



Council Chair's Message

At the Site Steward Council meeting on January 25, your ATLs reported that the winter temps and snow have kept many of you from making your normal monthly site visits. I hope, however, that by March you'll be able to resume your site visits.

At the council meeting, Susan McGrew (Education Chair) reported on plans underway to provide a talk by John Pitts on rock art (petroglyphs and pictographs). John (a Caja del Rio site steward) has a vast knowledge based on his long association with the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph project, plus his multiple decades of finding/recording rock art in other states and even abroad.

Susan's plan is to follow John's talk, in warmer weather, with a full-day seminar that will combine classroom instruction and on-site training on how to record rock art. The long-term goal is to strengthen the ability of SFNF site stewards to monitor

existing rock art at/near their assigned sites and to discover and record glyphs that are new to them. Stay tuned for more information about these plans.

The January council meeting was the last one for Chris Gardner and Ann White, who are stepping down as co-ATLs for the Jemez area. They received a round of applause from the council members for their years of leadership.

Ann White has also ended her service as member and chair of the Annual Steward Awards committee, and as the keeper of the Roster, which provides contact information on all SFNF site stewards. I want to thank Paula Lozar for stepping forward to be the new Awards committee chair, and thanks to Bob Florek for taking on the maintenance of the All-Steward Roster.

— K. Paul Jones

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The editors thank you!

Editor's Note: The Site Steward Foundation/NM SiteWatch Annual Meeting was held in the Hibben Center at UNM on February 8 and featured two outstanding speakers, Dr. Deni Seymour and Dr. Joseph Tackes. For the benefit of those who couldn't attend the meeting, and with the speakers' permission, summaries of their talks are included in this newsletter (pp. 6 and 7). Thanks to Drs. Seymour and Tackes for reviewing the summaries and correcting errors.

News from the Forest

Welcome to 2025.

Late last year we were finally able to bring on two of the three archaeologists that were caught up in the hiring pause that began in March of 2024. Stephanie Mack is a transfer from the Carson NF and will be working out of the Supervisor's Office under Andy Wakefield. Sami Griego is the new Assistant Zone Archaeologists working under Becky Baisden on the Jemez/Cuba Zone. We are all really happy to have them join our team. (See pg. 5 for introductions to these new team members.)

Since the person who had been offered the Pecos/Las Vegas Zone Archaeologist position turned it down, Andy Wakefield will be the Acting Zone Archaeologist on P/LV.

The first week of February, a group of us met with the Jemez/Cuba District Ranger and

Recreation lead out at Rattlesnake group. They were both very supportive on improving the trail and developing interpretation signs there.

Becky Baisden, Zone Archaeologist, will be printing out the larger interpretation sign that Lewis Borck and his students produced. There are some minor changes that need to be made, but getting this sign printed and inserted into the large "Information" sign is moving forward.

Jana Comstock, Zone Archaeologist for Espanola/Coyote Districts, has finished the write-up for Poshuinge stabilization project. Sending this document to NM SHPO is the next step on moving the project forward. Jana and her team worked very hard on this project over the last year. Congratulations to them on the great progress!

— Kathi Turner

Site Steward Foundation Report

02/09/25

The annual meeting of the Site Steward Foundation and SiteWatch was held on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at the Hibben Center, University of New Mexico.

A two-day tour of sites in the Gallina area north of Cuba is currently planned for this October.

The Site Steward Foundation is offering a H. Wayne Nelson grant of \$1,000 with a grant application deadline of September 30, 2025 and a grant award date of December 1, 2025. To apply for a Foundation grant, please contact Gary Newgent at sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com for a grant application.

The Archaeological Society of New Mexico's annual meeting hosted by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society is scheduled for May 2-4, 2025 at the Nativo Lodge Hotel in Albuquerque. archaeologicalsocietynm.org.

The 2025 Pecos Conference will be hosted by the Bears Ears Partnership and held near

Blanding, Utah in the Abajo Mountains, Manti-La Sal National Forest, August 7-10, 2025. pecosconference.org.

