



Council Chair's Message

The hot temperatures, and especially the heavy rains that washed out the roads, have been a challenge for many of you this past summer. Hopefully the cooler weather this fall, and road improvements, will allow you to resume getting back to a regular schedule of visits to your sites.

Fortunately, the weather cooperated for the 60+ attendees at the annual site steward meeting held at the San Antonio Group Campground (Jemez Area) on September 7. The day's events began with the fall meeting of the Site Steward Council, which included news of plans for a tour next year of petroglyphs on the Mesa Prieta in the northern Rio Grande Valley (stay tuned for details).

After the Site Council meeting ended, Kathi Turner (SFNF Heritage Resource Program Manager) provided an update on staffing issues for the Forest. She also discussed plans for addressing issues at the Nogales site in the Gallina and at Poshuouinge in the Rio Chama (see pg. 7).

The highlight of the annual meeting was the three presentations. The first was by Fraser Goff, who gave a succinct version of his *Valles Caldera: A Geologic History*. He also described the columns and walls of the altered Bandelier Tuff, known as the "Goblin Colony." They were the focus of the field trip he and Cathy Goff led on September 8th (see pg. 6).

After an abundant and delicious potluck lunch, Liam Covey-Shannon (SFNF Recreation Program Manager) discussed proposed recreation projects on the SFNF (see pg. 5).



Fraser Goff's talk on the geologic history of the Valles Caldera.

Photo: K. Paul Jones

Finally, Jordan Jarrett (National Trails Office) described and provided tour guides for the various national trails that intersect in New Mexico.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to this successful annual Site Steward meeting. I appreciate, in particular, the continuing willingness of Shelley Thompson and Gary Newgent to organize a very successful Silent Auction. Thanks to those who contributed items, and the many volunteers who helped process their sale, we collected over \$900 to add to the solvency of the SFNF Site Steward organization.

— K. Paul Jones

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Contributors to this issue:

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Gary Newgent
Kathi Turner
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The editors thank you!

News from the Forest

Welcome to winter! Most of the Forest has now gotten its first snow for the season. We are transitioning to report writing and office-based work. We have a bit of good news: One heritage position has moved forward, and one has been given approval to move forward. Unfortunately, neither of those are the lead Zone Archaeologist for Pecos/Las Vegas.

Nationwide, the forests are not hiring seasonal employees. This will affect the SFNF heritage program's capacity moving into 2025. This poses difficulties for the Forest in dealing with ongoing needs, and they are more dependent than ever on volunteer help from site stewards.

I'd like to welcome Stephanie Mack to the Supervisor's Office. She previously has worked on the Jemez RD and is coming from

the Carson National Forest's El Rito RD. She will be working with Andy Wakefield out of the SO. Another new person is Sami Griego, who will be the Assistant Zone Archaeologist on the Jemez/Cuba Zone. She hopefully will be starting in late November and be working with Becky Baisden.

Projects in the works for Nogales and Poshuouinge are still going through the NEPA and compliance permitting process. A major concern at Poshu is keeping visitors off non-trail areas. Signage isn't effective in the long term because signs are often removed (or ignored), so the current proposal involves building fences to encourage visitors to stay on the trails. (See the story on pg. 7 for more details about this project.)

—Kathi Turner

Foundation Report

The 2025 annual meetings of the Site Steward Foundation and SiteWatch will be held Saturday, February 8, 2025 in Albuquerque at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science.

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

The annual Pecos Conference will be held near Blanding, Utah in the Abajo Mountains in the 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.

The Site Steward Foundation is offering another H. Wayne Nelson grant of \$1,000 in

2025 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.

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 and help us make our goal of over 100 members in 2025. The Foundation accepts credit cards for membership dues and donations on our website, sitestewardfoundation.org, or checks 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): The new ATL for the Caja del Rio is Jeff Koester. Gary Newgent will stay involved as AATL. There have been many site visits in spite of the bad roads from the heavy monsoon rains.

