



SITE LINES

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1

WINTER 2017

Message from the Chair

Here's wishing everyone a productive new year of site stewarding once the snow melts and the temperature rises. Meanwhile, after a two-month hiatus, our always informative winter lecture series resumes on February 1 (first Wednesday of the month). See notice below for the specifics about this lecture and the one to follow on March 1.

If you're looking for something to do in January, you're welcome to attend the next meeting of the Site Council on January 21, starting at 10 a.m. in the SFNF conference room.

At this meeting we will be voting on the slate of council officers and at-large members for 2017. Here are the nominees:

K. Paul Jones, chair (2d year)
Will Dearholt, vice chair (2d year)
Paula Lozar, secretary
Courtney Perkins, budget coordinator
Nancy Brouillard, member-at-large
Chris Gardner, member-at-large

My thanks to Stella Davidsen, Nancy Hudson, Courtney Perkins, and Judith Isaacs who are now completing the second year of their duties

as respectively), secretary, budget coordinator, and members-at-large.

The council's January agenda will also include approval of the FY17 budget, planning for a spring new steward training session, and revisions to the site steward manual.

The one sad event to report is the death of Rio Chama site steward Nancy Krantz in December. See more about her contributions to the Site Steward Program in the obituary on page 2. There is a link to the Los Alamos Daily Post that leads to more information regarding her education, career, and family connections.

Several site stewards attended her memorial service and were rewarded by the stories her extended family told of her impact on others and how her faith helped her deal with her losing battle with cancer.

—K. Paul Jones

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

In Memory of Nancy Elizabeth Krantz	2
Site Steward Contributions to the SFNF	2
Site Steward Lectures, 2016 and 2017	3
Bears Ears and Gold Butte Nat'l. Monuments	4
My Favorite Rio Chama Site—Tsiping	5
Arroyo Hondo Pueblo Tour	6
Mountainair Tour	8
Team Views Two Sites on the Caja del Rio	9
A Short History of the San Miguel del Vado Land Grant	10
Site Steward Foundation Update	16
Winter Reading Suggestions	16

Save the Dates

January 21	10:00 a.m. Site Steward Council Meeting, Conference Room, SFNF Santa Fe Office. Doors open at 5:15, bring a brown bag supper and socialize, lecture begins at 6. All stewards are welcome.
February 1	6:00 p.m. Site Steward Lecture. Jana Comstock, "Rock Art on the Kaibab Plateau: Applying Legacy Data to Heritage Management."
March 1	6:00 p.m. Site Steward Lecture, Emily Brown and Rory Gauthier. "Plazas, Ranchos, and Poblaciones: Genizaro Settlement in Eighteenth Century New Mexico."
March 26	Site Watch Annual Meeting. Museum of International Folk Art. Great speakers, free lunch.

The editors thank those who contributed to this issue:

**Candie Borduin
Mike Bremer
Jana Comstock
Jo Douglas
Cathy Gates
Ted Greer
K. Paul Jones
Paula Lozar
Tom and Edel Mayer
Gary Newgent
Beth Parisi**

In Memory of Rio Chama Site Steward Nancy Elizabeth Krantz



After her nearly year-long struggle with cancer, Nancy Krantz (70) died at her home in White Rock on December 9, 2016.

Nancy became a SFNF Site Steward in 2006, after retiring from her career teaching in the Los Alamos school system. She partnered with her

husband, Ron Krantz (class of 2004), as a steward in the Rio Chama area. They also served jointly for many years as Rio Chama's AATL. She was an important contributor in our council meetings.

For the past seven years, she and Mary Jebson formed a team for regular visits to Poshuouinge. Those visits are very special to Mary because they revealed Nancy's patience, concern for others, and her joy in being here.

In addition to her assigned sites, Nancy enjoyed accompanying others to their Rio Chama sites. We valued her ability to name the large variety of plants and birds we encountered along the trails. Even more, we will fondly remember her laughter, her smile, and her enthusiasm. She will be missed.

—K. Paul Jones

For a full biography of her early years, career, and marriage, go to www.ladaily.com and enter *Nancy Krantz* in the search box.

Site Steward Contributions to the Santa Fe National Forest

As we all know, we contribute lots and lots of hours of volunteer time and vehicle mileage to the Forest. For FY 2016, here are the totals:

Area	Travel Time	Site Visit Hours	Non-site Activity	Miles
Caja del Rio	37.25	28	27.5	730
Gallina	304.48	175.51	189.5	7075.1
Garcia	67	28	31	2112
Jemez	138.16	72.25	85.75	4688
Pecos/LV	250	121.65	135.95	6494.3
Rio Chama	283	246	237.08	5527.
Totals	1079.89	671.51	706.78	26326.5
Value (\$)	26,997.25	16,785.25	17,669.5	13,163.25

As of October 31, 2016, the total value of our labor is \$61,452; the total value of mileage is \$13,163.25, making a grand total of \$74,615.25. Well, now, are your hours and miles included in these totals? Did you miss sending your numbers to David Strip? How about this for a New Year's Resolution: Record all your time spent in monitoring sites, traveling to and from your assigned sites, and attending meetings, lectures, and other site steward activities for 2017!

—Data compiled by Mike Bremer

Wednesday Evening Site Steward Lectures

Our speaker on November 2, 2016, was Steven Moffson, an architectural historian and the State and National Register Coordinator for the New Mexico Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs. Steven came to New Mexico in 2012 with past experience in the Georgia and Delaware National Register offices.

