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Outgoing Chair Message

In looking back over the past two years, one thing is very clear: you can count on this council to meet the challenges of running a program of this size and complexity. Whether it is recruiting and training new members, managing sites and site steward activity, developing our lecture series, organizing and hosting the annual meeting, or attending to necessary administrative duties, no challenge is taken lightly and every effort is made to ensure the success of this program. As we close out our two years as co-chairs, we want to thank all of you for your dedication and hard work. To name some notable accomplishments not possible without you and your commitment to this program:

- The recruitment and training of 2012 added 19 new stewards to the program. Thanks to all of you who gave your time and effort to this event: Sandy Seehaver for organizing, Mike Bremer, the ATLs and others for their presentations, the new stewards for participating (the list goes on)....
- Archaeologist-led site visits began in the spring of 2013. Thanks to Mike Bremer for organizing and leading these visits. Stay tuned for more of these events to come in the future.
- All of the administrative manuals (Area Team Leader Manual, Council Manual, and Site Steward Manual) were revised and updated. Many thanks to Ann White, Nancy Cella, and Irene

Wanner for getting this much needed task completed.

- A fresh look at the annual meeting format and content resulted in a very successful one-day indoor event that no doubt will be included in future planning. Kudos and thanks to Jan Stone, Nancy Cella, Irene Wanner, Gary Newgent, and Mike Bremer for putting a new face on this important event.
- Design of new Site Steward Program signs. Thanks to Candie Borduin for all her efforts in creating the new design and coordinating all the input from council members.

At the January council meeting, we voted in the council members for next year. Congratulations to Irene Wanner (chair), Beth Parisi (vice chair), Ann White (budget coordinator); Kelly Aldridge (secretary); Nancy Hudson (member-at-large); and Stella Davidson (member-at-large). We thank K. Paul Jones (committee chair), Gail Bryant, and Jason McInteer for their excellent choices and the speed with which they accomplished this very important task

It has been our pleasure to serve as council co-chairs and we wish the incoming chair, vice chair, and other officers all the best for their upcoming term. Thanks again to all of you!

—Cathy Gates and Ray Willison



2014 Council Officers (from left): Kelly, Ann, Irene and Beth
Photo by Nancy Cella

Contributors to this issue:

- Mike Bremer
- Cathy Gates
- Steve Lund
- John Morris
- Gary Newgent
- Beth Parisi
- John Pitts
- Dennis Slifer
- Ray Willison

The editors thank you!

New Council Chair's Message

As I begin my stint as council chair, I'd like to thank Cathy Gates and Ray Willison, who served as co-chairs these past two years. And every ATL, AATL, and committee member as well as all the many stewards who continue to work so hard monitoring sites on the Santa Fe National Forest.

We're all grateful for recent snow and hope for more. Once it's dry enough to begin venturing out to your sites, be sure to take plenty of water, be aware of hunters, and check in and out with your ATL. Safety first, as always.

Those of you finding really bad roads should let your ATL know since we are looking in to creating a pool of drivers who have high-clearance, 4wd vehicles (see p. 5) and are will-

ing to go to such sites occasionally with stewards whose vehicles can't handle the conditions.

Winter lectures continue through March with an exciting lineup (see below). And Mike will let us know if we're rescheduling the Pot Creek trip or something else as a perk. Later this year, on September 13-14, we'll hold our annual meeting at Paliza group camp in the Jemez. I think, as in past years, those who want to come out on Friday can do so. We'd welcome help setting up. Please put the dates on your calendar now, be thinking of something delicious to contribute to the chile cookoff and potluck, and set aside an item or two for the silent auction.

If you have any concerns or suggestions, please write.

News from the Field

Rio Chama Area News

Due to the unpredictable bouts of snow and cold weather, the Rio Chama site stewards have been experiencing cabin fever but look forward to getting out to their sites in March, if not sooner. Tom and Jan Littleton (White Rock) joined the Rio Chama team as new stewards at the end of the summer. I look forward to introducing them to the other Chama stewards when we have our annual spring potluck dinner sometime next month.

In the spring, we will resume checking out several former pueblo sites on the mesas that border the Rio del Oso. The photo above of a bear paw print taken by Beth Parisi last summer reminds us why the Spaniards gave the river its name.