Gallina (Anne Beckett): Difficult roads due to the monsoon rains, but most sites are being visited. She has lost 2 teams and needs more site stewards.

There's a plan to protect the midden at Nogales Cliff House, and we have the budget to do this.

Garcia (Will Dearholt): Chupadero was checked recently. He's trying to bring on a new team, but they've had truck trouble and haven't been able to go out.

The Guaje Canyon Road has been improved (per an agreement with San Ildefonso Pueblo), but there are still cattle on the Guaje site.

Jemez (Ann White): The roads are in poor condition due to the rains, but all sites have been visited. The Forest Service signs at Boletsakwa were stolen, so the FS blocked the road to the site.

Pecos (Bob Florek): All the critical sites in the Pecos area have been visited at least once, with no major issues reported. The Commissary Creek rock shelter within the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon burn area has been inaccessible since the fire due to washed-out roads. A preliminary check in June showed that the first washed-out portion of FR 200L had been filled in, but when they attempted to visit the site in July, the repaired section was washed out again, and impassable.

As the new ATL and AATL, Bob Florek and Barb Fletcher are trying to visit all accessible sites in the Pecos area this year, guided by the previous co-ATLs, Felicia Probert and Sharon Paris, as well as other experienced members of the team. They expect to complete this task by the end of the year.

Rio Chama (K. Paul Jones): All sites have been visited, some 2 and 3 times. They got 1/3 of the way to Rio del Oso, but after that the road is completely gone. The Forest Service is working with Okeh Owingeh, Santa Clara, and the BLM to improve the Rio del Oso road. They need more stewards: The second team for Tsi-Ping isn't here much of the time.

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 planning to do more advertising to attract new site stewards.

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

Site Steward Awards at Annual Meeting

It was a beautiful day for an Annual Meeting. It was great seeing people I hadn't seen in a while. The Awards Committee members, Paula Lozar and Becky Johnston, were there in addition to myself, and they helped to deliver the awards. Five Awards were given this year to the following:

Bob Florek was awarded for serving as the Rio Chama AATL from 2019 – 2023. During those years he went beyond the minimal role of serving as the backup contact by providing advice and assistance in support of the activities of the Rio Chama stewards, especially the new stewards. He also took on the position of Chair of the Council for 2022 and 2023. His leadership was outstanding, as he facilitated successful annual meetings and new initiatives by the Council. He then assumed the role as ATL of the Pecos area with the challenge of becoming familiar with all the Pecos sites and establishing relationships with the Pecos site stewards. Bob was given the bobcat fetish.

Felicia Probert and Sharon Paris were given the award for their role as Pecos Co-ATLs. They did a remarkable job of organizing the site folders for the Pecos area, providing each steward a consistent set of information for each site, including a summary sheet, maps, photos, and any relevant reports. Thanks to that, the handover to the new ATL, Bob Florek, was a very smooth process! Felicia and Sharon accompanied Bob, as appropriate, to introduce him to new sites, and served as backup for visits to sites that he had not been to yet. They helped to define more detailed protocols for handling situations where stewards fail to report back in. Felicia and Sharon also led tours of the Archaic Rock Art sites on Rowe Mesa, most recently during the Pecos Conference in 2022. Felicia served on the awards committee for several years. Felicia was given the hawk fetish, and Sharon was given the mole fetish.

Chris Gardner was awarded for picking up the slack for Ann when she was busy traveling this summer. Chris trained three new stewards and made site visits with them, in addition to her own sites. She also visited the Cat Mesa Sites for two

years running so that they were visited during the 2023 and 2024 years. She volunteered to help with the silent auction at the annual meetings. She was instrumental in obtaining a speaker and site visit leader for the 2024 Annual Site Steward Meeting. Chris was awarded the bear fetish.