The National Register Program is managed by the individual states and administered on the federal level by the National Park Service (www.nps.gov/nr). In the middle of the 20th century with the onset of the nation's interstate highway system, the country started seeing an increase in the loss of historic places. Particularly in the eastern states, many historic properties and poor but viable neighborhoods were destroyed and replaced with public housing without public consultation to make way for the new travel system. One of the most singular significant buildings demolished was Pennsylvania Station standing in midtown Manhattan. This action was called "an act of public vandalism" by many; for example, sixty-foot columns supporting a vaulted ceiling 120 feet above the ground floor were destroyed; the building was larger than the Roman baths that contributed to its design. Public pressure and protests by constituents led to legislation; in 1966, Congress passed the National Historic Preservation Act and created the National Register of Historic Places, by definition the "official list of historic places worthy of preservation."

Steven explained that the official list of properties worthy of preservation varied among states as to resources but the criteria remain the same: 1) the property must be fifty years of age or older although younger properties can be nominated if of historic importance; 2) the property must retain its original integrity; 3) the property must be associated with historic events or a significant person(s) or represent significant architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or archaeology.

Features that can be nominated include buildings such as houses and stores; community landmarks including courthouses, schools, and churches; structures such as bridges and *acequias*; sites such as archaeological sites or cemeteries; art work including murals or a place

where an important event occurred; and historic districts representing complete historic environments, houses, sidewalks, width of streets, and landscaping. The register paid particular attention to the counting of objects including headstones, railings, light fixtures, etc.

There are advantages to listing districts such as downtowns, ranches, and farms as well as traditional cultural properties that have had a continuous and significant impact in a specific place for Native Americans and other cultural groups. Listing on the register helped to preserve property by recognizing its significance and provided a national standard of evaluation resulting in an archive of America's built environment. Listing also provides federal and possibly state tax credits for the owner.

The National Register identified historic properties but does not preserve them; the focus is to help owners and communities to nominate and steward these places. Being nominated for the National Register does not place restrictions on use of private property, determine what color and how property is painted, nor does it prevent demolition of the property.

In order for a property to be placed on the register, one follows a process of applications, nomination, state review, and local approval by the State Historic Preservation Officer and federal review by the National Registry in Washington, D.C.

Steven then discussed a number of New Mexico properties recently added to the State and National Register. St. John's College in Santa Fe is the only entire college campus listed in New Mexico. Constructed between 1963 and 1974 on 60 acres donated by John Gaw Meem, the college features landscape design by Garrett Eckbo and the Peterson Student Center interior by Alexander Girard, whose foundation is a major contributor to the International Folk Art Museum in Santa Fe.

The Santa Fe National Cemetery, founded in 1975, was listed just two months ago. As of 2015, 55,000 interments have occurred at the cemetery. Federal law allows all national cemeteries to be eligible.

Site Steward Lectures (cont.)

The Carrizozo Commercial Historic District was established to recognize significant railroad repair shops built in the early 1900s to maintain steam-driven transcontinental rail service. Ranching also was an important factor in that community until about 1936 when a cattle panic and sell-off associated with the Depression occurred. No nongovernment construction occurred in Carrizozo between 1936 and 1947.

The Commercial Historic District in Gallup, NM, was recently added to the register. A long strip along Route 66 and nearby streets recognize the commercial history of Gallup, the many remaining neon signs, and the significant Native American history since 1922 of intertribal ceremonies attended by more than 50 tribes from across the United States every August.

Chopes Town Café & Bar in La Mesa, NM, has been managed by three generations of ownership for more than 100 years! The menus are the same, but the prices have changed with the times!

Perhaps the best known National Register

property is Zimmerman Library at the University of New Mexico, just listed in July 2016. A WPA project constructed from 1934-36, the building's exterior and interior design was by John Gaw Meem. Meem adopted the Spanish Pueblo Revival Style there as well as in forty-four other buildings at UNM. He stressed the admission of light, high, vaulted ceilings, and multistoried stacks areas housing more than three million volumes now. Meem designed the tables, chairs, handrails, door handles, and lock plates as well as lamps and lights hanging from the ceilings. The property listing recognizes its architecture, art, education, and the government's role in building the structure.

Currently, 190,000 National Register listings include 500,000 properties in the United States. In New Mexico, there are 1,300 National Register listings.

Steven can be reached at steven.moffson@state.nm.us.

—Candie Borduin, Beth Parisi,
and Jana Comstock

Wednesday Evening Site Steward Lectures, 2017

Doors to the Santa Fe National Forest office open at 5:15 p.m. Bring a brown bag supper and socialize. Lectures begin at 6:00 and usually last an hour.

February 1: Jana Comstock, Assistant Zone Archaeologist, Española and Coyote District. SFNF. "Rock Art on the Kaibab Plateau: Applying Legacy Data to Heritage Management."

March 1: Emily Brown and Rory Gauthier. "Plazas, Ranchos, and Poblaciones: Genizaro Settlement in Eighteenth Century New Mexico."

April 5: Larry Baker, Executive Director, Salmon Ruins Museum, Bloomfield. "Navajo Defensive Sites: Pueblitos and Preservation in Dinetah."

More information regarding these presentations and biographies of each speaker will be sent about a week prior to each lecture via ListServ. Thank you, Gail Bryant.

Bears Ears and Gold Butte National Monuments

Recently, President Obama used the Antiquities Act to set aside 1.35 million acres in Utah's Cedar Mesa in San Juan County. It was the first time an intertribal petition was granted.

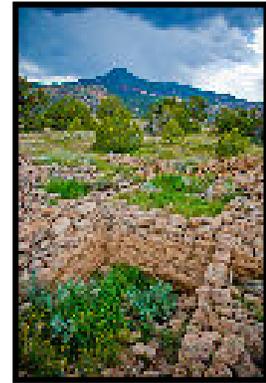
Also protected is southern Nevada's Gold Butte National Monument comprising 300,000 acres that contain abundant rock art on lands also considered sacred by Native American tribes.