The Site Steward Foundation has been selected as the organizer of the 2027 Pecos Conference, with plans for the 100th anniversary of the Pecos Conference to be held on Rowe Mesa in the Santa Fe National Forest.

If you are not a member of the Site Steward Foundation, or have not renewed your membership for 2025, please consider joining or renewing today. The Foundation accepts credit cards for membership dues and donations on our website, sitestewardfoundation.org, or they can be mailed to P.O. Box 32224, Santa Fe, NM 87594.

If you would like to be notified of Foundation tours and activities, please subscribe to our email list on the Foundation website. Thank you for your support of site stewards!

— Gary Newgent, President

ATL Reports

Caja del Rio (Jeff Koester): Few visits in late 2024, but no major problems were reported.

This area needs more Site Stewards

Gallina (Elaine Gorham for Anne Beckett): There is a lot of tree fall in the area, and some prescribed burns. Nogales is difficult to access. They need 2 new teams: One team has gone silent, the other is quitting. They plan to review the sites in this area and perhaps drop some of them from the list.

Garcia (Will Dearholt): The team has made some visits in the past few months. There's the usual problems with ATV traffic, and some roads need cleanup work.

Jemez (Ann White/Chris Gardner): FR10 is closed due to the early snow last Nov, and many roads are still wet. No visits were made to the sites after October.

Ann and Chris are stepping down as co-ATLs for Jemez, and so far no one has offered to take their place. The area includes 14 sites. Combining the Jemez with the Garcia has

been discussed if they can't find a new ATL for this area.

Pecos (Bob Florek): With the mild winter weather, site visits have been ongoing in the Pecos area. The only significant report was that of new digging at one of our rock shelter sites ... by a fairly large but unidentified critter. After our site visit report, Forest Archaeologist Gilbert Burkman went out to investigate, and after examining the fresh diggings, reported that our four-legged archeologist had unearthed four artifacts: a red chert core, a white chert core, parts of a deer jawbone with teeth, and a black obsidian point!

The transition to new ATL Bob Florek and AATL Barb Fletcher is almost complete; there is just one actively monitored site that we have not yet had a chance to visit.

Rio Chama (K. Paul Jones): Three sites are closed for the winter, and road conditions are bad. Stewards need to walk in to the more remote sites, Maestas and Spanish Rancho. They need at least one more team.

Site Stewards Needed!

The SFNF Site Steward program is always in need of more site stewards to ensure that all areas are thoroughly covered, and that there is backup when site stewards are unavailable or have to leave the program. We are working on remedying this situation in the near future.

However, one of our best recruiting methods is word of mouth. If you have friends who like archeology and the outdoors, and find the idea of site visits interesting, urge them to contact us. If you are visiting a site and run into hikers who are curious what you're doing there, tell them about the site steward program and suggest that they follow up with us (we have actually gained new site stewards that way).

Contact information is on our website: sfnsitestewards.org



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Online Access to LIDAR Data in the National Forest

If you're like me, you have probably heard about the use of LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data for archeological mapping in remote jungles or rainforests. I've assumed it is expensive and available only to lucky researchers who have the time and budget for it. But, thanks to local geologist Eric Force, I recently learned that it is available online for large areas of federal land, including our own Santa Fe National Forest. Eric has used it for studying geomorphology around our area, from glacial deposits in the Truchas Peaks to terraces at Pecos National Historic Park.

LIDAR has a number of different applications, but for archeological research it's most useful for "seeing through the trees" to generate detailed elevation models of the surface of the earth. This aspect of LIDAR allows the identification of archaeological features that might otherwise be hard to spot due to vegetation.

The U.S. Geological Survey has assembled a huge database of ground elevation data derived from LIDAR mapping; the name of this project is "3DEP." It consists of data points spaced on a one-meter grid. This is not as fine a resolution as is frequently used for specific smaller projects, which is often spaced at a few centimeters. But it is still quite adequate for identifying subtle features on the earth's surface.

