement of a historic “acequia” (irrigation ditch). Acequias—many still in use today all across New Mexico and the Southwest—were first used generations ago by the Hispanos, Native Americans, and others in NM to bring running water to often parched land. Acequias provided a life-giving network of irrigation that stimulated and enhanced the growth of this area. You will also have the opportunity to visit the enchanting Santa Fe Plaza, in historic Santa Fe, on this tour hosted by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service—NRCS.

Moderate hiking is required, and weather may be unpredictable (hot or cold). Please dress appropriately.

9:00 a.m. Leave Albuquerque Marriot Pyramid North Hotel

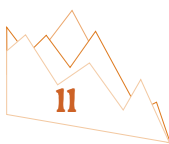
10:00 a.m. Arrive at invasive species site south of Santa Fe

*(Take La Cieniga exit from I-25 and meet with Paul Montoya, Santa Fe district conservationist)*

Salt cedar and Russian olive are invasive species that are using enormous quantities of water, depriving other plants and New Mexico's water courses of this precious resource. New Mexico has launched major programs to treat these invaders, and recapture the water for beneficial use.

11:00 a.m. Visit acequia site

Native Americans and early Spanish settlers built acequias or earthen ditches to water their



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crops early in New Mexico's history. Today the ancient tradition of using and maintaining acequias continues. This site visit will explore the historic, cultural, and environmental issues of such an irrigation system, and their on-going preservation and enhancement in NM today.

12:00 p.m. Lunch and exploring of the historic Santa Fe Plaza

The Santa Fe Plaza offers historic museums and galleries, restaurants and food vendors, and sales of Native American jewelry and crafts.

2:00 p.m. Tallpot technology and roadside plantings

See how the USDA NRCS is proving that native shrubs can be planted and survive the severe conditions of the desert Southwest with only one watering a year.

3:00 p.m. Depart for Albuquerque

4:00 p.m. Arrive at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North Hotel

**Santa Fe National Forest**  
**Jemez Ranger District**  
**Española Ranger District**  
*(sponsored by the USDA Forest Service)*

What to bring:

Sturdy walking shoes or boots  
Long sleeve shirt or sweater  
Long pants ie: jeans  
Vest or jacket (water proof)  
Hat/cap, sunscreen and sunglasses  
Camera and binoculars

Students should be prepared for different weather scenarios, layered clothing is recommended.

**The tour will last all day, leaving the hotel in Albuquerque at 8:45 a.m. and returning to Albuquerque at approximately 6:00 p.m.**

## Tour Description

The Tour offers the students a spectacular scenic drive along the Jemez Mountain Trail, declared a National Scenic & Historic Byway in 1998 in recognition of its fantastic natural and cultural resources. This day in the woods will be an opportunity for students to learn more about natural and cultural resources of the Jemez Mountains. They'll also receive an historical perspective of the people and their relationship to the land. Students and land managers will discuss the dichotomy of managing for contemporary uses while also managing to sustain the important traditional, rural lifestyles. Several stops along the Byway will give the students varying perspectives of the successes and challenges of managing public lands for multiple uses. They'll also view the effects of one of the largest fires in New Mexico history, the Cerro Grande Fire. A Forest Service archeologist will accompany students on the trip to give historical and social background of the area and people of the Jemez Mountains.

## ❖ Walatowa Visitor Center

The Pueblo of Jemez (Hay-mez) or "Walatowa" (the Towa word meaning "THE Place") is home to more than 3,000 tribal members.

The Walatowa Visitor Center, located at the beautiful and scenic Jemez Red Rocks, is open daily. The center provides visitor information and education about the pueblo and its people. Their beautiful gift shop holds a wide selection of collectibles and gifts. Tour-

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ing the Center is a cultural journey through Native American history in the Southwest.

This visitor center is one example of the long-standing collaborative relationship between the Forest Service and the Jemez Tribe. Much of the Jemez Mountains, now managed by the Santa Fe National Forest, is claimed as Jemez Pueblo ancestral lands. Because of this, it is imperative that national forest management goals be in concert with the values of the Pueblo of Jemez. This successful partnership is evident to visitors and community members who enter the Visitor Center.

## ❖ **Battleship Rock Picnic Area**

Forest Engineer will discuss the design and construction of the **Battleship Rock Picnic Area**.

Recreation demands within the Jemez corridor are increasing annually. People are loving their “Great Outdoors” to death, in some areas. The Jemez area is world-renowned and the backyard for the large urban area—Albuquerque, Rio Rancho. What challenges do these demands pose to land managers?

## ❖ **Jemez National Recreation Area (JNRA)**

On October 12, 1993, the Jemez National Recreation Area (JNRA) was established by the U.S. Congress to conserve, protect, and restore the recreational, ecological, cultural, religious, and wildlife resource values of the Jemez Mountains. The Forest Service developed a management plan for the JNRA.

The boundary of the JNRA encompasses approximately 57,650 acres. 48,300 acres (84%) is on lands currently managed by the USDA Forest Service. The remaining 9,350 acres (16%) is under private ownership.

## ❖ **East Fork Thinning Project—Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project**

Students will see a thinning project that helps to protect the wildland urban interface and discuss various forest treatments and the issue of small-diameter tree utilization.

The **East Fork Thinning Project** removed trees under 12” in diameter to reduce the wildfire hazard presented by the dense forest. Small trees reduced the “ladder fuels” which allow a wildland fire to move from the forest floor to the tree canopy. This also reduced the continuity of the forest, eliminating the ability for fire to spread from tree to tree over a large landscape. This project is part of a series of fuelbreaks designed to protect the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)—the community of Sierra los Pinos and the rich natural resources that exist in this area.

The hazardous fuels of concern on the Santa Fe National Forest and elsewhere in the west are an overabundance of small trees. Reducing the number of trees per acre help to restore the Ponderosa Pine forest to more ecological and historic conditions.

Projects such as this require 1–2 years to plan, and 2–3 years to complete the thinning and burning. Costs can vary from \$300-\$700/acre just for the implementation. Because of the investments of time and money areas were strategically selected to treat based on the level of hazard and the values that would be affected in the event of a fire.

The **East Fork of the Jemez Wild and Scenic River** was designated as a National Wild, Scenic and Recreational River on June 6, 1990. This Wild and Scenic Rivers Act directed the Forest Service to develop a management plan for the protection and enhancement of the outstandingly remarkable values of the designated river and associated corridor. The

# Environmental Site Tours

Sunday, April 4, 2004

outstanding values are recreational, scenic, geologic, ecologic and fisheries and wildlife values. Discussion will be around resource rehabilitation—controlled recreation, and livestock management.

## ❖ **Valles Caldera National Preserve (VCNP)**

“Caldera” is a geological term for a large crater formed by the collapse of a volcano.