—K. Paul Jones, ATL

Jemez Area News

As I write this, the beautiful Jemez Mountains are slumbering. But it would be a much, much

better offseason if the mountains were slumbering under several feet of snow. And that, in turn, would provide us with a much more promising situation for our monitoring season and the summer. But that is probably not to be. We can only hope for a promise of moisture in the spring and into the summer. Let's all focus our good thoughts and energies on that possibility.

In May, Judith Isaacs and Nancy Brouillard monitored premier site known informally as "Twin Sisters." Upon approaching the site, they found that unknown people had erected a tipi near the west side of the northernmost site. Following our field guidelines, they did not approach the camp but made notes of what they observed and reported in their Site Visit Report. The following week, a second team of stewards made an informal visit and found that the tipi was no longer there, but noted a ring of "used toilet paper in its place."

Judith and Nancy have reported earlier instances of informal camping on the south side of the site as well as the presence of vehicle tracks to that camp spot. This past summer, there was evidence that more people have followed the tracks into the area and it is beginning to look like a faint road. That opportunistic road now almost surrounds the site. Hopefully, with the implemen-



News from the Field (cont)

mentation of the Travel Management Plan, people will no longer drive into that area. Access was from a small road that is now designated as no-travel. Judith and Nancy will be keeping their eyes on the situation.

The Jemez suffered some disruptions in vehicle travel with the road-damaging rains we had in October 2013, but none of our sites were actually cut off because of road problems. We were able to get to all the sites or access points after those rains. Unfortunately, the heavy storm runoff did nothing to improve roads and we still have very difficult access to sites on Cat Mesa and on Borrego Mesa. Nothing new.

We lost no stewards this past season but gained two new ones through the interim training program. We welcome Richard Martinez and Ron Whatley to the Jemez team. Jamie and Chris Gardner are on a temporary sabbatical while they deal with health issues affecting Jamie. We all wish Jamie and Chris the best and are counting on an early return for them to their monitoring activities where they belong.

We look forward to a long, safe, productive monitoring year in 2014. We hope moisture levels will be strong enough to allow for a full monitoring season with no forest closures because of fire danger.

—John Morris, ATL

Council Meeting Summary

The site steward council met on Saturday, January 18, in the conference room of the Santa Fe Forest Service office. New council business included a report from the nominating committee and election of the officers, as announced in the outgoing chair message (page 1). Congratulations to all.

The 2014 annual meeting will be held at Paliza group campground in the Jemez Mountains. Will Dearholt will chair the planning committee, whose members now include Jan Stone, Jason McInteer, and Nancy Cella. If you would like to join this committee, please notify Will (wrd@lanl.gov).

A formal training session for prospective site stewards will be held on Wednesday morning,

Caja del Rio News

Late getting started this year, but we have five visits in now and more on the way.

The news is the roads, or rather their condition. Anything on a slope will be severely rutted with user made pathways to get around obstacles. The same conditions apply on FR24, particularly coming in from the southern gate. Drivers here will need to pay close attention to avoid getting stuck. Driving out there when it's wet makes things worse and can trap your vehicle. The route to La Bajada rim is passable. High clearance is advisable at all times.

—Steve Lund

Reminder: it might be useful to all stewards to review the site steward manual at the beginning of field season, especially the field procedures and documentation. All manuals are on our web site.



This is what the forest should look like in February.

May 14. This will be a half-day event whose content is based primarily on the interim training sessions. Lois Haggard is the chair of this committee, which includes Sandy Seehaver, Nancy Hudson, Jason McInteer, and Mike Bremer. Areas that have been the most successful at signing up new stewards are usually those recruited by present site stewards; so, if you know of people you think would be well suited to site stewardship, please urge them to visit our website, www.sfnstestewards.org, Training and Education link. If you would like to serve on this committee, please contact Lois (zymophile@gmail.com).

The Yahoo List Serv system was discussed in light of the problems some stewards have had when they were deleted from the active list of those

Council Meeting Summary (cont)

who can send and receive messages. Paul Leo stated that he has begun a purge of invalid email addresses and will update the list of current stewards. ATLS were asked to contact each team member to ascertain if he/she can send and receive messages as well as validate their current email address. Mike sent a test message to the List Serv on January 18. If you did not receive this test message, please contact your ATL or Paul Leo (Pleo84103@gmail.com).

The volunteer agreements need to be copied, scanned, and sent out. Laminated identification cards were distributed to ATLS and others present at the meeting to pass on to their team members. Remember to take your ID card when you monitor sites.

