

My Turn

Working to preserve our peaceful skies

CAROL MILLER AND CLIFF BAIN

“When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.”

— Jimi Hendrix

The Peaceful Skies Coalition is working to prevent our skies from being turned into a dangerous and intrusive very low altitude military training zone.

Sometime in the next couple of months, the Air Force will tell the public its decision about taking this air space. We want to have a large, diverse coalition in place before the Air Force acts. If you support the following shared values of the Peaceful Skies Coalition, please join the coalition. It will take all of us working together to protect this very special place where we live. “ We come together as a coalition, to protect and preserve the southern Rocky Mountains of New Mexico and Colorado. These lands are a national treasure and need to be honored as such. This is some of the last wilderness, teeming with wildlife and home to the headwaters of the rivers of the arid lands of the Southwest.

This land is home to Native nations that have been nourished and sustained here for millennia.

The land is home to the grants given to Spanish and Mexican settlers. These lands contain vast expanses of federal and state public land.

All of us — whether here for generations, recent arrivals, or visitors passing through — love and respect the land. We are filled with wonder at the magic of the skies and light. This is a special place to be in nature, to find tranquility and peace. Out of respect for this place, we commit to the following shared values.

- The peace and quiet of the skies above the mountains and valleys of Northern New Mexico and Colorado are of paramount value, part of the lifeblood of our communities.
- The peaceful skies are a vital resource to a sustainable future for our communities, for renewable energy, agriculture, tourism, ranching, and the arts.
- The peace and quiet of the mountains provide unique opportunities for spiritual renewal, recreation, sporting opportunities for families, hunters, anglers, campers, climbers, skiers, birders, and other lovers of nature.
- The peace and quiet of the mountains provides a nurturing environment for abundant wildlife, and holds intrinsic ecological importance and scenic beauty.

Based on these values, we believe that it is a grave and irrevocable mistake to exploit this special place for the principal benefit of the military. We will work to assure that the Peaceful Skies of Northern New Mexico and Colorado are closed to low-altitude technical navigation training and other intrusive airborne military training, and thereby protected for the benefit of present and future generations of all Americans.”

If you — as an individual, an organization, or business — support these values, please sign on to this statement and join with us to build a strong coalition. On the Web: www.peacefulskies.org, by email: peacefulskies@taosnet.com or P.O. Box 297, Arroyo Hondo, NM 87513.

Carol Miller and Cliff Bain are members of the Peaceful Skies Coalition.