Elaine Gorham has volunteered as a Site Steward since 2003, and during that time has served as ATL, co-ATL, and currently AATL. Elaine knows the Gallina sites better than anyone and continues to help orient Stewards to new sites. In addition to the new sites identified by the Forest Service, Elaine keeps an eye on other Gallina sites. She cares deeply about the Gallina homeland and is always prepared to support efforts to improve the monitoring of sites. Elaine was given the beaver fetish.

David Strip has volunteered as a Site Steward since 2008. Over the years, he and Elaine have monitored most of the Gallina sites. David compiles the online data from Site Stewards about their site visits and other activities, and presents the quarterly and annual summaries of each team's visits, providing the Forest Service with important data of time and efforts contributed by all the Site Stewards. David reviews the not easily understood State of New Mexico Hunting Season calendar and provides a readable summary of the dates in each animal season when Site Stewards need to be extra careful in the field. David received the wolf fetish.

— Ann White



Chris Gardner and Becky Johnston
Photo by Candie Borduin

Heritage and Recreation Volunteer Projects

We in the Recreation Program appreciate the critical work that site stewards do. The Forest Service is experiencing hiring challenges, including suspending all hiring for temporary employees. We need your help!

The Santa Fe National Forest Heritage and Recreation Programs are seeking volunteers from the Site Stewards Program to assist in performing vital work at heritage sites on the Forest. Your assistance will help the Santa Fe National Forest accomplish this important work and mitigate the risk of resource damage.

A few of the proposed projects include:

- Rattlesnake Ridge requires site stewardship assistance with tread work, signage, and interpretive services.
- Poshuouinge requires assistance with tread work.
- Nogales Cliff Dwellings requires assistance with tread work, erosion mitigation, and interpretive signage.

The Santa Fe National Forest Heritage and Recreation Programs have trail stewardship partnerships to assist with this work. These partners employ youth corps to help accomplish projects in sensitive areas, like Wilderness, to ensure that resources are adequately managed.

Any other project proposals may be sent to Liam Covey-Shannon, Recreation Program Manager, SFNF.



Liam.covey-shannon@usda.gov



Buffet lunch at Annual Meeting.



Awards committee: Becky Johnston, Ann White,
Paula Lozar
Photos: Lori Whitley

Field Trip to “Goblin Colony”



A group of “goblins”

On Sunday morning after the Annual Meeting at San Antonio Campground in the Jemez mountains, Fraser and Cathy Goff, retired geologists from LANL and the USGS, led a group of stewards to the ‘Goblin Colony’ just north of Paliza Campground near Ponderosa. On the way we learned about dikes, volcanic plugs and outcrops, and then we came to an area full of fantastically shaped rocks made up of hydrothermally altered Bandelier tuff. We know that the Native Americans appreciated this area, as we saw a lovely petroglyph panel with two large horned snakes. The hike was a bit more strenuous and longer than we anticipated, but we all had fun.



The tour group



K. Paul points out the petroglyphs



The biggest goblin of all!

— Article and photos, Chris Gardner

Poshuouinge Erosion Project

Poshuouinge (Village Above the Muddy River) is an Ancestral Tewa Pueblo that borders highway 84 and the Rio Chama River to the north and is east of the modern village of Abiquiu. Compared to other pre-contact pueblos monitored by SFNF site stewards, it is distinctive in that there is a sign identifying its location and it has a paved parking area. The forest even provides a foldout brochure about the site.

The site is regularly monitored by Rio Chama stewards. As could be expected, the stewards assigned to this site have to monitor the impact from those who fail to follow the signs urging visitors to stay on the trail that skirts the pueblo. Another continuing concern has been the negative effects on the site from livestock and elk who find ways to maneuver through or around the existing site fencing.