About 1.6 million years ago, a volcanic eruption rocked the Jemez Mountains in northern NM. Successive volcanic explosions created a 12–15 mile-wide crater with green valleys, quiet streams and majestic mountains. This ancient volcano also provides panoramic views and home for a variety of wildlife.

On July 25, 2000, 89,000 acres of the privately-owned Baca Ranch was purchased by the American people. The Valles Caldera National Preservation Act designated these lands as the Valles Caldera National Preserve, a unit of the National Forest System.

The Act also created the Valles Caldera Trust, a unique land management approach, to manage the Preserve as a “working ranch”. The Valles Caldera Trust, a wholly owned government corporation will manage the Preserve and a nine-member Board of Trustees will govern the Trust. The Board is made up of the Forest Supervisor of the Santa Fe National Forest, the Superintendent of Bandelier National Monument, and seven individuals with a variety of skills.

The Preserve conducted its first elk hunt in 2002. The purposes of the hunts are not only to aid in management of herd size (estimated at 4,000 head) and quality but also to provide revenue for management of the area and protect the extraordinary natural resources of the Preserve.

The winter recreational activities include: cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing and horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides.” Other recreational opportunities for summertime are being planned.

## ❖ **Cerro Grande Fire (May 2000)**

[Students will learn about the Cerro Grande Fire, multi-jurisdictional fire management, Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation, National Fire Plan]

The Cerro Grande Fire began as a prescribed burn on May 4, 2000 by Bandelier National Monument, and declared a wildfire on May 5. By the time the fire was contained, the Cerro Grande Fire caused the evacuation of 18,000 people from Los Alamos and White Rock, had burned 47,560 acres and destroyed 235 homes, displacing over 400 families in Los Alamos, New Mexico. The perimeter of the Fire was 108 miles. Los Alamos National Laboratory was shutdown for 3 weeks.

The Burned Area Emergency Response team was the largest team ever convened to analyze and treat a burned area.

## ❖ **Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks Area Geological and Natural Resource Tour**

*(sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management)*

In north-central New Mexico, between Albuquerque and Santa Fe, lies the unique geological area known as Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks. Kasha-Katuwe or “white cliffs” in Keresan—the traditional language for the Pueblo de Cochiti—is an area that features large, tent-shaped rocks that hug the steep cliffs of Peralta Canyon. These rocks were created by the powerful forces of vulcanism and erosion, which have built up and then torn down this landscape.

# Environmental Site Tours

Sunday, April 4, 2004

During the last million years, a tremendous volcanic explosion northwest of Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks spewed rock and ash for hundreds of square miles, leaving volcanic debris up to 400 feet thick. Over time, water cut into these deposits, creating canyons, arroyos and other area features. The cone-shaped rock formations are wind- and water-eroded pumice and tuff deposits. Their hard, erosion-resistant caprocks protect the softer “tents” below. While uniform in shape, the tent rock formations vary in height from a few feet to 90 feet. Students interested in geology will particularly enjoy this site tour.

This area is also rich in natural resources and wildlife. Depending on the season, you are likely to see a variety of birds. Red-tailed hawks, kestrels, violet-green swallows, West-

ern bluebirds, and an occasional golden eagle soar above Peralta Canyon or use the piñon-covered terrain near the cliffs. The hollows and crags of the cliff face provide nesting sites.

The area also provides habitat for big-game and non-game animals. Elk, mule deer, and wild turkey frequent the higher elevations and adequate ground cover and food. Coyotes, chipmunks, and ground squirrels can be found almost everywhere. This site tour will showcase the wide range of environmental and conservation responsibilities of the U.S. BLM.

The travel time to the national monument is approximately 40 minutes. BLM will provide bottled water. However, no visitor facilities are available at the Monument. Be sure to dress as if going for a hike.

# Scenes from the 2003 Conference Albuquerque, NM



*The Conference offers students the opportunity to attend a range of “environmental site tours”, including national parks, forests, laboratories, and other facilities. Held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the conference, these day-long tours give students an in-depth look into a variety of environmental, natural resource, and historical/cultural issues. The tours are a popular and very educational part of the Conference. Here, students at Pecos National Monument, managed by the National Park Service.*



*Conference attendees can attend over 30 workshops and general sessions. These feature top experts discussing a broad range of environmental, energy, agricultural, natural resource, and cultural issues. Here, NHEC Board member Dr. Eddie Laboy moderates a workshop.*



*Here, students at a waste water treatment plant outside Santa Fe. Through the site tours, students can see the many facets of the environment, including its “green and brown side”.*



*Each year, NHEC gives awards to distinguished individuals who have made a significant contribution to the environment, and/or to advance the interests of minorities in the environment. Here, Roger Rivera presents an award to Zenaida Mendez, past Coordinator of the National People of Color Environmental Justice Summit.*

# Scenes from the 2003 Conference Albuquerque, NM



*Some members of the NHEC Board of Directors. The Board provides invaluable guidance and service to NHEC.*



*The Career Fair is a major part of the Conference. Recruiters from the public, private, and non-profit sectors come to meet some of our community's best and brightest environmental students. Here, students can find jobs, internships, scholarships, research opportunities, and more.*



*The National Park Service is a strong supporter of NHEC, including serving as a "Major Conference Sponsor" for the last 6 years. Like other recruiters at the Conference, NPS interviews students on-site and often makes on-the-spot hires.*



*Companies with environmental needs also attend the Exhibit Area/Career Fair. Here, recruiters from GE interview students.*

# An NHEC Environmental Education Program

## The Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute “8 Days of Learning, A Lifetime of Experience”

September 6 – 13, 2003

From Sept. 6–13, 2003, NHEC conducted its “Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute”. The Institute was held at the Glorieta Lifeway Conference Center, in Glorieta, NM, located 18 miles northeast of Santa Fe, in the beautiful mountains of northern New Mexico. The 2003 Institute was funded by the U.S. EPA and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. In addition, the U.S. Forest Service and in particular the National Park Service provided substantial in-kind help, on-site, to help train the students as well as ensure the safe operation of the Institute. NHEC is deeply grateful to all these agencies for their support.

The Institute is an intensive, hands-on, science-based, and highly educational 8 day national program. The Institute is designed to inspire, engage, and train Hispanic and minority teens aged 16–18 on environmental/natural resource issues, and to teach and encourage these youth to pursue college degrees and careers in a wide variety of environmental fields. The Institute’s motto is “8 Days of Learning, A Lifetime of Experience”.

Due to limited funding, NHEC only trained 25 youth in this year’s Institute. When sufficient funding has allowed, previous Institutes have had as many as 120 students. Nevertheless, in 2003 students came from all across the country and Puerto Rico. This diversity of students ensured that they not only learned from the training, but from each other. Once accepted into the program, NHEC covers all costs for students of the 8 day Institute.