I have used the 3DEP layer in the National Map Viewer to look at some sites that I'm already familiar with in the SF National Forest, and have been quite impressed at the details that are revealed. Figures 1 and 2 provide a good example: Pesede-uingue is a medium-sized room block site in the Rio Chama area that has a moderate amount of tree and bush coverage. Unlike larger sites like Poshu-ingue and Ku-uingue, it is not evident when viewing satellite imagery, nor is it particularly obvious when you're standing in the middle of it! But viewing the 3DEP layer reveals distinct linear ridges and troughs that appear to coincide with the room block outlines on the site map created in the 1980's using detailed site mapping.

This freely available data offers both opportunities and challenges. While it may assist the archeological good guys like us to add detail to existing sites and possibly find new ones, it also gives people with more nefarious motives a new tool to find those sites as well!

To view LIDAR-derived elevation data online:

1. Go to the USGS National Map Viewer at <https://apps.nationalmap.gov/viewer/> (or google "USGS National Map Viewer").
2. Zoom in to your area of interest.
3. Select the "Layer" icon (3rd icon on the upper right).
4. Scroll down and select "3DEP Elevation – Hillshade Stretched" (Note: you can compare some of the other 3DEP Elevation layers; I just found this one the most useful).

For an overview of LIDAR in general and its use by the Forest Service, do an online search for "Investing in the Forest Service with Lidar Data."

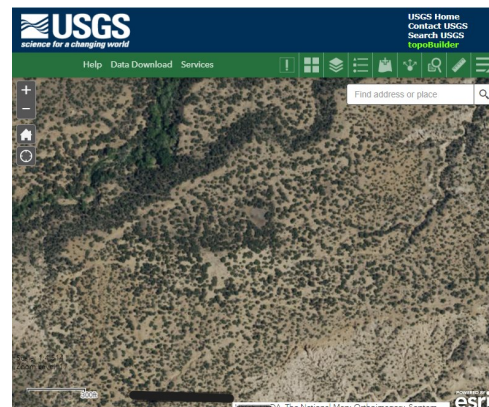


Figure 1: Standard satellite imagery of the Pesede-uingue site. Note the presence of trees, and no apparent room block outlines.

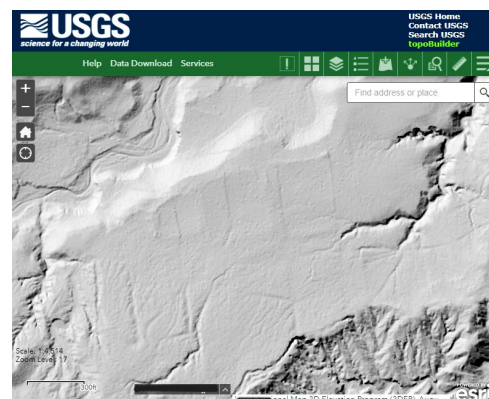


Figure 2: 3DEP Elevation (Hillshade Stretched) layer for the same location. Linear features are now distinctly visible.

— Bob Florek

Welcome New Archeologists on the SFNF!

Stephanie Mack

New Archeologist at the Supervisor's office

My name is Stephanie Mack, or just Mack to most people. I am originally from Louisiana but have been in New Mexico since 2013. I got my bachelor's degree in Anthropology and History from Louisiana State University and my master's degree in Public Archaeology from the University of New Mexico. I have been an archaeologist for about 13 years and have worked in Louisiana, Spain, California, Arizona, and New Mexico. I am coming to the Santa Fe NF after working for over three years as the Assistant West Zone Archaeologist on the Carson NF. I previously worked on the Santa Fe NF as a seasonal in Jemez and then later a project archaeologist for the Southwest Jemez Mountains

Landscape Restoration project. My husband and I live in Santa Fe with our two cats and are expecting a baby boy this winter! I look forward to working on the Santa Fe and learning this new role.