-Irene Wanner

My Favorite Rio Chama Site: Tsiping-uinge



Tsiping site encircled in red



Tsiping-uinge has been called the crown jewel of the Santa Fe National Forest. Indeed, in a 1988 *Santa Fe National Forest Cultural Planning Assessment*, it was identified as one of the top priority sites for preservation treatment. Even if you've not had the pleasure of visiting this Tewa site, it should look familiar to you because a photo of the site (photo at right by Ted Greer) graces the top of the SFNF Site Steward home page on our web site.

Tsiping was occupied from the early 14th to the mid-15th centuries. It is located on a mesa that today overlooks the village of Cañones. There are spectacular views in all directions—especially Abiqui Dam Lake, the San Juan Mountains, and Georgia O'Keeffe's beloved Cerro Pedernal. In fact, Tsiping derives its name ("place at flaking stone mountain") from the nearby Pedernal.

The 450-room linear pueblo was built with locally available tuff-block masonry. There also are hundreds of cavate rooms carved into the cliff edge east of the site.

You'll find twelve small kivas inside and immediately outside the enclosed plazas. There is a great kiva to the west of the pueblo and a World Quarter Shrine on a higher mesa to the south (as is typical for Tewa sites).



Above: plan map of Tsiping
Source: <http://dennishollowayarchitect.com/Tsiping.html>



Terraced rooms and cavate

Except where noted, photos by K. Paul Jones

My Favorite Site (cont)



Tsiping Great Kiva

Photo by Ted Greer



World Quarter Shrine

In addition to what you'll see at the pueblo site along the east side of the mesa, the west edge of the mesa is heavily dominated by serpent imagery such as the one shown below. And the cliff on the east side has several petroglyphs.



Whether you've visited Tsiping before or want to make your first site visit, just contact me and I'll arrange an opportunity for you to accompany Rio Chama stewards for a site visit in the spring after the snow melts (kennethpauljones@q.com).

—K. Paul Jones

Arroyo Hondo Pueblo Tour

On Saturday, October 15, 2016, Jason Shapiro (1997, "Fingerprints on the Landscape: Space Syntax Analysis and Cultural Evolution in the Northern Rio Grande," Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Anthropology, Pennsylvania State University, University Park) conducted a tour of Arroyo Hondo Pueblo site. There were 16 attendees including SFNF personnel and site stewards. The site is easily accessed, located about

five miles southeast of Santa Fe. It sits among modern housing, some of which has encroached on the site. The site is currently protected by the Archeological Conservancy.

General background on the pueblo

Those who have studied Arroyo Hondo consider it a likely southern Tewa site. During the 1200s, pueblos were small (50-100 rooms) spread out over the area where there was water, farmland,



Arroyo Hondo Tour (cont.)

and good hunting. Because resources were plentiful, these pueblos were built with little thought to defense. The original Arroyo Hondo Pueblo was one of these.

In 1295, all this changed due to a great drought. Raiding parties, hunting for food, began attacking these small indefensible pueblos. As a result of this dangerous environment, the small pueblos morphed very rapidly into massive citadels.

About 1300 CE, Arroyo Hondo began as a 100-room pueblo but by 1330, it had grown to 10 times its original size. Along with the increased population, the architectural style changed as well as all other aspects of life. Another drought, which started in 1330, caused the demise and ultimate abandonment of the pueblo.

Then in 1370, the climate again turned toward the better and another pueblo was built on top of the ruins of the original settlement. This newer pueblo was much smaller, about 250 rooms. The second settlement never gained the footing of the original pueblo mostly due to lack of resources, which had been depleted during the previous settlement.



By 1425, after a series of catastrophes, the settlement died out never to recover.

Interesting Facts

- The site was served by a year-round spring, which made it a very desirable location.
- A settlement of outcasts?
 - The people from the final settlement were not healthy. Bone fragments indicated they suffered from rickets, scurvy, and had lots of physical damage.
- Wolfberry bushes are currently growing in the area. They only grow in disturbed soil. They are a source of vitamin C. If wolfberry was possibly being cultivated, why signs of scurvy?
- With all the sunshine we get in northern New Mexico, why rickets, which is caused by a lack of Vitamin D?
- The last settlement was low on the economic scale based on artifacts found.
- No Rio Grande pueblo claims ancestral association with the inhabitants (much like the Gallina people). Puebloan officials of all the pueblos agreed that Zia Pueblo would act as custodian in the repatriation of locally unclaimed human remains and associated burial objects, including those of Arroyo Hondo. The remains found at Arroyo Hondo were reburied in the village.
- Two macaw burials were found.
- Two possible shrines were found at the site; one is a World Quarter Shrine (upon which someone has built their house).
- There were no murals in the kivas, but they were plastered.
- No kilns, no obvious signs of pottery making were found.
- No signs of kachinas were found.
- Very little turquoise was found.
- Two building methods are present: masonry, then formed and puddled adobe.
- A rock lying out in the field next to a driveway is a grinding stone. We were all invited to bend down and touch its silky smooth surface. (I will never look at rocks in the same way again.)

For more information on Arroyo Hondo Pueblo visit www.arroyhondo.org.

-Jo Douglas

Site Steward Foundation Inc. Tour to Mountainair Archaeological Sites: A Visit to Pueblos Colorado and de la Mesa Led by Cibola Forest Archaeologist Jeremy Kulischek

Our group gathered west of Mountainair, warmly greeted Jeremy, former SFNF Assistant Archaeologist; Kathryn Turner, Assistant Archaeologist Cibola National Forest; and Jay Turner, Mountainair District Ranger Cibola National Forest; and looked forward to an adventure in their terrain on the Cibola National Forest.