A unique element of the Institute is the use of paid Hispanic/minority environmental educators as instructors, coupled with volunteer Hispanic/minority “role models”. These role models are working minority environmental professionals, from many disciplines, who volunteered their time, technical knowledge, life experiences, and heritage to help the instructors teach the students. A major job of the role models was to talk with students about the vast array of careers and other opportunities, such as internships, scholarships, etc., in the environmental arena. Over 30 role models participated in the Institute. Through these minority role models, the message to students was not only clear, but believable: “I made it in this field, and so can you.”

Using daily classroom and outdoor settings, plus field work, the Institute seeks to build the next generation of environmental leaders/professionals by educating minority youth on a wide range of environmental topics and related careers. Combining an intensive environmental educational curriculum with leadership development and team-building, the Institute is developing a cadre of talented minority youth that will be the direct “pipeline” of future environmental professionals. Through the Institute, the students and NHEC took a big step forward in reaching this goal. NHEC is proud of its Institute graduates.

The following photos show the 2003 Institute—the students, the instructors, the role models, the training, and the spirit of learning and adventure. See the next generation in action!

# An NHEC Environmental Education Program



*The Institute is an intensive, hands-on, science-based program. Daily classroom instruction, every morning and night, is an essential part of the Institute.*



*A unique part of the Institute are the “role models”. These are minority environmental professionals, from many disciplines, who volunteer to help instructors teach, inspire the students, and discuss environmental career and college options. Here, Charles Dent with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.*



*The Institute is held in beautiful northern New Mexico, a place of varied topography and diverse ecosystems.*



*Here, students in the field conducting water testing and biological assessments.*



*Instructor Marisa Oliva with students, helping them with their biological assessment and field observation work at Pecos River.*

# An NHEC Environmental Education Program



*Back in the field. Students at the Santa Fe National Forest, learning about forest ecology, including taking tree measurements of this ponderosa pine.*



*The Institute teaches students about both the “green and brown” sides of the environment. Here, a waste water treatment plant near Glorieta, where students see up close some of the issues, like pollution, that people face.*



*The certificates are nice — suitable for framing!*



*The students of the 2003 NHEC Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute. For them, it was truly **“8 Days of Learning, A Lifetime of Experience.”***



*Here, another group gives their presentation, with video.*

# An NHEC Outreach Project

## The NHEC – California Wild Heritage Campaign

California is renowned for its natural beauty, scenic wonders, and wilderness areas. However, each year, thousands of acres of these special places are lost to development, sprawl, or inappropriate use. In particular, many acres of public land, including federal lands, remain unprotected from logging, road building, oil drilling, and dams.

Latinos care about California's environment. We do so because we must. Too often, our communities have been victimized by environmental injustice, including the unfair and disproportionate siting of hazardous facilities in or near our communities. To not care means we risk the health and safety of our families and neighborhoods.

However, we also care about our natural heritage. For example, a statewide poll in 2002 showed that 85% of California Latinos support permanent government protection for wilderness and wild rivers. This is striking, when compared to the 72% of Californians overall.

Latinos understand why natural resource, natural heritage, and wilderness protections are important to our community. Some of the major reasons include the fact that federal lands provide a major source of recreational opportunities for our families. The Angeles National Forest, adjacent to the City of Los Angeles, has the highest percentage of utilization by Latinos of any federal public lands in the U.S. We understand that wilderness areas contain 60% of California's watersheds, vital to ensure clean,

safe drinking water for all. And we understand that wilderness areas can help enormously in mitigating air pollution, which is the worst in the nation in California. And finally, we have an obligation, as stewards of the environment, to protect these remaining special places for our children and their children.

For all these reasons, **Latinos—and NHEC—understand and value the need to preserve wilderness.** That is why NHEC is actively working with the California Wild Heritage Campaign (CWHC), a coalition of more than 250 community and environmental organizations in the state to preserve California's natural heritage. NHEC is helping to coordinate outreach to Latinos statewide, to build awareness and support among our community to help protect these remaining places. Indeed, we now have two staff persons in California working hard on the Campaign.

Having completed an inventory of the remaining wild lands and rivers in California, NHEC and CWHC are now focused on informing and engaging the public about the issues. We invite you to join us in our effort. To do so, in Southern California please contact Sabrina Parra Garcia, at 323-244-0777, or at [sparragarcia@nheec.org](mailto:sparragarcia@nheec.org) Or in Northern California, contact Kristina Ortez, at 559-661-4106, or at [kortez@nheec.org](mailto:kortez@nheec.org)

The following photos depict some of the places we believe should be protected, and some of the volunteers working on behalf of this goal.

# An NHEC Outreach Project



# An NHEC Outreach Project



# Program

## Saturday, April 3, 2004

9 am – 2 pm:	<b>STUDENTS ARRIVE, ON-SITE REGISTRATION</b>	<i>Atrium Looby</i>
2 – 6 pm:	<b>STUDENT ORIENTATION AND WORKSHOPS</b>	<i>Cancun Room</i>
3 – 6 pm:	<b>EARLY REGISTRATION FOR ALL ATTENDEES</b>	<i>Atrium Looby</i>
2 – 2:30 pm:	<b>Conference Overview and Orientation</b>	
2:30 – 3:30 pm:	<b>Trends In Environmental Hiring: Where Are the Jobs</b>	<i>Cancun Room</i>
3:30 – 4 pm:	<b>Graduate School and You: What You Need to Know</b>	<i>Cancun Room</i>
4 – 4:15 pm:	Break	
4:15 – 5:30 pm:	<b>Preparing For Your Environmental Job: What You Need To Know</b> Includes presentations and practice sessions on: Effective Interviewing Skills Effective Resume Writing, and more.	<i>Cancun Room</i>
7 – 9 pm:	<b>STUDENT “MEET AND GREET”</b>	<i>Kokopelli Room</i>

## Sunday, April 4, 2004

8 – 9 am:	<b>CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST</b>	<i>Cancun Room</i>
9 am – 6 pm:	<b>CONFERENCE REGISTRATION</b>	<i>Atrium Looby</i>
9 am – 5 pm:	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SITE TOURS (for students)</b> Visits by students to environmental facilities/sites in the Albuquerque and Northern New Mexico area. Students will travel by bus to these locations, and return to the Marriott at the end of the day. A box lunch and water will be provided to students. See the Program for detailed descriptions of the sites to be visited.	

