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**COMMONWEAL CONSERVANCY ACQUIRES
THIRD PHASE OF GALISTEO BASIN PRESERVE**
2,444-acre acquisition adds to Preserve's conservation lands

Santa Fe, NM, April 28, 2007 — Commonweal Conservancy has completed its third land acquisition toward the planned 13,222-acre Galisteo Basin Preserve. Located in central Santa Fe County, the Galisteo Basin Preserve is a conservation-based community-development initiative that will include more than 12,000 acres of protected open space. Monday's 2,444-acre land purchase brings the total acreage owned by Commonweal Conservancy to 8,235 acres, or more than 62 percent of the entire Galisteo Basin Preserve.

“Adding these acres to the Galisteo Basin Preserve is an important step toward protecting this landscape and creating significant community open space in Santa Fe County,” said Ted Harrison, president of Commonweal Conservancy. “We are grateful to the Thornton family for their patience and their commitment to working with us.”

Commonweal's phased-acquisition agreement with the Thorntons to purchase the family's former ranch ensures that the vast majority of it will be conserved for public use. The recent purchase is the third of five planned acquisition phases for the Galisteo Basin Preserve, the first of which occurred in 2005 and the last of which is targeted for 2011. Los Alamos National Bank has been instrumental in providing the financing for this land purchase.

“The confidence of LANB in the Galisteo Basin Preserve initiative is enormously encouraging for us,” Harrison said. “Their financial support is critical in our efforts to bring forward both the land conservation and community development aspects of the Preserve.”

The Village at the Galisteo Basin Preserve

The large-scale land conservation and stewardship of the Galisteo Basin Preserve will be supported in part by the Village at the Galisteo Basin Preserve, a 300-acre, resource-efficient, mixed-use community. Designed for economic and social diversity, the Village's 965 living units will include a range of home types, sizes, and 30 percent affordable housing. Commercial, educational, and civic development will foster an active, walkable village core, while parks, trails, and open space will connect neighborhoods, link the Village to the larger Basin, and encourage a culture of stewardship. The Village is part of the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) for Neighborhood Development pilot program.

Santa Fe County is currently reviewing the plat for the Village's initial development phase. Phase I will include 149 units, 45 of which will be affordable; 37,500 square feet of commercial, civic, and educational development; and more than 4,000 acres of Village conservation and recreation lands. Pending county approval, Village home sites will go on the market and construction will begin in mid-2009.

Three conservation neighborhoods within the Galisteo Basin Preserve also have helped support the creation of the Village and the Preserve: Southern Crescent, West Basin, and New Moon Overlook. Home sites are currently available in Southern Crescent and West Basin.

For more information about the Galisteo Basin Preserve, please visit www.galisteobasinpreserve.com.

About Commonweal Conservancy

Commonweal Conservancy is a nonprofit conservation-based community-development organization committed to integrating the goals and purposes of environmental protection and community building. The group assembles properties that protect precious open space and provide for other public needs, such as affordable housing, schools, and economic development. For more information about Commonweal, please visit www.commonwealconservancy.org.

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