



Seventh Generation Institute

Newsletter January 2009—for members and friends of 7GI

Climate change project slated for 2009

Climate change is a hot topic.

Many efforts are focusing on reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. While these efforts are urgent, our society must also address the impacts to natural systems that are unavoidable from the greenhouse gases already present. Climate change is predicted to cause a fresh round of negative impacts to New Mexico's most precious and threatened ecosystem – riparian areas.

Building Riparian Resilience through Beaver Restoration is Seventh Generation Institute's new project to strengthen riparian ecosystems to

withstand changes in precipitation and runoff, vegetation, and habitat quality. The key activity is relocating beaver that are now considered a nuisance to targeted areas to create new dam-pond complexes.

Through their dam- and pond-building activities, beaver are an excellent tool to restore riparian areas. Beaver dams and ponds permit continued stream flow, but slow down the flow and extend it over time, buffering riparian systems from both high and low runoff. In these buffered systems, large runoff events cause less flooding, erosion, and channel cutting. During low-flow periods beaver



As an "ecosystem engineer," the beaver's only rival is humans.

ponds maintain stream flows when vegetation, fish, and wildlife most need them. As New Mexicans know, people also rely on these natural systems. Water quality, ...continued on back.

"In every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations."

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Susan Ossim, Newsletter Editor and Designer

A busy 2008... and tough times ahead

Seventh Generation Institute continued to grow in 2008.

We began developing our advisory board in 2008. We welcome new advisory board members Jennifer Steketee and Lucy Moore, each of whom brings a

wealth of experience to our organization. Susan Ossim and Denise Smith have also joined our staff on a part time basis. We are very happy to have Denise and Susan and we look forward to doing great things with all this new brain power.

7GI staff completed a management plan for a new national park on the island of St. Kitts--the Central Forest Reserve. This park holds 12,500 acres of cloud forest that provides vital habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife.

(Continued on page 2)

Feedback on this newsletter? [Email us!](mailto:admin@seventh-generation.org)

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Seventh Generation Institute is a nonprofit 501(c)3 conservation organization based in Santa Fe New Mexico. Our mission is to conserve biological diversity, foster sustainable resource use, and ensure an optimistic future for the human communities that depend on the natural world, through excellence in science and collaboration. Our guiding philosophy is that successful conservation must include both solid science and strong community participation. We partner with agencies, user groups, tribes, private land owners, and other nonprofit and community-based organizations to find solutions for improved resource stewardship.

Climate change and beaver

Continued from front.... agricultural production, and many recreational activities depend on consistent water flows and functioning riparian ecosystems.

Early trappers described the beaver of New Mexico's rivers and tributaries as "exceedingly numerous." Although beaver are present in New Mexico, they have not returned to their historic abundance

or to many parts of their historic range.

Beaver are not a panacea. They can create headaches when they block road culverts or irrigation systems or cut down a favorite tree. Like most restoration approaches, successful use of beaver will require common sense, working together to find solutions and balanced beaver management to minimize the

nuisance aspects, while obtaining the benefits.

The project is a collaboration between Seventh Generation Institute and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

Interested in helping to make this project a success? See the section below to learn how you can make a difference.

A busy 2008, and tough times ahead

Equally important for this steep volcanic island, the park provides critical watershed protection to ensure a clean, stable water supply and flood control for the human population.

Over the next few years, ecotourism in the new national park will be carefully expanded to provide economic opportunities while maintaining resource protection and cultural integrity. Tourism will be small-scale and dispersed, based on a network of long-distance footpaths that connect small villages, historical sites, and spectacular island vistas

Lastly, the email listserv that 7GI created for professional resource managers continued to grow in 2008. Membership in this list is now 67 individuals from agencies, nonprofits, tribes, universities and

more. 514 messages were posted to the listserv during its first year

And on to 2009....As has been widely reported, the economic downturn of 2008 has significantly affected the ability of nonprofit organizations to raise funds for program services. The crystal ball is a little cloudy, but it appears that 2009 will bring more of the same.

Interested in conservation and sustainable use in New Mexico?

You can help by becoming a member of Seventh Generation Institute, donating or volunteering. Visit our website (www.seventh-generation.org) or contact us at 505

216 1150 to learn how. We are currently seeking an additional advisory board member with expertise in nonprofit accounting and reporting. Later in 2009 we anticipate recruiting volunteers to assist with the *Building Riparian Resilience through Beaver Restoration* project. Watch our website for these opportunities.

All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law and contributions of any size are welcome. 7GI and the next seven generations thank you.