# Program

Sites are:

**Superfund, Brownfields, and Other Environmentally Impacted Sites:**

(at several locations in Albuquerque)

*sponsored by the U.S. EPA*

**Pecos National Historical Park**

*A Joint Tour Sponsored by the National Park Service and the USDA Forest Service*

**Petroglyph National Monument, Cultural and Archeological Tour  
(Albuquerque, NM)**

*sponsored by the National Park Service*

**Pecos Wilderness/Santa Fe National Forest**

*sponsored by the USDA Forest Service*

**Santa Fe National Forest, Jemez Ranger District, Espanola Ranger District**

*sponsored by the USDA Forest Service*

**The NRCS Showcase on Protection and Conservation of Our Natural  
Resources Tour**

*sponsored by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service*

**The Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks Geological and Natural Resources Tour**

*sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management*

- 2 – 4 pm: **SPONSOR WORKSHOPS** *Tampico/Cozumel Room*  
Separate sessions by and for the staff of the various Conference sponsors.
- 4 – 5:30 pm: **GENERAL SESSION FOR SPONSORS** *Tampico/Cozumel Room*  
A Common Interest: A Collaborative Approach  
Among Federal Agencies to Enhance Workforce Diversity
- 7 – 9 pm: **WELCOME RECEPTION** *Taos, Las Cruces, Santa Fe Room*  
Opening Reception for all Conference attendees.
- 9 – 10:30 pm: **STUDENT MEET AND GREET** *Cancun Room*  
For those students being sponsored to the Conference by NHEC.  
This is an informal student event, where students can socialize,  
share experiences, and learn from one another.

# Program

## Monday, April 5, 2004

7:30 am – 6 pm: **REGISTRATION**

8 – 9 am: **OPENING GENERAL SESSION:**

*Cancun Room*

“Opening the Doors of Opportunity in the Environmental Field”  
Welcoming remarks by NHEC and senior officials from the major  
Conference Sponsors. Speakers include:

*Lynda Carroll*, Assistant Regional Administrator for Management,  
U.S. EPA, Region VI, Dallas, TX

*Ernest Ortega*, NM State Coordinator, National Park Service, Santa Fe, NM

*Dr. Francisco Tomei Torres*, Minority Program Health Specialist, Centers for  
Disease Control, Atlanta, GA

*Jose Acevedo*, Deputy Chief for Programs, USDA NRCS, Washington, D.C.

*Greg Griffith*, Deputy Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region, USDA Forest  
Service

9 – 10 am: **4 CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS:**

Environmental Education and Hispanics

*Marbella Room*

Careers/Internships/Scholarships at the USDA's Forest Service  
and Natural Resource Conservation Service

*Tampico Room*

NEPA, EIS, and More: What You Need To Know

*Coronado Room*

Issues in Energy

*Cozumel Room*

10 – 11 am: **4 CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS:**

Careers/Internships/Scholarships at the U.S. Dept. of Interior

*Tampico Room*

The Endangered Species Act: A Status Report

*Marbella Room*

Water is Life: Preserving and Managing This Vital Resource  
for the Future

*Coronado Room*

Environmental Justice and Latinos: Present Issues, Future Needs

*Cozumel Room*

11 – 11:15 am: **BREAK**

11:15 am – 12:15 pm: **GENERAL SESSION:**

**National Policies and Politics of the Environment Today**

*Cancun Room*

Speakers:

*Daniel Garza*, Deputy Director for Intergovernmental and  
External Relations, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C.

12:30 – 2:15 pm:

**LUNCHEON:**

*Yucatan, Santa Fe, Las Cruces, Taos Room*

Keynote Speaker:

*Governor Michael Leavitt*, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, D.C.

# Program

- 2:30 – 3:30 pm: **5 CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS:**
- Minority Environmental Organizations: Profiles in Environmental and Community Activism *Cancun Room*
  - Water, Land, Wildlife, and Parks: Key Laws and Policies Governing Our Natural Resources and Environment *Tampico Room*
  - The National Park Service and Latinos *Coronado Room*
  - Recycling in America: A Status Report *Marbella Room*
  - Pollution, Toxics, Landfills, and More *Cozumel Room*
- 3:30 – 4:30 pm: **5 CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS:**
- Careers/Internships/Scholarships at the U.S. EPA *Cancun Room*
  - Green Infrastructure: Where, How, Why *Tampico Room*
  - A Problem Without Boundaries: Air Pollution, Health, and Minority Americans *Coronado Room*
  - The U.S. Forest Service and Latinos: Where Are We Headed? *Marbella Room*
  - Wilderness: The Needs, The Challenges *Cozumel Room*
- 4:30 – 5:30 pm: **GENERAL SESSION:**
- Profiles in Excellence: Hispanics in Environmental Positions Who Are Making A Difference
- Cynthia Verdugo Peralta*, Governing Board Member, South Coast Air Quality Management District Governing Board, Yorba Linda, CA
- Norma Ramos*, Attorney, and Environmental Justice Activist, NY, NY
- David Vela*, Acting Deputy Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service, Atlanta, GA
- Lina M.S. Younes*, Special Assistant to the Administrator, Office of Public Affairs, U.S. EPA, Washington, D.C.
- 7:30 – 8 pm: **RECEPTION** *Pre-Convention Foyer*
- 8 – 10 pm: **GALA AWARDS BANQUET** *Yucatan, Santa Fe, Las Cruces, Taos Room*
- Keynote Speaker:
- The Honorable Rebecca Watson*, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C.
- NHEC Leadership Award Recipient:
- The Honorable Hilda Solis*, (D-CA), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.
- Special Video Message From *Fran Mainella*, Director, National Park Service (NPS), Washington, D.C.
- Special Signing Ceremony—Renewing For Another 5 Years the Partnership Agreement (MOU) Between NHEC and NPS

# Program

## Tuesday, April 6, 2004

- 7:30 am – 3 pm: **REGISTRATION** *Atrium Lobby*
- 7:15 – 8 am: **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST** *Pre-Convention Foyer*
- 8 – 9 am: **GENERAL SESSION:** *Taos, Las Cruces, Santa Fe Room*  
Public Lands and Minorities: Gates Open or Gates Shut?  
Speakers:  
*Dr. Dorceta Taylor*, Associate Professor of Environmental Sociology,  
University of Michigan, Dept. of Natural Resources, Ann Arbor, MI  
*Gary Candelaria*, Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and  
Preserve, Copper Center, Alaska
- 9 – 10 am: **GENERAL SESSION:** *Taos, Las Cruces, Santa Fe Room*  
Environmental Justice, Health Issues, and Latinos  
*Dr. Francisco Tomei Torres*, Minority Health Program Specialist, National  
Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control,  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Atlanta, GA  
*Jesse Marquez*, President and Founder, Wilmington Coalition for A Safe  
Environment, Los Angeles, CA  
*Angela Ledford*, Executive Director, Clear the Air, Washington, D.C.  
*Carolina Simunovic*, Environmental Health and Outreach Coordinator,  
Fresno Metro Ministry, Fresno, CA  
*Delta Valente*, Hispanic Outreach Program Manager, Office of  
Environmental Justice, U.S. EPA, Washington, D.C.
- 10 – 11 am: **STUDENTS PACK, CHECK OUT OF HOTEL**
- 11 am – 5 pm: **EXHIBIT AREA/CAREER FAIR OPEN**
- Noon – 4 pm: Recruitment Workshops by Conference Sponsors for Students *Santa Rosa Room*  
A series of hour long sessions by major conference sponsors, *Rio Grande Room*  
oriented to students, describing each sponsors' mission and  
programs, as well as the employment, educational, and internship  
opportunities at these agencies.
- Noon – 1 pm: **BOX LUNCH FOR STUDENTS IN THE EXHIBIT AREA**
- 5 pm: **CONFERENCE ENDS**