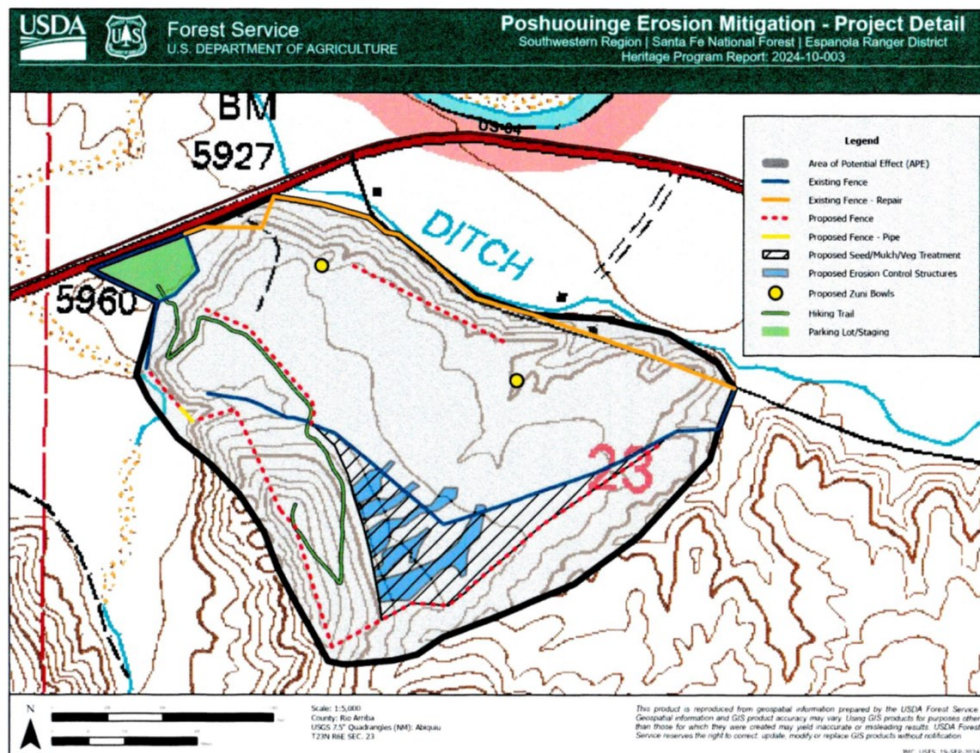
For the last decade the major concern has been the impact on the southeast edge of the pueblo and midden area from the Intensifying water erosion. As stated in a recent

analysis: "The undercutting is causing slumping, displacement, and deterioration of the pueblo's structural features, artifacts, and sub-surface cultural deposits."

That analysis has now led the Española District Ranger, Sandra Imler-Jacquez, to propose a multi-year "erosion mitigation project." As shown on the map below, this will involve a combination of actions — seed, mulch, and vegetation treatments, plus stone erosion control structures. But it doesn't stop there. It also calls for additional fencing that will prevent future trespassing onto the pueblo by cattle and (we hope) humans.

As current chair of the Site Steward Council (and as Area Team Leader for the Rio Chama), I want to thank Kathi Turner (SFNF Heritage Program Manager) and Jana Comstock (Zone Archaeologist, Espanola and Coyote Ranger Districts) for all they have done, and will do, to initiate this project and see it forward to completion.

— K. Paul Jones



Site Lines

Is published quarterly
by the Santa Fe National
Forest Site Steward
Program

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Note on Pecos Conference Future Plans. The Pecos Conference is usually held the second weekend in August of each year. Currently planned locations are 2025, Blanding, Utah (Abo Mountains); 2026, Mancos, Colorado; 2027, Rowe Mesa, New Mexico.

We are trying to establish conference locations that can be planned and guaranteed for each year over a five-year period. Right now, we have Rowe Mesa and Flagstaff as recurring venues. We hope to add Blanding and Mancos as other recurring conference sites representing all the Four Corners states; organizers are working on this goal. That leaves one year open for alternative conference locations, or until a fifth recurring site can be determined.

— Gary Newgent