The Site Steward Foundation annual meeting was held on Sunday, February 16, at the Stewart Udall building on Museum Hill. Santa Fe National Forest site stewards were welcome to attend. Speakers included Charles Haecker, Ana Stefan, and Patricia Crown.

Committee reports:

Communications – Nancy Cella reported that our website has been updated to reflect the date of coming training and new officers.

Education - The winter schedule for talks is February 5, Connie Constan; March 5, Polly Schaafsma; and April 2, Chip Wills.

Archives – Ann White reported that the committee met in November 2013, is busy making paper copies of archive materials so they can be scanned, and plans to get together again in February. She said Candie Borduin recommended the archives include both original documents and electronic copies so that if there are problems in the future, we'll have both kinds of records.

Field Operations had nothing new but Mike Bremer did report that in April 2013, he had 32 Jemez Pueblo attendees at a training session. The idea is to have the Jemez tribe monitor sites west of the Jemez River; planning is underway to see how current stewards who are interested might be integrated into the program.

Area Reports:

Caja del Rio – Steward Steve Lund said roads are quite bad; PNM is doing some road work to maintain its lines but stewards find they must walk farther to their sites now. He also reported rodent activity at a site he'd recently visited. Potsherds were scattered all over and a human bone was reported.

Garcia - Will Dearholt said that the county road that gave access to the Garcia and that washed out in heavy rains during 2013 has been repaired, but that area roads are deteriorating badly. He noted there were a lot of tire tracks, perhaps from hunters or wood gatherers, and that people are driving all over to avoid deep ruts and holes. Also, a dog was caught in a coyote trap on New Year's Eve. Three more traps were found. Can't tell if they're old but should contact Fish & Game.

Roads in the *Jemez* are closed for the winter, Ann White reported.

Pecos – Cathy Gates said six sites were visited last November. They were OK but the roads are quite bad. She had also been out recently and thought, with the dry conditions, stewards could visit sites soon. Paul Leo noted the roads are worse. The area lost three stewards and now has 12.

Rio Chama – K. Paul Jones said no one had been out since November but the team has plans to monitor soon.

Beth Parisi suggested forming a pool of stewards who have high-clearance, 4wd vehicles and are willing to tackle monitoring sites with bad roads. She said she'd be willing to go out about once a month and would coordinate forming the group. Will Dearholt, Kelly Aldridge, Paul Leo, and Cathy Gates said they could help.

The next meeting was set for April 12 at the Forest Service conference room. Start time reverts to 9 a.m. All stewards are welcome.

—Nancy Cella and Irene Wanner

Do You Have a High Clearance Four-Wheel Vehicle?

At the last SFNFSS council meeting, a discussion was held regarding the problems of getting to several sites that require a high-clearance, 4-wheel-drive vehicle (HC4WD). It was decided that we should look into the possibility of putting together a team of folks who have these types of vehicles and are willing to travel to different sites on the forest occasionally.



If you have a HC4WD vehicle and would like to be trained on some different sites and different areas of the forest, please send me your name, email address, phone number, type of vehicle, and how often in the season you would be willing to visit sites other than your primary assignment.

—Beth Parisi, osito@newmexico.com
505-577-4066

More about the 2014 Annual Meeting

Bill and I recently visited the Paliza group campground, located north of Ponderosa on FR 10 in the Jemez. We were pleasantly surprised at how well the campsites have been improved since we saw them several years ago. There is a loop for walk-in campsites as well as the more extensive drive-in campsite loop. At the top of the hill is a large covered area for group meetings. Metal square tables with attached benches within the covered area are very heavy, but probably could be moved to suit our purposes. There is room for more tables where we can set up a silent auction. It's larger than the group area at San Antonio Campground, where we held the annual meeting a few years ago. Just outside the roofed area is a large grill and stationary serving platform. Portable stoves could be set up nearby as well.

Campsites are scattered throughout the vegetation: some ponderosa, juniper, and lots of rabbit brush, other shrubs and grasses along the roadsides. I saw no campsites with individual water and power hookups. The campground has a northwest-trending aspect. It will be warm in mid-September, probably considerably warmer than Jemez Falls campground, and probably dry.

Although the campground will be closed to the public this year, the Forest Service will open it for our meeting. There will be no water or power. Be prepared. Remember to bring chile for the cookoff and other food for the Saturday lunch potluck, as well as an item or two for the silent auction.