# Workshops

**Saturday, April 3, 2004**

## **Student Orientation and Workshops:**

- 2 – 2:30 pm: **WELCOME, CONFERENCE OVERVIEW, AND ORIENTATION:**  
*Roger Rivera*, President, NHEC
- 2:30 – 3:30 pm: **Trends in Environmental Hiring: Where Are The Jobs?**  
Speakers:  
*Bill Gwaltney*, Associate Regional Director for Workforce Enhancement, National Park Service, Denver, CO  
*Dr. Dorceta Taylor*, Associate Professor of Environmental Sociology, University of Michigan, Dept. of Natural Resources, Ann Arbor, MI
- 3:30 – 4 pm: **Graduate School and You: What You Need to Know:**  
Speakers:  
*Dr. Eddie Laboy Nieves*, PhD., Metropolitana University, Guayama, PR, and NHEC Board Member  
*Dr. Cecilio Ortiz-Garcia*, Professor, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX, and NHEC Board Member
- 4 – 4:15 pm: **Break**
- 4:15 – 5:30 pm: **Preparing for Your Environmental Job: What You Need To Know**  
Presentations and Practice Sessions For Students On Effective Interviewing Skills  
Effective Resume Writing, and More  
Speakers Include:  
*Bill Gwaltney*, Associate Regional Director for Workforce Enhancement, Denver CO;  
*Michael Quijano*, Chief Ranger, Petroglyph National Monument, Albuquerque, NM  
*Sara Stein*, Human Resources, National Park Services  
*Rich Martinez*, Chief of Administrative Services Branch, U.S. EPA; Dallas TX;  
*Yolanda Nixon*, Human Resources Specialist, U.S. EPA, Dallas, TX

## Monday, April 5, 2004

8 – 9 am: **OPENING GENERAL SESSION:  
“Opening the Doors of Opportunity in the Environmental Field”**

Welcoming remarks by NHEC and senior officials from the major  
Conference Sponsors.

Speakers include:

*Lynda F. Carroll*, Assistant Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA,  
Region VI, Dallas, TX.

*Ernest W. Ortega*, New Mexico State Coordinator,  
National Park Service

*Dr. Francisco Tomei Torres*, Minority Program Health Specialist,  
Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA

*Greg Griffith*, Deputy Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region,  
USDA Forest Service,

*Jose Acevedo*, Deputy Chief for Programs, USDA NRCS, Washington, D.C.

9 – 10 am: **Environmental Education and Hispanics**

Speakers:

*Catania Galvan*, Coordinator of Citizen Involvement, San Francisco  
Public Utilities Commission, San Francisco, CA

*C. Mark Aguilar*, Project Manager, Region VIII, Denver, CO

*Maurice Velasquez*, Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization Officer,  
Region VIII, U.S. EPA, Denver, CO

*Naomi L. Torres*, Community Outreach Specialist, Golden Gate National  
Recreation Area, National Park Service, San Francisco, CA

**Careers/Internships/Scholarships at the USDA's Forest Service and  
Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Speakers:

*Lucia Turner*, Deputy Regional Forester, Southwestern Region,  
USDA Forest Service, Albuquerque, NM

*Elizabeth Reisinger*, Human Resource Officer, USDA Natural  
Resources Conservation Service, Albuquerque, NM

*Annabelle Romero*, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture,  
Washington, D.C.

**NEPA, EIS, and More: What You Need to Know**

Speakers:

*Elsa Alvear*, Environmental Protection Specialist, Everglades  
National Park, National Park Service, Homestead, FL

*Daniel Rael*, Natural Resources Staff Officer, Carson National  
Forest, Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Service,

# Workshops

## **Issues in Energy**

Speakers:

*Dr. Ruth Weiner*, Member, Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C.

*Ramoncita Massey*, Program Manager, U.S. Dept. of Energy, Albuquerque, NM

*Cynthia Verdugo Peralta*, Governing Board Member, South Coast Air Quality Manangement District, Los Angeles, CA

10 – 11 am: **Careers/Internships/Scholarships at the U.S. Dept. of Interior**

Speakers:

*Steve Gazzano*, Northeast Regional Recruiter, National Park Service, Boston, MA

*Lynn Sendejo*, Diversity Team Leader, U.S. Geological Survey, U. S. Dept. of Interior, Reston, VA

*Charles Dent*, Director, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, NM

*John Matis*, Southwest Regional Recruiter, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Albuquerque, NM

## **The Endangered Species Act: A Status Report**

Speakers:

*Bryan Arroyo*, Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, NM

*Elsa M. Alvear*, Environmental Protection Specialist, Everglades National Park, National Park Service, Homestead, FL

*Susan George*, Field Counsel, Defenders of Wildlife, Albuquerque, NM

## **Water is Life: Preserving and Managing this Vital Resource for the Future**

Speakers:

*Viola Sanchez*, Hydrologist and Civil Engineer, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Albuquerque, NM.

*Mario Salazar*, Environmental Engineer, Office of Water, U.S. EPA, Washington D.C.

*John Lujan*, Superintendent, El Maipais and El Morro National Monuments, National Park Service, Grants, NM

*Abel Camarena*, Deputy Regional Forester, Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Service, Albuquerque, NM

## **Environmental Justice and Latinos: A Status Report**

Speakers:

*Olivia Rodriguez-Balandran*, Associate Director for Environmental Justice, U.S. EPA, Region VI, Dallas, TX

*Jesse Marquez*, President, Wilmington Coalition for a Safe Environment, Los Angeles, CA

*Norma Ramos*, Attorney, and Environmental Justice Activist, New York, NY,

*Carolina Simunovic*, Environmental Health and Outreach Coordinator, Fresno Metro Ministry, Fresno, CA

11 – 11:15 am: Break

11:15 am – 12:15 pm: GENERAL SESSION:

## **National Policies and Politics of the Environment Today**

Speakers:

*Daniel Garza*, Deputy Director, Intergovernmental and External Affairs, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C.

Others speakers to be announced

2:30 – 3:30 pm:

## **Minority Environmental Organizations: Profiles in Environmental and Community Activism**

Speakers:

*Dr. Virgilio Minino*, President, Latin American Foundation for Environmental Protection, Miami, FL

*Widmine Remy*, Program Coordinator, Eagle Eye Institute, Somerville, MA

*Jesse Marquez*, President, Wilmington Coalition for a Safe Environment, Los Angeles, CA

*Carolina Simunovic*, Environmental Health and Outreach Coordinator, Fresno Metro Ministries, Fresno, CA

## **Water, Land, Wildlife, and Parks: Key Laws and Policies Governing Our Natural Resources and Environment**

Speakers:

*John Luján*, Superintendent, El Malpaís and El Morro National Monuments, National Park Service, Grants, NM

*Larry Cordova*, Wildlife Biologist, Smokey Bear Ranger District, Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Service, Ruidoso, NM

*Jose Acevedo*, Deputy Chief for Programs, USDA NRCS, Washington, D.C.