We carpoled in high clearance vehicles to venture south to these almost-adjoining Salinas Culture related pueblos. After almost an hour of driving on marginal, high-clearance roads, Jeremy led us first to the large Pueblo Colorado. The site is expansive with three to five plazas, 18 room blocks and well over 1,000 rooms. Occupied during the Coalition,(AD 1250) through the Classic period (AD 1550), it seems to have been vacated just before the Spanish arrived in the area. Excavated by the Laboratory of Anthropology in 1938, diagnostic ceramics included Chupadero B/W, Rio Grande Glaze A-E, Abiquiu B/G, Bandelier B/G, Wallace Polychrome, and Galisteo B/W. Situated in a low depression between ridges, it appears to have a road entering a large plaza on the north side, indicating it likely was a trade pueblo.

The Salinas region of central New Mexico is known historically and prehistorically to have been a route for the exchange of bison, salt, ceramics, and corn between the Plains and Rio Grande Valley. We spent better than an hour orienting ourselves to the site from the good maps provided by Jeremy. Abundant ceramic sherds and some lithics indicated the site has not experienced high visitation; however, almost a dozen vandalized areas were noted.



Pueblo Colorado shown in foreground, Pueblo de la Mesa on mesa in rear.

Jeremy pointed out our next destination on a ridge to the south about one mile away; we drove a fair distance to reach the site. Pueblo de la Mesa is quite a bit smaller than Pueblo Colorado at 69 rooms and is contemporary for the early time period. The mesa-top site may have been defensive in that three sides are quite steep with large outcroppings of rock. Excavating archaeologists indicated the possibility of two-story construction based on the amount of rubble. Ceramics found at the site include Glaze A, Chupadero B/W, Lincoln B/R, polychromes, and brown wares. We noted a number of pits on the mesa south of the site. They are not noted in the archaeological record and we wondered if they could have been agricultural or water features.

We followed Jeremy to the main road and parted with appreciation for his and his colleagues' time and expertise. Going back to our respective lodgings in Mountainair, we prepared for an excellent dinner arranged by Site Steward Foundation board member, Anne Ravenstone at Alpine Alley.

A Tour of Abo Mission and Area Petroglyphs and Pictographs

The following morning, we drove to Abo, the westernmost mission site of the Salinas group. There, we were greeted by Murt Sullivan, ranger from the Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument, for a good part of the day. Murt spent time touring the Abo mission site, pointing out remains of the Abo Pueblo, then set out to lead us through petroglyph areas. Our group followed him to the ridge south of the pueblo that is included in regular tours of the site where numerous P IV and P V images were made. We viewed a number of anthropomorphs, many of them ceremonial figures, tracks including numerous bear tracks, masks, stars, animals as well as some Archaic geometric designs.



One of the finely made bear claws on the escarpment south of the Abo Pueblo.

Site Steward Foundation Inc. Tour (cont)

The complex panel on the right consists of wavy and zigzag lines; a well-made mask with worked natural holes for eyes; several tailed disks that may represent sprouting seeds, fertility symbols; an anthropomorph, bird and other features.



Continuing south to areas not normally open to the public, we hiked along the western border of the monument viewing more similar time period images. As we neared the southern end of the monument, we descended into an overhang where dozens of pictographs had been made using ochre, turquoise, white, black, red, and yellow paint. Most of these were anthropomorphs and masks, amazing designs that suggested otherworldly beings. Photographing the pictographs offered challenges due to the muted lighting and height of the overhang.



Located to the west of the pictograph cave, this panel featuring two well-made masks may suggest the Mas-sau'u images of the Hopi.

Two pictograph mask images from the overhang; the upper image is outlined in red, white, and ochre; the lower image resembles a bird/mask image with two large square eyes.



Our tour ended midafternoon; we thanked our guide profusely for his time and expertise, then headed back home. Our group is very appreciative to Beth Parisi and the Site Steward Foundation for sponsoring and organizing this outstanding tour!

-Story and all photos by Candie Borduin

Seven Site Stewards View Two Sites on Caja el Rio

Surely this is not a record, but it is not often that the task of inspecting a protected site in the Santa Fe National Forest falls on the backs of seven, count them, seven site stewards. When Bob McCarthy and I decided to invite the whole Caja del Rio Site Steward crowd out, we did not realize that the ancient pueblo ruin of Caja del Rio North would be so popular. No, actually, it is just its remoteness that was the attraction. And, there was a bonus attraction.

So, early on Wednesday, December 7, we mounted the attack from two different directions and headed into the Caja from the staging area at the Santa Fe Sanitary Fill, also called the dump! While I drove my sturdy X-Terra Pro 4X,

Gary Newgent, Caja del Rio Unit Boss, brought the rest of the team in his super Wrangler. An hour and a half and many bumps and branch scrapes later we parked by the drainage below Caja del Rio North pueblo. The inspection was brief because of the cold and wind. A short walk took us to the rectangular pueblo ruin, past the SFNF Heritage sign, still standing. The views from the ruin of the entire Pajarito Plateau across the White Rock Canyon were impressive, as usual. Consumption of many megapixels by the five invitees was the result. While we had seen several recent vehicle tracks on the access road (well past the allowed road turn), the site itself seemed undisturbed except for a few bo-

Two Sites on Caja del Rio (cont)

vine tracks. Some of the group visited the small rock circle shrine on the ridge south of the main ruin and that appeared untouched, as well. We also viewed the remains of a water catchment dam just down hill from the pueblo midden

So, retracing our access route, we stopped a short distance away from Caja del Rio North to take in the bonus site. Only Bob and I had seen this spot, at least in recent history. It consisted of a World Quarter Shrine about a half mile from the pueblo ruin. The setting on top of a small ridge afforded tremendous views to the south, all the way to the Sandia Crest. This particular circular shrine measures approximately 25 feet across and has an opening (standing rock slabs) facing the east. It also has a fairly unique structural characteristic, evidence of wings or rock alignments stretching out two, or maybe three, directions from the shrine itself. The reason for these appendages is not clear.