It's also a good time to renew your Site Steward Foundation membership.

—Nancy Cella

Site Steward Foundation 2014 Tours

Raft Tour: The Site Steward Foundation is pleased to announce a special archaeology trip on the San Juan River in southern Utah. The archaeological record along the San Juan River between Bluff and Mexican Hat is unsurpassed. World-class rock art panels and cliff dwellings are easily accessible.

This leisurely 26-mile, 3-day river journey with two nights of camping is a perfect sample of what the San Juan River has to offer. We visit ancient rock art sites and cliff dwellings as we travel through a quarter of a billion years of colorful rock formations, including the Upper

Canyon of the San Juan. The river is calm with just a few small rapids in this stretch. Hiking difficulty will vary from easy to moderate.

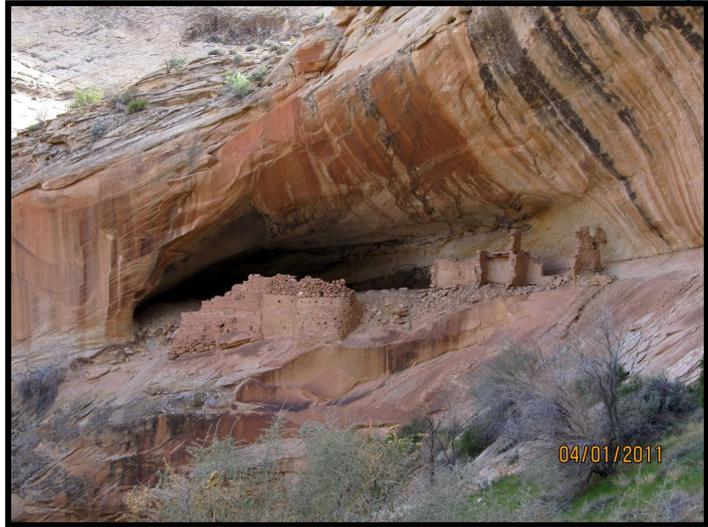
Our trip will start early the morning of Saturday May 24th just outside of Bluff, Utah, and end late afternoon, Monday May 26th. Moab Rafting and Canoe Company (<http://moab-rafting.com>) will be our guides and arrange all the details including food and meal preparation. We will use paddle rafts and help paddle the raft down the river with one guide in the back to navigate. We will also have an oar raft to carry gear, which can also carry a few riders each day.

Site Steward Foundation 2014 Tours (cont)

The cost of the trip will be \$500 per person, which includes a \$55 donation to the Site Steward Foundation. This is a considerable savings over the normal cost of \$655 per person. You will also be able to rent sleeping bags and pads for \$10 and tents for \$35 (for the whole trip) directly from Moab Rafting Co.

If you are interested in joining us on this trip, please email me by March 15th at osito@newmexico.com with the following information: names of participants, phone number, and email address.

I (Beth) will then contact you with the details for the next steps. A down payment of \$75.00 is required by March 25th to save your spot. The balance of \$425.00 will be due by May 1st.



Cliff dwelling in southeast Utah, Tour in Spring 2011 (See summer 2011 issue of *Site Lines* for the story and photo credits.)



Raft tour in Summer 2010, on the Rio Grande. (see Summer 2010 issue of *Site Lines* for the story and photo credit.)

Hiking Tour: The foundation is also sponsoring three days of tours at sites in San Juan County, Utah, this October. The tour consists of easy to moderate day hikes visiting three to four sites per day. Lodging in Blanding or camping is available. The number of participants is limited to 12 plus 2 guides. At this time, the trip is pending group activity application approval by the Monticello BLM office. More information, costs, and sign-up times for this tour will be announced soon.

—Beth Parisi and Gary Newgent

Basketmaker rock art in Southeast Utah



Archaeology is Risky Business

Normally, when adventurous site stewards are out inspecting ruins or rock art, they are aware of certain risky situations and take measures to protect themselves. There is the blazing sun (wear hat and sunblock), loose footing (good boots, hiking staff, and a sharp eye), steep trails with serious exposure (grit your teeth), venomous animals (check before stepping or grabbing), etc. Then there are the driving hazards. Clearly, traveling in a high-clearance vehicle with rugged tires is a *sine qua non*, and, of course, one must have the knowledge and experience of driving on rough terrain with the possibility of encountering sand, mud, or ice. OK, but what can you do when the weather suddenly turns foul and puts you in severe danger?