# Workshops

## **The National Park Service and Latinos**

Speakers:

*Ernest W. Ortega*, NM State Director, National Park Service,  
Santa Fe, NM

*Vidal Martinez*, NPS, Superintendent, George Washington  
Birthplace National Monument and Thomas Stone National  
Historical Site, Washington's Birthplace, VA

*Myrna Palfry*, Superintendent, Palo Alto Battlefield National  
Historic Site, National Park Service, Brownsville, TX

## **Recycling In America: A Status Report**

Speaker:

*Carlos Bustos*, Sales and Marketing Director, Pronatura, Inc,  
San Juan, PR

## **Pollution, Toxics, Landfills, and More**

Speaker:

*Alvaro Alvarado*, Toxicologist, U.S. EPA, Region III,  
Philadelphia, PA

3:30 – 4:30 pm:

## **Careers/Internships/Scholarships at the U.S. EPA**

Speakers:

*Piyachat Terrell*, Program Analyst, U.S. EPA, Washington, D.C.

*Matt Salazar*, U.S. EPA, Region 9, San Francisco, CA

## **Green Infrastructure: Where, How, Why**

Speakers:

*Vicente Paulo Cusumano*, Community Planner, National Park  
Service, El Paso, TX

*Miguel Salinas*, Director of Planning, City of Taos, NM

*Caroline Sim*, Masters of Planning/Environmental Conservation,  
New York University, New York, NY,

*Roberto Frau*, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies,  
New Haven, CT

## **A Problem Without Boundaries: Air Pollution, Health, and Minority Americans**

Speakers:

*Gabriela D. Lemus*, Ph.D., Director of Policy and Legislation,  
LULAC National Office, Washington, D.C.

*Gina Weber*, U.S.—Mexico Border Coordinator, U.S. EPA,  
Region VI, Dallas, TX

*Cynthia Verdugo Peralta*, Governing Board Member, South Coast Air  
Quality Management District, Los Angeles, CA

*Ramon Cruz*, Research Associate, Environmental Defense, NY, NY,

# Workshops

## **The U.S Forest Service and Latinos**

Speakers:

*Jose Briseno*, EEO Specialist, Pacific Southwest Region,  
USDA Forest Service, Vallejo, CA

*Javier Delgado*, EEO Specialist, Pacific Southwest Region,  
USDA Forest Service, Vallejo, CA

*Elena Delgado*, Travel Coordinator, Eastern Region,  
USDA Forest Service

## **Wilderness: The Needs, The Challenges**

Speakers:

*Gary Candelaria*, Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias National  
Park and Preserve, Copper Center, Alaska

*Leonard Atencio*, Director of Recreation, Heritage, and  
Wilderness Resources, Southwestern Region,  
USDA Forest Service, Santa Fe, NM

*Sabrina Parra Garcia*, NHEC—CWHC Los Angeles Area  
Outreach Coordinator, Los Angeles, CA

*Kristina Ortez*, NHEC—CWHC Fresno/Central Valley  
Outreach Coordinator, Fresno, CA

4:30 – 5:30 pm:

GENERAL SESSION:

### **Profiles in Excellence: 4 Hispanics in Environmental Positions Who Are Making a Difference**

Speakers:

*Norma Ramos*, Attorney at Law, and Environmental Justice  
Activist, New York, NY

*David Vela*, Acting Deputy Regional Director, Southeast  
Regional Office, National Park Service, Atlanta, GA

*Lina M.S. Younes*, Special Assistant to the Associate  
Administrator, Office of Public Affairs, U.S. EPA,  
Washington, D.C.

*Cynthia Verdugo Peralta*, Member, Governing Board, South  
Coast Air Quality Management District, Los Angeles, CA

5:30 – 6:30 pm

NHEC-U.S. EPA Environmental Excellence Poster Presentation  
and Awards

*Alvaro Alvarado*, Toxicologist, U.S. EPA, Region III, Philadelphia, PA

# Workshops

**Tuesday, April 6, 2004**

8 – 9 am: **GENERAL SESSION:**  
**Public Lands and Minorities: Gates Open or Gates Shut?**

Speakers:

*Dr. Dorceta Taylor*, Associate Professor of Environmental Sociology, University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources, Ann Arbor, MI

*Gary Candelaria*, Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, Copper Center, Alaska

9 – 10 am: **GENERAL SESSION:**  
**Environmental Justice, Health Issues, and Latinos**

Speakers:

*Delta Valente*, Hispanic Outreach Program Manager, Office of Environmental Justice, U.S. EPA, Washington, D.C.

*Dr. Francisco Tomei-Torres*, Program Manager for Environmental Justice, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR); Atlanta, GA

*Jesse Marquez*, President and Founder, Wilmington Coalition for A Safe Environment, Los Angeles, CA

*Angela Ledford*, Executive Director, Clear the Air, Washington, D.C.

*Carolina Simunovic*, Environmental Health and Outreach Coordinator, Fresno Metro Ministry, Fresno, CA

# Workshop Descriptions

## Monday, April 5, 2004

### 9 – 10 am

#### ❖ **Environmental Education and Hispanics**

As a result of environmental programs being taught in elementary schools, a common situation is occurring in non-minority households: youngsters come home from school to eagerly urge their parents to be environmentally conscious. Yet the question remains: how often is this happening in minority, and especially Hispanic, homes? This workshop will examine the status of environmental education programs, curricula, and outreach efforts to our community.

#### ❖ **Careers/Internships/Scholarships at the USDA's Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has major environmental and natural resource responsibilities nationwide. However, many in the Hispanic community are not aware that important agencies like the Forest Service are even a part of the USDA. This workshop will examine the work of USDA in the environment, and provide an overview of the career, educational, and business opportunities for Hispanic environmental students and professionals at this vast and diverse department.

#### ❖ **NEPA, EIS, and More: What You Need to Know**

Safeguarding our environment means knowing about and following a number of important laws, regulations, and policy tools. Some of the most important ones are NEPA—the National Environmental Policy Act, and EIS—Environmental Impact Statements. However, these are complicated tools, and for even the most experienced of environmental profes-

sionals—never mind the lay person—a proper understanding of these can be daunting. This workshop will review these instrumental policy and program tools and explore their key features, uses, and goals.

