

My name is Henry Edwards. I have lived in Catron County my entire life. The history of my family is engrained in the land. It has been since before NM was a state.

My great grandfather Ernest Corrajo worked in the forest service for many years and helped to build a dirt road from Quemado to Reserve. Many of my other family members in Catron County are teachers, mechanics, ranchers, outfitters, artists, and everything in-between.

This seems like the first time in the history of Catron County that Conservatives and Liberals, Ranchers and Environmentalists, and the government have all agreed. For Catron County that's saying something.

The APR's plan to sustain the aquifer with rainwater is not feasible. To make it sustainable, they have to put back as much they take. In order for them to be able to recharge 54,000 acre-feet with rainwater, as they propose, they will have to collect every drop of rain and snow over a 78 square mile area, at an average of 14" inches of precipitation a year.

That was our annual rainfall and since the drought, it has been half that. It would have to rain more than that for one drop to hit the ground, to water the grass, the trees, the cattle, the elk and antelope, and the people who live there.

The APR's application to take water from the Plains of San Augustine will destroy everything that our families have worked for. Everything that my wife and I continue to work for.

This morning, you were told by the State Geologist and her panel that there isn't enough data for the State Engineer to make an informed decision as to the amount of water in this aquifer. Why doesn't he wait until a study of the basin has been done ?

This is not just a problem for the people of the Plains. Everyone who relies on the Tularosa River, the Gila River , and the Alamosa Creek, can expect to share in this destruction.

Those waters are supplied by the San Augustine Plains aquifer.

Fully one quarter of the State will inherit the privilege of suffering from this corporate greed, and a generations old way of life will be left to die of thirst.