What happened to me and one passenger on November 22, 2013, just about 11:30 a.m., traveling north on NM Route 54, eight miles north of Corona, should be a warning to all. We were headed back to Santa Fe at the end of a five-day tour of archaeological sites stretching from Carrizozo (Willow Springs site) to the Cornudas Mountains along the New Mexico/Texas border. The first four days had gone well but in the end, we were both rolled into the trauma center of UNM Hospital, Albuquerque, about 3 p.m. that final day. Our misfortune was hitting a patch of black ice just as we were experiencing strong crosswinds blowing ahead of a winter storm. I am convinced today that this accident, which destroyed my Jeep, the "White Knight," could have been avoided. You know, hindsight is always clearer!

There was no way to predict such adverse road conditions, especially since the snowstorm in the forecast was not expected to hit northern New Mexico until that night or the next day. Our decision on the return route was to go directly from Alamogordo, our overnight stop, to Santa Fe, skipping the interstate, which we *know* always gets messed up in bad weather. Still, there were signs that should have been warnings. The cloud cover was very low as we climbed up the hills toward Vaughn. And the moisture was starting to freeze on the windshield. Later, we were told the temperature had suddenly dropped to 17 degrees in that area. Unfortunately, the Jeep did not have an outside thermometer! Overconfidence proba-

bly played a role. Instead of taking a detour back to the interstate, I recalled driving through the same area previously when trees and bushes had a coating of ice deposited by fog. I'd never experienced ice on the road. Beware! History does not always repeat itself!

So, when we hit the invisible ice, the wind pushed us right across the highway and smashed us into the embankment at about 55 mph. It took less than two seconds and we were airborne. Fortunately, we hit at a slight angle and the dirt embankment tossed us back toward the shoulder. We flipped enough to destroy the car but because there were no trees, abutments, or 18-wheelers to block our way, we were able to escape without any broken bones or even a concussion. Sorry, no sense was knocked into this skull! With proper care, my dislocated shoulder and damaged leg will heal in time for my return to site steward duty in the spring.



Escaping the White Knight

Photo by Dennis Slifer

Looking at this experience positively, I do have a new car now—a 2012 Nissan Xterra PRO-4X, which just passed a major stress test on the Caja del Rio plateau. I hope the car will last at least as long as the Jeep Liberty (eight years/ 210,000 miles). Also, I now am much more aware of the potential danger from invisible, black ice. My advice, since you were probably dying to ask, is to avoid driving on the stuff.

Yup! Look for the signs of possible sudden ice formation, regardless of time of day or weather predictions. Another alternative would be to stay at home, but you won't find me choosing that one!

Happy and safe trails!

—John Pitts



The White Knight at rest

Photo by John Pitts

February Stewards' Lecture

When Gail Bryant introduced the first 2014 speaker for the site stewards' winter lecture series, she said she'd skipped scheduling a talk in January, fearing bad weather. But ironically, January had been dry and mild, and even though the bad weather waited for February 5, roughly three dozen of us braved cold, wind, and occasional flurries to hear Forest Service zone archaeologist Connie Constan from the Jemez/ Cuba Ranger Districts give a fascinating presentation titled "Musings on the Gallina Culture Area."

Based on studies made for her recent Ph.D. dissertation, Connie offered a well-organized and clearly illustrated talk that covered a region from Chama in the east to the upper San Juan in the west and to El Vado/Heron Lake/the Colorado border on the north to lands south of Cuba extending toward Cabezón. This area, she said, was marginal for agriculture due to cold and a short growing season. Nevertheless, its people may have been there as early as AD 850 with the Gallina Phase running ca. 1050 to 1275/1300.

She began with an overview, touching first on early archaeologists and excavations, then on the architecture, which includes pit houses, surface or unit houses—in the Gallina, she noted, pit houses and surface houses were used contemporaneously, unlike in other cultures, where pit houses predate surface houses—outbuildings usually for storage ranging from a few to 20 rooms with jacal walls and sometimes raised floors, stone towers, and ramadas, which were ephemeral structures of posts and roofs or rushes. Towers, by contrast, were heavily built circular buildings, suggesting both defensive use and line-of-sight communication.