#### ❖ **Issues in Energy**

The many issues in energy remain a major societal, economic, and environmental concern for America. Whether it's rising gas prices at the pump, the creation of new, sustainable technology, the impact on our economy overall, or the possible impact due to oil drilling on places like the Arctic National Wildlife, energy affects all our lives every day. Energy—whether fossil, renewable, or achieved through conservation, impacts the environment and thus us. This workshop will focus on several sources, such as hydropower, solar, and nuclear, that produce our nation's energy, yet require us to ensure that our demands for power do not also harm our environment.

### 10 – 11 am

#### ❖ **Careers/Internships/Scholarships at the U.S. Department of Interior**

The U.S. Department of Interior, with its ten bureaus and broad national environmental responsibilities, is singularly involved in the planning and implementation of federal environmental and natural resource policies. As such, the Interior Department offers Hispanics enormous opportunities for jobs, internships, and other educational possibilities. Coupled with this is the Department's creation of a Strategic Plan on Diversity, in which they acknowledge the need to reach out in substantially new ways to the Hispanic community. This workshop will review the opportunities available to Hispanic environmental professionals and students at this vast and important federal department.

# Workshop Descriptions

## ❖ **The Endangered Species Act:**

### **A Status Report**

Since its passage more than 3 decades ago, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the work of myriad government agencies and non-profit organizations, has been instrumental in protecting a variety of American wildlife and other species from extinction. However, the Act has always been controversial, and increasingly so, and it has generated growing opposition to its provisions, and some insist the time has come to substantially modify or even eliminate the ESA. This workshop will explore the results of the Act, look at those animals and plants which have been brought back from the brink, and those which continue to face extinction. The workshop will also examine the many policy, management, and scientific practices which have led to these successes, and give an update on the current status of this important but controversial environmental law.

## ❖ **Water Is Life: Preserving and Managing this Vital Resource for the Future**

The fact is, water is life. The management and conservation of this precious resource is a major policy concern of many in the environmental arena, whether in the public, private, or non-profit sector.

This workshop will examine water issues and conservation methods, discuss current threats to clean and safe water, and discuss a variety of policy concerns regarding this resource in the next century. It will also examine the issue as it impacts the Hispanic community, now and in the future.

## ❖ **Environmental Justice and Latinos: Present Issues, Future Needs**

Environmental justice has come of age, developing into a movement that has had a broad impact on the lives of people of color, and en-

abling many to fight the inequities of environmental racism. As the movement has grown though, new questions arise. How can the Hispanic community take full advantage of and participate equally in the movement? How can those environmental issues which largely or uniquely affect our community be adequately addressed? Have Hispanic concerns/issues in the movement been adequately addressed? And, how can Latino environmental professionals become more aware of and active on environmental justice issues? This session will discuss these important topics, and offer a status report on environmental justice for Latinos.

**2:30 – 3:30 pm**

## ❖ **Minority Environmental Organizations: Profiles in Environmental Activism**

Minority environmental organizations are emerging as a growing force, and engaging in a variety of environmental activism. Whether it is environmental justice, conservation efforts, community clean-up and enhancement of a park, or environmental education programs designed to teach our youth to be good stewards of the environment, there is growing activism by environmentalists who are also people of color. This workshop will look at some diverse efforts by Hispanics and others in these areas, and examine the status of this young but important trend.

## ❖ **Water, Land, Wildlife, and Parks: Key Laws and Policies Governing our Natural Resources**

Today, there is an extensive body of laws and regulations that precisely govern what the public, private, and non-profit sectors can do in the environment and natural resource fields. Federal laws such as the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean

# Workshop Descriptions

Water Act, RCRA, NEPA, the Antiquities Act, and much more drive the environmental agenda. This workshop will review these major environmental laws, regulations, and policies, examine their current status, look at the controversies surrounding them, discuss how they govern the work of the agencies represented on the workshop, and explain why these laws so fundamentally govern the environmental movement.

## ❖ **The National Park Service and Latinos**

The National Park Service is the keeper of our nation's cultural, historical, and natural heritage. They play a major role in preserving our environment and our natural resources, including such icons as the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, and the Everglades. Through NPS, our nation's history is kept alive and passed along unharmed to future generations. Yet issues remain – whose history is being preserved and respected? Whose stories will be told and passed along. Is diversity important to NPS? How can Latinos ensure that we are adequately included in the important work of the NPS? And, where is NPS headed when it comes to the nation's largest minority group? All these and more will be explored in this workshop.

## ❖ **Recycling in America: A Status Report**

The “3 R's—reduce, renew, recycle” is a mantra that is central to responsible, sustainable environmental policy and programs. Without recycling, America would soon choke on its own waste, garbage, and other offshoots of our modern, industrial society. Indeed, recycling is vital to ensuring that our ever-shrinking number of available landfills do not become overwhelmed even sooner than anticipated. Recycling—whether in our personal lives, for industries, or for governments—is a vital tool to ensure that our environment is kept

healthy, and that we are practicing a key element of sustainability. This workshop will explore the policies, practices, and the results—both intended and unintended—of this crucial environmental practice.

## ❖ **Pollution, Toxics, Landfills, and More**

This workshop will provide an overview of some of the various elements of the “brown” side of the environment—the pollutants, toxic elements, incinerators, landfills, etc. that make up our environmental problems, and some of the practices and facilities that are used to remediate and/or clean-up these hazards. This is an “overview” session that will touch on some of the big-picture issues that students and others need to know regarding environmental causes and solutions.

## **3:30 – 4:30 pm:**

## ❖ **Careers/Internships/Scholarships at the U.S. EPA**

EPA is probably the agency most Americans have come to associate most quickly with the environment. The work they perform is many and varied, and the opportunities for Hispanics equally so. This workshop will provide an overview of the career and educational opportunities for Hispanic students and professionals alike, as well as an summary of their major mission areas.

## ❖ **Green Infrastructure: Where, How, Why**

Increasingly, “green infrastructure”—the practice of using or making our “built environment” more sustainable, healthy, and environmentally friendly—is taking hold. From installing “green roofs” to help reduce the urban heat island effect, to creating a shuttle system or building a light rail in our national parks to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality, to using renewable energy sources

# Workshop Descriptions

in buildings, all these are signs of growing awareness of the need to “do and build more green”. This workshop will discuss some of these trends, and explore specific examples of how to implement environmentally friendly/healthy methods into the practices of government, industry, and society.

❖ **A Problem Without Boundaries: Air Pollution, Health, and Minority Americans**

Indoor and outdoor air pollution has become one of the leading environmental health concerns afflicting minority Americans, especially Hispanics. This workshop will examine the status of air pollution in America today, with a focus on Hispanic communities, and explore the policy and technology solutions being proposed or implemented to address this major environmental concern.

