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COMMONWEAL CONSERVANCY RECEIVES 1 OF 4 \$50,000 POWER UP GRANTS FROM THE PNM RESOURCES FOUNDATION

*The PNM Power UP Grant will support the construction of a
60-seat outdoor amphitheater at the Galisteo Basin Preserve*

Santa Fe, NM, July 22, 2014—The PNM Resources Foundation recently announced that Commonweal Conservancy would be the recipient of one of only four \$50,000 Power Up Grants that it is awarding to New Mexico nonprofit organizations in 2014. The Power Up Grant initiative is a \$500,000 investment in the communities PNM serves across the state. The purpose of the grant initiative is to fund innovative projects that improve the quality of life and help build stronger communities in New Mexico. The Foundation received over 100 Power Up grant proposals that ranged from building pocket parks and sports fields to revitalizing vacant lots and increasing wheelchair accessibility to recreation facilities. Four principal grants were awarded in the amount of \$50,000 and twenty grants were awarded for \$15,000.

PNM's generous grant to Commonweal will support the construction of a 60-seat, multi-use outdoor amphitheater at the Galisteo Basin Preserve – Commonweal's 13,000-acre conservation and community stewardship project located in Santa Fe County's Galisteo Basin – an ecological region celebrated for its cultural, scenic and wildlife values. The amphitheater will be developed immediately adjacent to one of the Preserve's most popular trailheads.

The amphitheater will be designed to step down approximately five feet below the surface grade of a surrounding meadow. Concentric semi-circles of banco-style seating are planned to surround a 200-square foot stage that will be large enough for performances, educational events and celebrations. A retractable fabric shade screen will cover the stage area; separate shade screens will be vertically arranged on the theater's western edge to deflect spring winds and low-angle afternoon sun. A banco along the perimeter of the stage area will allow for seating around a fire pit – creating an intimate setting for smaller story-telling events within the stage area's center circle.

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The amphitheater will allow Commonweal to expand and diversify its schedule of community gatherings at the Galisteo Basin Preserve. It will replace a loosely arranged hay bale circle that has been the setting for many events that have been sponsored by Commonweal at the Preserve including star-parties, public lectures, performances, fireside storytelling evenings, and guided hikes and mountain bike rides. The amphitheater's close proximity to the Preserve's proposed memorial landscape/green cemetery will facilitate its use as a venue for memorial services and life celebrations. Commonweal also plans on renting the facility for weddings, birthday and anniversary parties, and other events. Income from the facility rental will supplement Commonweal's trail building and land restoration activities in the surrounding Preserve.

"PNM Resources Foundation's grant to Commonweal is a powerful – potentially transformative investment – in the Galisteo Basin Preserve," said Ted Harrison, president of Commonweal Conservancy. "For the first time in the Preserve's 11-year history, Commonweal and our partners will be able to host community gatherings and events in a venue that honors the beauty and integrity of the surrounding landscape." According to Harrison, "PNM's gift affirms Commonweal's long-held conservation-based community development vision for the Preserve. It is an act of extraordinary faith and generosity for which my colleagues and I are profoundly grateful."

"The PNM Resources Foundation is dedicated to building vibrant communities throughout New Mexico," said Diane Harrison Ogawa, executive director of the PNM Resources Foundation. "We have had a long-standing partnership with the Commonweal Conservancy and we are pleased to support their work to build stronger communities."

About the Galisteo Basin Preserve

The Galisteo Basin Preserve is a land-conservation and community-development initiative in central Santa Fe County that is spearheaded by Commonweal Conservancy. Through a carefully orchestrated program of conservation easements and limited development, the Galisteo Basin Preserve is designed to permanently protect more than 13,000 acres of open space, migratory wildlife habitat, native vegetation, and cultural resources in the Galisteo Basin. Publicly accessible trails, land-restoration projects, and green home construction in five conservation neighborhoods currently animate the Preserve. For more information about the Preserve and its publicly-accessible trail network, visit www.galisteobasinpreserve.com.

About the PNM Resources Foundation

The PNM Resources Foundation has invested more than \$12.6 million in communities served by PNM Resource, Inc. In 1983, PNM shareholders created the PNM Foundation as a separate, nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation governed by a board of trustees comprised of PNM employees. In 2005, with the acquisition of First Choice Power and Texas-New Mexico Power Co., the Foundation expanded its scope to include parts of Texas. No customer funds are part of the PNM Resources Foundation endowment. For more information, visit PNM.com

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About Commonweal Conservancy

Commonweal Conservancy is a nonprofit, conservation-based, community-development organization dedicated to forging deep and sustaining relationships among people, land, and the built environment. Commonweal acquires properties of cultural and ecological significance and engages in collaborative land planning that inspires the creation of whole communities. Since its founding in 2003, Commonweal has contributed more than \$4.5 million in land value donations to the Santa Fe Conservation Trust and Santa Fe County. The organization also has secured gifts of land and conservation easements valued at nearly \$5 million from other Galisteo Basin property owners.

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