The Gallina culture has several site types: isolated homesteads, clustered communities or "dispersive" villages, cliff houses whose purpose was often storage, hunting/gathering seasonal sites, and agricultural terraces.

Connie illustrated many finds including tri-notched axes, comb arrow-shaft straighteners, lenticular and basal-tanged knives, projectile points and other stone tools made from Jemez obsidian and Pedernal chert, sandals, baskets, a little rock art, colorful twilled feather items, wooden tools, pendants and beads, effigies (many birds), medicine caches, artifacts made from travertine, and more. She also mentioned an arrowhead fashioned from a fossilized shark's tooth.

Next, she discussed pottery—Gallina black-on-gray ware, pointed-bottom pots, plain utility ware (lightly smoothed), and coarse utility ware—a primary source of her musings. To make pots, she explained, one needs clay, temper, and water. How far would people

go to gather their materials, she asked. Probably not much farther than one to four kilometers since clay is heavy to carry. She explained that she had wondered how much risk potters would take to gather their supplies in stressful times. Because the defensive character of Gallina architecture, its settlement patterns, burned structures, unburied bodies with crushed skulls, and other signs of traumatic death all point to serious trouble, which might have kept potters close to home.

After conducting many types of study, she concluded the Gallina potters used different clay for different wares (painted versus utility) and didn't collect from alluvial deposits. They preferred shale clays, which gave a good gray color, and had multiple sources. They looked for clays with traditional qualities and would take risks to collect them but not often, maybe only once or twice yearly.

And then came our questions. Did the Gallina people trade much? Almost no sign of it. Where did they go? Many were killed and others, Connie speculated, dispersed. Who were they fighting? Other people? Among themselves? And why? Were they competing for resources? The great drought of 1275 was surely a factor as was another from 1080-1120. And why were some skeletons on Rattlesnake Ridge missing hands and feet? Were there fears of witchcraft?

Warm in our comfortable, heated surroundings, we could begin to appreciate the difficulties the people of the mysterious Gallina culture faced. That so many questions still remain and that Connie gave us glimpses into this complex and intriguing past was much appreciated.

—Irene Wanner



Gallina B/W duck effigy pot.

Wilkinson 1958 Figure 6

Reference from *El Palacio* Archives:

Wilkinson, Nancy M.
1958 Arts and Crafts of the Gallina Culture. *El Palacio*,
Vol. 65, No. 5 pp 189-196.

Figures on p.192 show other vessel forms.

Did You Know? about the Forest Plan Revision?

Most of you know that last year we signed the Travel Management decision designating a system for motorized travel on the forest. At that time, it was the most encompassing decision the Forest Supervisor had made to date. Now we are beginning an even larger project, Forest Plan Revision, scheduled to take five years. Most of you may not know the nation's forests have large-scale land management plans which, if not relatively recent within the past five to ten years, may be upwards of 25 or more years old. Forest plans are mandated by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) dating to 1976. The first plan on the Santa Fe National Forest was completed in 1987 or 27 years ago. Since that time, the forest has undergone many changes including a substantial reduction in timber harvest, a tremendous growth in recreational use, and an increasing importance in the richness and variety of cultural resources.

While the existing plan offers direction and guidance for the management of cultural resources, much has changed with the way we define cultural resources and our appreciation for the traditional uses associated with those resources. Much can be said of analogous changes to the realms of other resources such as wildlife, watershed, fire, and recreation. Ideally under perfect circumstances, forest plans would be revised every ten years but budgetary constraints and other priorities resulted in reliance on the guidance of the 1987 plan until a decision was made at a higher level that the time had come for the Santa Fe and the Carson National Forests to revise their forest plans.

The new plan will be completed under a planning rule that provides updated guidance for completing the forest plan given the multitude of environmental and social changes that have occurred across the country's forests since NFMA was passed. The most recent planning rule was adopted in 2012 and recognized the need for extensive collaboration with the various publics using the forest. The rule also establishes the steps the forest will go through to initiate plan revision including an assessment phase, a planning phase, and monitoring. The Santa Fe is beginning the assessment phase, which identifies and evaluates existing information to be considered later in plan development and other plan content. During this assessment, forest officials have to look at 15

different sets of information including three of specific heritage interest including social, cultural, and economic conditions, areas of tribal importance, and cultural and historic resources and uses.