Undeterred by the harsh weather, we seven returned to our parked vehicles in time to enjoy our lunches (inside said vehicles) before taking

the hour and a half drive back to the first paved road. A good time was had by all (at least there were no injuries) and new horizons were open to the first timers: Charles Koenig, Stella Davidson, Paula Lozar, and Chris Gardner. Thanks to all of you for giving Bob and me a helping hand! That is what site steward teams are all about.

—John L. Pitts



From left: Chris Gardner, John Pitts, Stella Davidsen, Gary Newgent, Bob McCarthy, and Charles Koenig.

Photo by Paula Lozar

The Land Grant and the Forest Service: A Short History of the San Miguel del Vado Land Grant

Each time we visit our archeological sites on the Santa Fe National Forest, we wonder whether, after the long drive from Albuquerque, our Subaru will make it up the often washed-out, rocky county road, and muddy, rutted forest road to the area where we begin the half-mile hike to our site in the canyon below. The whole trip may take a bit over two hours. Then we start to think about the lives of the people who constructed and used these sites, and wonder whether we can ever really comprehend how difficult it was for them to scrape a living from this challenging landscape.

The sites we monitor for the Santa Fe National Forest Site Steward Program consist of a small stone house and a number of rock shelters tucked under an overhanging cliff in a remote canyon on the Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District. From the first glance it is obvious these are not Ancestral Puebloan sites so common on other parts of the forest, but are from the historic period after the arrival of Spanish settlers, up through the New Mexico territorial period and

into the 20th century.

The location tells us that these sites were probably associated with the settlers in the nearby Pecos River Valley. The canyon cuts into a high mesa grassland with an ephemeral stream that drains into the Pecos. The location of the sites on the canyon floor tells us that this is the only place to get water in the area, and the structures on the sites give hints about when and what activities were pursued here.

The house is made of finely dressed stones from the canyon walls. Most of the structure has since collapsed, but the ruins tell us it was probably a substantial habitation of one or two rooms, with a few small outbuildings. Scattered bits of broken glass and rusted cans suggest a relatively recent date for this house. The rock shelters in the canyon wall, about a quarter mile away, appear to be older. They are natural overhangs in the cliff face, with roughly made, low stone walls surrounding the overhangs. A couple of the shelters have deeper alcoves in the cliff face, and soot from campfires on the ceilings. People have

San Miguel del Vado Land Grant (cont).

camped here, but the walls are pretty obviously stock pens, too small for horses or cattle.



One of the rock shelters at the base of a cliff.
Photo by Tom Mayer

The site surveys suggest that the stone house is recent, from 1912 to 1945. Rock shelter dates are much less certain, from Paleoindian to the present. So who were the people who raised sheep and perhaps lived in this canyon? Where did they come from and when? How did they make a living here and where are they now? And how did this land become part of the national forest?



Stone house on the canyon floor,
photo by Tom Mayer

What is interesting about these sites is that the time period when they were constructed and used falls during the intersection of three cultures in the area: Native American, Hispanic, and Anglo. Study of these sites and contemporaneous sites and records of the surrounding area can tell us a

lot about the people and ways of life during the time when everything changed in the Southwestern United States.

Let's start with the Native Americans. Are there any signs of prehistoric Native Americans living in the area? Precious little. A scattering of lithic artifacts is noted in the site surveys, but excavations or extensive research has not been done. It is thought that nomadic Plains Indians used this area seasonally for hunting and gathering, and probably trading and raiding with Pecos Pueblo, a short distance to the northwest. They may have camped here in the rock shelters, but there is no evidence of permanent Native American settlement in the canyon or the surrounding area.

The Pueblos were clustered in the valley of the Rio Grande, with Pecos being the farthest east. The Native American experience had been playing out for thousands of years, but would be radically altered with the arrival of the Spanish in the early 1500's. The Spanish influence in northern New Mexico remained concentrated around the pueblos and the village of Santa Fe, and did not extend east of Pecos Pueblo until the late 1700s. During the 1700s the Spanish and the pueblo inhabitants lived in uneasy partnership. They exchanged goods and people and depended on each other for protection from raiding nomadic tribes. As the population grew Hispanic communities started to expand out from this Hispano Homeland near the Rio Grande to areas east and west.

Many of the migrants at the end of the 1700s were the *genizaros*. *Genizaros* were mostly Indians and *mestizos* who had become assimilated with the Spanish, often as servants, laborers, and soldiers. Slavery was illegal in the Spanish colonies, but often Spanish settlers would buy people from Indian tribes people who had been taken captive during fighting between tribes, then employ them as indentured servants. While technically the *genizaros* were not slaves, the distinction between this indentured servitude and slavery was subtle. By the mid-1700's the *genizaros* began to gain a certain recognition of their freedom and property rights. In 1754 a group of *genizaros* applied for and received a grant of land from the Spanish crown at Abiquiu.