Stephanie Mack



Samantha Griego

New Assistant Zone Archaeologist on the Jemez and Cuba Districts

Hello, Santa Fe National Forest. My name is Samantha (Sami) Griego. I graduated from the University of New Mexico with a Master's in Anthropology. I have worked for the Forest Service as an archeologist for the past 6 years, most recently on the Cibola National Forest. I'm excited to be coming back to the Cuba/Jemez zone where I first started as a tech. I like to spend my free time outdoors as much as I can, but also enjoy playing board games with friends. I'm looking forward to working with everyone and being a part of the heritage team.

Photos courtesy of Kathi Turner

Sami Griego

Retracing New Mexico's Ancestry: Los Genízaros

The story of the Genízaros is emblematic of the complicated history of New Mexico. The term "Genízaro" is derived from the Turkish term *Yeniçeri* (transliterated as Janissary), which originally referred to Christian boys from the Balkans who were captured, forced to convert to Islam, and served as soldiers. In New Mexico, it refers to indigenous indentured servants.

Slavery existed in New Mexico before the Spanish: Tribes obtained captives through wars and raiding, and exchanged them at trade fairs, often at border pueblos (e.g., Taos and Pecos). Oñate brought slaves with him in 1598. Later the "encomienda" system was implemented: A Spanish settler was granted a certain number of Native subjects who were obligated to pay him tribute, either in labor or in goods, in exchange for his protection and giving them education. Also, the Spanish believed that they had "saved the souls" of Natives by converting them to Christianity, so they had to repay the debt in labor, and many women were forced to become concubines.

The "New Laws" of 1542, promulgated by Fray Bartolomé de las Casas, protected Natives from slavery and from the encomienda system, but these laws weren't honored in practice because of the need for labor in NM. One impetus for the Pueblo Revolt in 1680 was the encomienda system: The Natives didn't want the Spaniards' "education," plus droughts and an enormous population drop in preceding years made giving tribute difficult. When de Vargas and his followers returned in 1692, they had to make the encomienda system less stringent in order to remain in NM.

There was a large Comanche migration southward after 1700. The Comanche were nomadic raiders, aided by the introduction of horses, so they also sold slaves to the Spanish. The Comanche influence is reflected until today by the "Comanche dances" at Ranchos de Taos and other pueblos.

Genízaros were sometimes freed, but they had no land or money, and often had to stay with the family that had owned them. Some joined a community (often consisting of people from different tribes) and applied for land grants. Initially these applications weren't successful, but after

1746, several Genízaro settlements on the frontier (e.g., Ranchos de Taos and Abiquiú) were created as buffer zones against raiding nomadic tribes. Most of the people in these communities kept their old trades (carpentry, raising cattle, etc.), and new professions arose, such as interpreters and traders. But the Spanish didn't supply these settlements with weapons, so they had to use what they had – so sometimes they were using Native weapons against Native raiders.

Some families in NM had a suspiciously large number of "servants" – e.g., in 1750, the Sebastian Martín family of four at Los Luceros had 21 servants! The Sebastian Martín grant extended from near Velarde to north of Okeh Owingeh, and to this day there are many Genízaro descendants in that area.

The Spanish "casta" system labeled people according to their ancestry, e.g., Criollos (Spanish ancestors, but born in the New World), Mestizos (Spanish and Native), and Mulattos (Spanish and African), and these labels were often used in birth records. In 1821, NM became part of Mexico, so, on paper, all citizens became equal and slavery ceased to exist. From then on, the labels weren't used in official documents, although the caste system still existed in practice.

Ironically, when the U.S. took over the former Mexican territory, the anti-slavery laws were canceled, and slavery wasn't abolished until the 13th Amendment in 1865. One of the groups who suffered from slavery during these years were the Diné, who were often enslaved, as well as being forced to move off their native lands. The 1870 census shows non-Diné families in NM with Diné "servants."

Historically, the term "Genízaro" was considered offensive, but in recent years it's become a badge of identity and a recognized tribe in NM.