During the assessment phase, it will be the heritage staff's responsibility to collect and evaluate information regarding the condition and trends of the variables mentioned above. Guidance requires rapid assessment completed with existing information. Part of this assessment can include analysis of existing levels of survey and recorded archaeological sites on the forest. The addition of cultural values to an assessment phase is new to the planning process and is intended to collect information on concrete numbers such as sites and surveys mentioned above but it also intends the forest to assess the current state of cultural condition on the forest, i.e., how do people interact culturally and/or traditionally with the forest? On forests with few resources and short histories, this might be a fairly straightforward task. On the Santa Fe, with its deep history and rich cultural background, the task is more complicated and woven in with the use of other resources.

As mentioned above, the 2012 planning rule uses a collaborative process meaning a structured manner in which a collection of people with diverse interests share knowledge, ideas, and resources, while working together in an inclusive and cooperative manner toward a common purpose (FSH 1902.12-05). The rule also provides guidance for including public comment during the assessment phase with regard to conditions and trends for the 15 focus areas.

Aside from public meetings during the assessment phase, the heritage staff on the forest welcomes comments for the specific focus areas mentioned above. Public meetings will be announced, and we encourage you to attend these meetings as you are able and to provide written responses to calls for comments during the assessment and subsequent planning stages. If you have the opportunity, spend time with either me or any of the other heritage folks on the forest and talk with us about what you like about cultural resources on the forest and what you would like to see changed or any other issues you may have.

—J. Michael Bremer

Site Lines

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Items from *Archaeology Southwest Today*

New Mexico's Supreme Court Reinstates Traditional Cultural Property Designation for Mount Taylor: The New Mexico Supreme Court handed the pueblos of Acoma and Laguna, upholding a state panel's designation of Mount Taylor as a traditional cultural property. The ruling effectively protects the cultural resources on more than 686 square miles of land that includes Mount Taylor and nearby mesas. Though it isn't clear what the designation means for existing activities, it does limit uranium mining in the area. Companies and permitting agencies will have to consult with tribes and pueblos before any mining is allowed, according to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. <http://bit.ly/1dzBoRX> – *Santa Fe New Mexican*

New Mexico Considers Selling Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark: Western outpost made famous by the Buffalo Soldiers and the U.S. military's campaign to capture Geronimo is up for sale, one of a number of landmarks nationwide facing the wrecking ball amid tight budgets and a shift in Washington about what history is worth saving. Abandoned now, Fort Bayard has become a drain on New Mexico's coffers and the state is desperate for ideas as historic preservation has lost funding under the Obama administration. <http://bit.ly/1eIRgq7> – *Las Cruces Sun News*

Genome of Clovis Era Individual Sequenced, Revealing Asian Origins of Ancient Americans: Nearly 13,000 years ago, a baby boy died in what is Montana today. Mourners stained his tiny body with red ochre and entombed him with artifacts that had likely been in his family for generations. After lying undisturbed for millennia, the infant's body was dug up by accident at a construction site in 1968—the oldest skeleton ever found in the Americas. <http://bit.ly/1cete5n> - *Phys. Org*

On the Ethics of Research on Clovis Remains: The remains of a young boy, ceremonially buried some 12,600 years ago in Montana, have revealed the ancestry of one of the earliest populations in the Americas, known as the Clovis culture. Published in this issue of *Nature*, the boy's genome sequence shows that today's indigenous groups spanning North and South America are all descended from a single population that trekked across the Bering land bridge from Asia. <http://bit.ly/1mmzA9t> - *Nature.Com*:

(If you can't open any of these links, please go to the *Archaeology Southwest Today* web site)

Save the Dates

- March 5 Lecture, 6 p.m. Polly Schaafsma's topic will be "Rock Art of the Rio Grande." The lecture will be held in the conference room of the Forest Service office in Santa Fe. Doors open at 5:30. If you wish, bring a brown bag supper.
- April 2 Lecture, 6 p.m. Chip Wills' topic: "Did Deforestation Cause the Chaco Collapse?" Brown bag supper at 5:30.
- April 12 Site Steward Council Meeting, 9 a.m. in the conference room of the Forest Service office in Santa Fe. All stewards are welcome.
- Sept. 13-14 Site Steward Annual Meeting, Paliza group camp ground, Jemez area. (come the 12th to help set up camp an extra night, sit around the fire, and enjoy the stars)