As populations grew, resources became strained in the Hispano Homeland and people

San Miguel del Vado Land Grant (cont).

started to look elsewhere for land and water to support their growing families. In 1776 the population of Santa Fe was fourteen percent genizaro, who generally did not own land and were struggling to survive. Many of them looked to move away from Santa Fe to establish new communities where they could support themselves. In 1794 a group of 52 Spaniards and genizaros from Santa Fe and Indians from Pecos Pueblo received a grant of land along the Pecos River southeast of Pecos Pueblo. They established their first settlement of San Miguel, at a shallow crossing point of the Pecos River. The San Miguel del Vado Land Grant marked the first expansion of Spanish influence to the east of Santa Fe, and was the springboard for village formation in the upper Pecos Valley, and the source area for colonists at later land grants farther east (Anton Chico in 1822, Las Vegas in 1835 and Tecolote in 1838). These new settlements also fit a larger defensive strategy as a buffer between the Hispano Homeland and the nomadic Plains Indians.

The Spanish, and later Mexican, community land grants were organized as plots of private land (*varas*) along established irrigation ditches (*acequias*) allotted to individual grantees, along with a larger area of nonirrigated land held in common by the community for grazing livestock, gathering wood and building materials, etc. Life in San Miguel and the other villages on the grant was perhaps better than their difficult situation in Santa Fe, but conditions were primitive. Lack of large trees in the area restricted building materials to stone and adobe for buildings, and jacal for fences. Villages were constructed around a fortified plaza and church. A family home was typically one or two rooms, and perhaps a shelter and corral for livestock. Agriculture included irrigated crops (maize, wheat, hay) in the valley and dryland crops (beans, peas) in the uplands. A family may have had a small vegetable garden, a milk cow, a draft animal or two (horse, burro, ox), a couple of pigs, and maybe a small flock of sheep. Each family was required to keep a firearm for defense against Indian raids. In the early days life on the grant was largely a subsistence economy, with little access to money, communication, education, or trade outside the valley. Little changed in the valley during the early 1800s.

The original grant boundaries were not very well defined in the days before precise surveying techniques, being described by geographic places and place names that could change, move, or disappear over the years. It is impossible to identify the actual grant boundaries and area, but a later 1879 survey estimated a total grant area of approximately 300,000 acres, from near Pecos Pueblo in the northwest to about 10 miles southeast of Villanueva, including the Pecos River valley and the mesas and canyons to the east and west, including the canyon where our sites are located. By 1803 58 families had received title to *varas* at San Miguel, followed shortly by another 48 families at San Jose, three miles upstream. By 1805 San Miguel had a fortified plaza and a large church. Additional irrigable land along the river downstream would be allocated in later years to waves of new settlers, forming the villages of El Pueblo, Sena, La Cuesta (now Villanueva), and El Cerrito.

Agricultural records indicate that sheep herding dominated the common lands prior to 1850. In our canyon water was available much of the year, and abundant grass on the mesa provided adequate forage for the small flocks of sheep. Shepherds likely found shelter in the cliff overhangs here on a seasonal basis to tend their flocks. It is likely that the stone walls at the rock shelters were constructed at this time as sheep pens.

Contact with the outside world began to grow with Mexican independence and the opening of the Santa Fe Trail in 1821. The trail crossed the Pecos at San Miguel, which became the port of entry to the Mexican province, collecting duty on imported goods. By 1850 the town of Las Vegas had eclipsed San Miguel in size and influence for Hispanic expansion eastward, and provided a market for goods produced in the valley and access to manufactured goods. Income in the valley derived more from livestock (wool, hides and meat) than crops. But travel to Las Vegas by wagon was still an arduous two-day trip. For the more remote villages, life remained at a subsistence level.

The pace of change accelerated after U.S. acquisition of the New Mexico Territory in 1848. Manufactured goods from the United States arriving in Santa Fe and Las Vegas and more efficient access to these markets began to change the

San Miguel del Vado Land Grant (cont).

valley to a trade and cash-based economy. Cattle ranching began to replace sheep herding in the 1860s and 70s, with leather, milk products, and beef providing a higher income than sheep.

This transition to a cash economy also spurred the economic and social stratification of the communities away from the egalitarian, communal origins of the land grant. Wealth and social prominence in the valley was measured in terms of land and livestock ownership. Wealth eventually became concentrated in a small number of families as successful farmers bought plots of irrigated land from less successful ones. Families often divided their *varas* among multiple heirs, reducing the irrigated land available per family. This stimulated substantial emigration from the villages, and further consolidation as wealthier families bought up smaller plots. Large-scale cattle ranching began as access to markets improved. Owners of large herds would employ men from less well-off families as *vaqueros*.

The most profound changes on the land grants in the territorial period occurred as a result of U.S. legal administration of the territory replacing Spanish and Mexican rule. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 guaranteed the property rights of existing Spanish and Mexican land grants. The U.S., however, required residents of the land grants to petition for confirmation of their titles to the land. This left the Spanish speaking, uneducated and largely illiterate villagers, unfamiliar with U.S. laws and legal procedures, vulnerable to land speculators, corrupt public officials, and unsympathetic courts.

The arrival of the AT&SF railroad in 1879 provided access to eastern markets for New Mexico ranchers, and the search for more grazing land by cattle barons soon focused on the common lands of the Hispanic land grants. Ownership of the irrigated *varas* in the valley of the San Miguel del Vado Grant was undisputed. But while communal ownership of grant land in Spanish and Mexican law and custom was well established, U.S. law had no such precedent and instead emphasized private land ownership. The resulting legal battles over ownership of the San Miguel del Vado common lands lasted for half a century and are far too complicated to detail here. The matter was finally resolved in a Supreme Court decision in 1897. It denied ownership of the common land to the

grant holders, and, instead, declared the common land to be property of the U.S. government. The grant holders were confirmed in their ownership of ten tracts of land in the Pecos valley of approximately 5000 acres.

This decision is now widely regarded as erroneous due to misunderstanding and misinterpretation of Spanish and Mexican land grant law and custom, and manipulation of the process by Anglo land speculators. While the most egregious attempts to strip the land grant of its common lands were rejected, the Supreme Court decision set the precedent for privatization of the common lands of land grants throughout New Mexico after 1897.