— Joseph Tackes

Currently Interpretive Ranger at the Coronado Historic Site, Dr. Tackes formerly worked for Los Luceros Historic Site in Alcalde, NM and dates his interest in Genízaro history from that period.

“Gentlemen on Horseback” and Other Myths Surrounding the Coronado Expedition

Recent studies have redefined the route of the Coronado expedition of 1539-1542 and led to the discovery of 12 expedition sites in southern Arizona. The expedition’s route was determined by their Native guides, utilizing preexisting trails and campsites where surface water was available, so the point where it enters the U.S. was a considerable distance west of the route previously assumed by scholars. Besides the Spanish soldiers, the expedition included servants, slaves, women, children, and other would-be travelers and settlers, a total of about 2,800 people, plus supplies, livestock, and pack animals.

The biggest site discovered along the route was Suya (or San Geronimo III – the original settlement of San Geronimo was moved twice). Established in 1540, this was the first European settlement in the Southwestern U.S., and evidently intended to be permanent: It was 1 km long with sturdy adobe and stone structures. Excavations have revealed household artifacts (tools, dishes, sewing needles, etc.) as well as battle-related ones, confirming that this wasn’t just an encampment or a supply depot.

Coronado continued northward in search of the Cities of Gold, leaving Captain Melchoir Diaz in charge of 80 settlers when the settlement was moved to Señora. After Diaz died, Captain Alcarez took charge, and the people were moved to Suya (San Geronimo III). Alcarez was brutal and sadistic towards the local Sobaipuri O’odham natives, cutting off their limbs and attacking them with Spanish “war hounds,” 200-lb dogs that were trained to hunt people. The Suya settlement had initially housed about 60 Spanish soldiers; but half left with Tobar to Albuquerque, and half of the rest “mutinied” and left with other leaders, leaving only 15 European men and their entourage in Suya. The natives made no secret of their hatred for Alcarez: At one point they erected an effigy and shot arrows at it, shouting “*Capitan! Capitan!*”

Finally a rebellion occurred in late Fall or early winter of 1541, involving both the Spanish and the Sobaipuri O’odham. Later accounts indicate that Captain Alcarez was killed by two

women he was raping, and over 100 townspeople were killed. One of the friars, Fray Daniel (“the Italian”), survived. Accounts of the battle have him fighting off the natives with a sword, but he was probably deliberately spared because he had been teaching the native women how to embroider, and had treated them respectfully. (Embroidery needles, thimbles, and scissors have been found on the site.)

Meanwhile, Coronado (still searching for gold) was tangling with the Tiguex people near present-day Albuquerque. Then he had a concussion and wasn’t able to travel for months, so he didn’t know about the rebellion until Captain García López de Cárdenas went to Suya and discovered that the settlement had been attacked. It wasn’t resettled, and Europeans didn’t return to the area for 150 years, so this was the first *successful* native uprising in the U.S. (earlier than the Pueblo Revolt). Having found no gold, or a route to Asia, Coronado eventually returned to Mexico in disgrace and died there.

There is ample archeological evidence at Suya for the battle. Accounts of the Coronado expedition refer to “*armas de la tierra*,” spear heads and arrow points made locally out of scrap metal, and many of the ones found show signs of use. The most spectacular finds on the site were two small cannons that could be carried on horseback and mounted on a tripod or carriage for firing.

The archeology of Suya and other expedition sites indicates that the history of the Coronado expedition is far more complex than it’s often depicted. The Spanish weren’t “gentlemen on horseback,” but neither were they all sadists like Alcarez; some soldiers may have left Suya because they wanted no part of his brutal regime. Also, this study has brought out the major role that the Sobaipuri O’odham people played in these events, as the expedition route and the settlements were in the center of their territory. There is still much to be learned, but many of the assumptions about the expedition have already been overturned.

— Dr. Deni Seymour

Dr. Seymour is an independent scholar who has been investigating the Coronado Expedition sites for over 20 years

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