

THE PECOS IS MORE THREATENED THAN EVER BY
INTERNATIONAL MINING COMPANY'S EXPANDING CLAIMS

THE PECOS IS IRREPLACEABLE, and its mountains, rivers, watershed, mesas, and forests belong to the people of New Mexico. This area has been devastated by irresponsible mining activity in the past. Our lands, water, and way of life are again under threat from extensive new mining proposals in the Upper Pecos watershed.

In 2019, Comexico LLC, a Colorado-based subsidiary of Australian mining company New World Resources Ltd, acquired 20 mining claims in the Jones Hill area near Tererro, NM. Comexico applied for permits to conduct exploratory drilling for gold, copper, zinc, lead, and silver. This initial exploratory drilling would adversely impact more than 400 acres and five tributaries of the Pecos, plus the river's mainstem. This threat led to the formation of the Stop Tererro Mine Coalition and, to date, Comexico has yet to be issued permits.

However, since 2019, Comexico has gained ownership of over 236 mining claims in the greater Pecos headwaters. The possibility of destructive hardrock mining now goes well beyond the original exploratory drilling sites, as shown by the "Active mining claims" map. The area now claimed by Comexico covers 4300 acres and, if developed, would impact the entire Pecos watershed and possibly Santa Fe's municipal watershed.

## **OUR GOALS:**

- PROTECT BOTH THE PECOS WATERSHED AND SANTA FE MUNICIPAL WATERSHED
- PREVENT EXPLORATORY DRILLING
  OF THE JONES HILL DEPOSITS
- PREVENT THE DEVELOPMENT
  OF ANY EXPANDED MINES AND
  PROCESSING SITES
- PREVENT ADDITIONAL NEW MINING CLAIMS FROM BEING STAKED IN THE PECOS
- IF ANY EXPLORATION OR FULL-SCALE MINING IS APPROVED, ENSURE THAT THE MOST PROTECTIVE LIMITATIONS AND CONDITIONS ARE PUT INTO PLACE TO PROTECT RESOURCES

The Stop Tererro Mine Coalition is a group of local community, governmental, tribal, agricultural, business, and conservation partners working to protect the Pecos from threats of hard rock mining.

## HOW WE CAN PROTECT THE PECOS:

CREATE AN ADMINISTRATIVE AND
LEGISLATIVE MINERAL WITHDRAWAL TO
PROTECT CRITICAL CULTURAL AND NATURAL
RESOURCES, ESPECIALLY WATER, IN THE
PECOS WATERSHED: We continue to work
to secure permanent protection with
Congress through a legislative mineral
withdrawal such as that described by the
Pecos Watershed Protection Act proposed
by the New Mexico Congressional
delegation. Additionally, we are
requesting the Secretary of Interior to
enact a 20-year administrative mineral
withdrawal of the Pecos headwaters, which
would provide immediate protection.

**DESIGNATE THOMPSON PEAK AND** SURROUNDING LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS AS WILDERNESS: We are working with our community to advance legislation for Congress to designate new wilderness for lands in the Santa Fe National Forest that qualify. Wilderness can enhance protections for water quality, forest health, biodiversity, and cultural and historical resources that are important to local communities and tribes. As shown on the map, the U.S. Forest Service is managing the "Thompson Peak Recommended Wilderness" to protect its wilderness characteristics, but declined to provide this protection to surrounding wilderness quality lands, including Comexico's mining claims area.

## ENFORCE OUTSTANDING NATIONAL RESOURCE WATERS DESIGNATION:

New Mexico's Water Quality Control Commission has designated 180 miles of stream and 43 acres of wetlands in the Pecos watershed, which prohibits any degradation of water quality. We must mandate US Forest Service compliance with these water quality protections to ensure that there is no degradation to these highquality headwaters streams.