❖ **The U.S. Forest Service and Latinos: Where Are We Headed?**

The Forest Service has many of the same natural resource responsibilities as the National Park Service, although through a “multiple use” model. They manage recreation areas, preserve wilderness and wildlife, and supervise industries such as logging, cattle raising, fishing, hunting, and more. They also have cultural and historic preservation duties. Like NPS, the Forest Service is trying to work on issues of diversity, minority outreach, and equitable access and usage of their facilities. Issues remain – how can the Service be more responsive to the Latino community? How can diversity be achieved, and opportunities created? And how will the Service address the changing demographics of America? All these and more will be explored in this workshop.

❖ **Wilderness: The Needs, The Challenges**

The many issues in keeping “wild” some of America’s last remaining pristine places are

the focus of this session. These include development, encroachment, habitat loss, inadequate management plans, and natural disasters such as invasive species and wild fires. In addition, the political, economic, recreational, tourism, and other societal challenges and opportunities that arise in creating/maintaining federal and other wild areas will be explored. And the role of people – as stewards of the land, will also be discussed. In addition, two NHEC staff persons will discuss NHEC’s active involvement in Latino outreach in California regarding the “California Wild Heritage Campaign”, an effort designed to protect some of that state’s remaining “special places”.

## Tuesday, April 6, 2004

8 – 9 am:

❖ **GENERAL SESSION:  
Public Lands and Minorities:  
Gates Open or Gates Shut?**

For many minority Americans, especially Latinos, there is a perception that our public lands do not always belong to all of the people. This sense is based on some intangibles—the ranger who asks pointedly about the purposes of a group of minority teens and adults in a park or forest, while not making a similar inquiry of a non-minority youth group. Or the outreach programs of public land agencies that often fail to adequately target people of color. This feeling of being “left out” is also compounded by such growing practices as the “fee demo” program—a policy of charging entrance/parking fees at public lands, which some assert has a disproportionate deterrent effect on low-income or minority individuals. Or a workforce on public lands that often does

# Workshop Descriptions

not reflect the “face of America”. All of these issues and more will be discussed.

**9 – 10 am:**

❖ **GENERAL SESSION:  
Environmental Justice and Latinos:  
A Status Report**

Environmental justice has come of age, developing into a movement that has had a broad impact on the lives of people of color, and enabling many to fight the inequities of environmental racism. As the movement has grown

though, new questions arise. How can the Hispanic community take full advantage of and participate equally in the movement? How can those environmental issues which largely or uniquely affect our community be adequately addressed? Have Hispanic concerns/issues in the movement been adequately addressed? And, how can Latino environmental professionals become more aware of and active on environmental justice issues? This session will discuss these important topics, and offer a status report on environmental justice for Latinos.

# Luncheon Keynote Speaker

Governor Michael Leavitt  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



**M**ichael O. Leavitt was sworn in as the 10th Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency on November 6, 2003. Prior to leading the agency, Leavitt served as Utah's 14th governor and was a national leader on homeland security, welfare reform and environmental management. Six times during his administration, independent public policy analysts ranked Utah among the best-managed states in the nation. He now brings his proven management record to the EPA.

As a pioneer of collaborative environmental management, Leavitt helped clean up the air over the Grand Canyon. He served as vice-chair of the Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission and co-chair of the Western Regional Air Partnership. These efforts resulted in 70 recommendations to improve visibility on the Colorado Plateau and a regulatory commitment and strategies to dramatically reduce sulfur dioxide levels in 13 states.

Leavitt also led his state during the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, the most environmentally-sensitive games ever. Organizers achieved net zero air emissions, zero waste and full compliance with all safety and environmental regulations. One-hundred-thousand trees were planted as a lasting legacy of the environmental accomplishments.

As a thoughtful leader on environmental management, Mr Leavitt co-authored, with former Governor John Kitzhaber, D-Or, a balanced environmental philosophy known as Enlibra. Enlibra, derived from Latin roots, means "moving toward balance" and emphasizes collaboration over confrontation.

In Mr. Leavitt's previous public service he has always pursued three goals: to leave things better than he found them; to plant seeds for the next generation; and to give it all he has. These are his goals as leader of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Born February 11, 1951, in Cedar City, Utah, Leavitt graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics and business from Southern Utah University. After earning his degree, he eventually became president and chief executive officer of a regional insurance firm, establishing it as one of the top insurance brokers in America. He is married to Jacalyn S. Leavitt; they are the parents of five children.

# Banquet Keynote Speaker



**Rebecca W. Watson**  
**Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals**  
**Management**  
**U.S. Department of Interior**

**R**ebecca W. Watson is the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management at the U.S. Department of the Interior. She provides policy, priorities and oversight to the Bureau of Land Management, Minerals Management Service, and Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. These three bureaus have responsibility for the production of about 35 percent of our domestic oil, natural gas and coal that heat and cool our homes, fuel our cars and trucks, and power our high-tech economy. The Bureau of Land Management also manages about one-eighth of the land in the United States for a wide variety of uses benefiting the public including recreation, grazing, timber production, mining, wilderness, energy development and wildlife habitat. During her tenure as Assistant Secretary, Ms. Watson has established providing the American people with the energy they need in an environmentally sound manner and the preservation of rural western communities and their values as her highest priorities. She has been an active spokesperson for administration initiatives to involve local communities in public-land decisions affecting them and protecting communities from the threat of wildland fires.

# NHEC Leadership Award



**Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis**  
**32nd District of California**

Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis first came to Congress in 2000 and is currently serving her second term in the U.S. House of Representatives. She represents the 32nd Congressional District of California, which encompasses the San Gabriel Valley and parts of East Los Angeles.

Congresswoman Solis serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee becoming the first Latina to serve on this committee. She is the Ranking Member of the Environment and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee. Solis is also Assistant Whip, Chairwoman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' Task Force on Health. Her priorities include protecting the environment, improving the quality of health care and fighting for working families.

Congresswoman Solis' hard work and passion for environmental justice is nationally recognized. In August 2000, she was the first woman awarded the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for her pioneering work on environmental justice issues in California. The Profile in Courage Award served to recognize Solis' perseverance against anti-environmental groups and polluters.

Congresswoman Solis continues to be a strong environmental advocate and legislator in the Congress. She has passed legislation to conduct environmental studies of the San Gabriel River, a key watershed in Los Angeles. And, she is the co-sponsor of a major bill in Congress designed to secure permanent federal wilderness protection for some of California's last pristine places in the state. Congresswoman Solis has worked to ensure that both people and the land receive environmental justice.

Solis graduated from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and earned an MPA from the University of Southern California. During the Carter Administration she served in the White House Office of Hispanic Affairs and was later appointed to the Office of Management and Budget.

Solis was first elected to public office in 1985. She served in the California State Assembly from 1992 to 1994. She became the first Latina ever elected to the State Senate. As a trailblazing State Senator, she passed innovative environmental justice legislation to help low-income and minority communities most affected by pollution and waste. This legislation was the first of its kind.

Congresswoman Solis is a lifetime resident of the San Gabriel Valley and lives in the City of El Monte.