

## **NPS Conservation Committee Summer report**

**January 8, 2024 – July 24, 2024**

Activities from January to July

February 5 – Wrote a letter of support for the Gila Cliff Dwelling National Monument application to DarkSky International to become a Dark Skies Sanctuary.

April 20 – Responded to Andrew Tree’s discovery of stinknet (*Oncosiphon pilulifer*) in Hidalgo County. This was the first record of this highly invasive plant’s discovery in NM.

July 5 – Reviewed and wrote comments on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Management Plans for the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

July 14 – Signed on to letter written by Appalachian Voices requesting that the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Economic Revitalization (AMLER) program have an administrative change back to coordination and oversight by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) so that NEPA and ESA are applied to decision-making processes to protect the local environment and communities. This program includes the Hopi and Navajo Nations in New Mexico.

### Upcoming Issues

Mimbres Peaks National Monument letter of support – Gila chapter is drafting a letter

Land Management Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions Across the National Forest System, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65356> Comments due Sept. 20 but I would like to submit them before Sept. 9. This does affect many forests throughout NM and I think it would be good to comment on.

Submitted by Sylvan Kaufman, Conservation Chair