Not all land grants suffered the same fate as San Miguel del Vado. For example, the adjoining Anton Chico, Tecolote, and Las Vegas Grants were adjudicated prior to the 1897 Supreme Court decision, and awarded ownership of the common lands to the grant holders. They eventually lost much of their common land to other duplicitous schemes.

In the half century between 1848 and 1897, life in the Pecos Valley villages went on pretty much as it had while legal battles ensued over possession of the common lands. However the loss of the common lands after 1897 was a major shock to the long-standing traditions and activities of the villages and threatened their very existence.

U.S. policy had long been to transfer public lands to private ownership in the west to encourage migration and settlement of the frontier. The primary mechanism of this policy was the Homestead Act of 1862. A homesteader could acquire up to 160 acres of public land if he lived on it, raised a crop, and improved the land within five years.

The government moved slowly to open the San Miguel del Vado common lands to homesteaders. In the meantime, high-elevation forested lands were reserved from private ownership in the creation of forest reserves. The Pecos River Forest Reserve was established in the upper Pecos watershed north of San Miguel, but also included high-elevation areas of Rowe Mesa on the western side of the original land grant. Villagers were excluded from any use of this land, which had traditionally been used for

San Miguel del Vado Land Grant (cont).

timber harvesting and summer range for livestock.

The common lands were finally opened for homesteading in 1909, and the more enterprising villagers quickly filed claims on the most valuable pieces of property, the best grazing lands, and those with a dependable water supply. This kept ownership in the hands of the grant holders, but now these lands were not available for communal use, but restricted to the exclusive use of the homesteader. Without access to water, the remaining common lands were less attractive to the cattle barons, and individual farmers could not make a living on 160 acres of dry land. Private claims lagged. The 160-acre prescription of the Homestead Act worked well east of the 100th meridian, which received enough rainfall to support a farming family. But it quickly became clear that this was not a sufficient amount of land to support a family in the West. The Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916 attempted to remedy this by allowing claims on marginal land of up to 640 acres, and removed the requirement to raise a crop. It retained the residence requirement of the original Homestead Act.

This spurred a flurry of new land claims on the common lands of the San Miguel del Vado Grant after 1916, mostly by Pecos Valley villagers. Marginal land claims were often made by multiple members of the same family on contiguous tracts in order to make up a parcel of sufficient size to support a livestock operation. The requirement of residency on the claim was an obstacle to obtaining title as these lands lacked enough water to make them habitable. But this requirement was routinely ignored by both the claimant and the Government Land Office (GLO). Most claimants to these marginal lands were valley residents who may have grazed their herds there, but lived in the valley most of the time.

This may be what occurred in our canyon. GLO records show that title to a parcel of land containing our sites was granted to Fulgencio Madrid of La Cuesta (Villanueva) in 1931. Additional members of the Madrid family received title to adjoining parcels in the same time period, eventually making up a holding of over 1,200 acres. The late date of the Madrid patent suggests that this land was not very desirable, however. It is unlikely that Sr. Madrid and his family lived in the canyon, but

perhaps this is the period in which the stone house was built, either to convince the GLO that the plot was occupied, or more likely, for use as an occasional dwelling for *vaqueros* tending the herds.

The end result of privatization of the San Miguel del Vado common lands was that approximately two-thirds of the former common lands remained in the hands of the grant holders in the Pecos Valley, except now the land was held by individuals rather than the community as a whole. It is ironic that the lands that were granted to the villagers under Spanish law and then denied to them by American law were returned to them also by American law, but for an entirely different purpose.

Even as many of the villagers laid claim to their common lands, all was not well in the valley. The now-private lands were not accessible to others who previously may have used these lands for grazing or resource extraction. Loss of the common lands made life untenable for many villagers who did not have private land claims. Without income from livestock, many villagers were forced to look outside of the valley for wage-paying jobs. With the onset of the Great Depression in 1930, jobs became increasingly hard to find. Many were forced to rely on New Deal public works programs for occasional work. The Civilian Conservation Corps provided income for many, but took them away from their villages for long periods. The communal, self-sufficient economy of the original land grant was gone forever.

Even those who obtained private holdings in the former common lands could not necessarily make a go of it. While the 1920s were relatively wet and attractive for ranching, the 1930s brought on prolonged drought of the Dust Bowl years. Much of the land was marginal even for livestock grazing, and quickly became overgrazed. Little of it had sufficient water for any other kind of activity. This may have been the case for the Madrid family. GLO records show that the U.S. government reacquired the land in 1939 by authority of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937.

Bankhead-Jones was a Depression-Era program to provide financial assistance to distressed farmers to help keep them on their land,

San Miguel del Vado Land Grant (cont).

but also allowed the government to purchase degraded farmland for restoration or other purposes. The program was administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service, and much of the acquired land in the area, including the Madrid plots, ended up part of the Santa Fe National Forest. Many other Bankhead-Jones acquisitions were degraded Dust Bowl farms in the TX/OK/NM panhandle region that are now part of the Forest Service as national grasslands.

The Forest reserves were also incorporated into the Forest Service. The Pecos River Forest Reserve, including the land acquired from the San Miguel del Vado common land, was combined with the Jemez Forest Reserve to form the Santa Fe National Forest in 1915. Additional San Miguel del Vado common land on Rowe Mesa was obtained by Santa Fe National Forest in subsequent years through the General Land Exchange Act of 1922, which permitted exchanges of land with private owners in order to consolidate parcels and improve management.

In the two years that we have been visiting our sites, we have seen no sign of anyone else having been there. We occasionally see some cattle tracks in the canyon, and frequently see cattle on the mesa. The place is extraordinarily quiet and beautiful, with blazing cottonwoods in the drainage during autumn and lush grass on the mesa after a rainy spell. We see a goodly number of birds, small animal tracks, occasionally deer, and once, a fresh bear scat, but little sign of human activity. The county road shows use by local ranchers on adjoining private land, but few visitors to the national forest.

Today the area is a mix of private, federal and state land, with most of the private land still held by people in the valley. A search of the local white pages reveals many Madrids in Villanueva and other valley villages. The descendants of the original grant holders are still there. It is easy to see remnants of the land grant period in the valley, old stone houses and barns, many still in use; old stone and adobe churches in the villages, including the impressive 1805 Church of San Miguel del Vado.

The local people do use the national forest land, however, in addition to grazing cattle. The

stone house has long since been scavenged for useful building materials, and there are signs of recent firewood and rock gathering on the mesa. To the local people, this is still their land. As with many former land grants, there is a local movement to recover lost common lands.

People of the valley are proud of their heritage, and are determined to stay and prosper to the extent they are able, on their historic land grant. A recent San Miguel County planning document bears this out. People who arrived there more than two hundred years ago, striving for a better life, are still there, still striving.

-Tom and Edel Mayer



Photo by Cathy Gates

Suggestions for further reading.

Ebright, M., *San Miguel del Bado Grant*, <http://newmexicohistory.org/places/san-miguel-del-bado-grant>

Ebright, M., *Land Grants and Lawsuits in Northern New Mexico*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1994; Santa Fe: Center for Land Grant Studies Press, 2008.

Ebright, M. and R. Hendricks, *The Witches of Abiquiu: The Governor, the Priest, the Genízaro Indians, and the Devil*, Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2010.

Hall, G. E., *San Miguel del Bado and the Loss of the Common Lands of New Mexico Community Land Grants*, *New Mexico Historical Review* 66 (October 1991): 413-32.

Nostrand, R.L., *El Cerrito, Eight Generations in a Spanish Village*, Norman: Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 2003.

Nostrand, R.L. *The Hispano Homeland*, Norman: Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1992.

Parametrix. *El Valle Sub-area Plan*, 2010. http://www.smcounty.net/_WebDocs/_Planning&ZoningDocs/El%20Valle%20Sub-area%20Plan.pdf

Schiller, M., *San Miguel del Vado Grant*, <http://newmexicohistory.org/people/san-miguel-del-vado-grant>

Site Lines

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

Co-editors
Irene Wanner
570 Vista Hermosa
Jemez Pueblo, NM
87024
iwanner@uw.edu
(575/829-3357)

Nancy Cella
84 Ponderosa Place
Jemez Springs, NM
87025
nancycella@spinn.net
(575/829-4634)

We're on the Web
www://sfnsitestewards.org

Site Steward Foundation Update

The Site Steward Foundation is pleased to announce that a \$1,000 grant was recently awarded to the Grant County Archaeological Society and the Imogen F. Wilson Educational Foundation for the design and construction of interpretive scale model trail displays for the Mattocks Site in Grant County. During 2015, a grant for \$400 was awarded to the Santa Fe National Forest site stewards for additional temperature sensors for expansion of the research of ridge top and valley site temperatures in the Gallina area. The Foundation also awarded a grant for \$1,000 in 2015 to the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project for new trail and rock art signage on Mesa Prieta.

Santa Fe National Forest site stewards are invited to attend the 2017 SiteWatch annual meeting, sponsored by the Foundation, on Sunday, March 26 at the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe.

The 2016 tour of San Juan County Utah was held March 31–April 2, 2016 and attended by five site stewards, Irene Wanner, Chris Gardner, Stella Davidsen, Anne Ravenstone, and guides Shelley Thompson and Gary Newgent. The trip consisted of easy to moderate day hikes visiting about three sites per day west of Blanding, Utah.

The Foundation sponsored and hosted the 2016 annual meeting of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico at The Lodge Hotel in Santa Fe on April 29–May 1, 2016. The meeting program was “Rio Grande Migration, Ethno Genesis and Historical Archaeology in the Santa Fe Area.” The Saturday sessions consisted of three, two-hour moderated panel discussions with three speakers on each meeting topic panel, including questions and answers. Seven field trips were offered on Sunday in the Santa Fe area to all attendees.

A two-day training session for South Park Colorado site stewards was held during July 2016 for the second year in a row by Beth Parisi and K. Paul Jones for 14 site stewards in Fairplay, Colorado. A summary of the Foundation-sponsored tour of rarely visited pueblos and rock art near Mountainair, New Mexico on October 29 and 30, 2016 began on page 7 of this issue.

At the start of 2017, the Foundation has a total of 45 members. Please help us make our goal of over 100 members in 2017! If you are not a member of the Site Steward Foundation, or have not renewed your membership for 2017, please consider joining or renewing today. The Foundation now accepts debit and credit cards for membership dues and donations on our website www.sitestewardfoundation.org. If you would like to be notified of Foundation tours and activities, please subscribe to the email list on the Foundation website.

—Gary Newgent, President

Reading Recommendations for Winter

Here are a few good books some of you might enjoy once we're inside by the fire on the long, dark days ahead. If anyone has more suggestions, send them to us and we'll print in the coming issues. Thanks!

- *Fire Season – Field Notes from a Wilderness Lookout* by Philip Connors.
- *Trespassing Across America: One Man's Epic, Never-Done-Before (and Sort of Illegal) Hike Across the Heartland* by Ken Ilgunas.
- *On Trails – An Exploration* by Robert Moor.
- *The Hidden Life of Trees – What They Feel, How They Communicate: Discoveries from a Secret World* by Peter Wohlleben.

-Irene Wanner
