



**U.S. Forest Service
Cibola National Forest and
National Grasslands**

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News Release

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Local volunteer groups recognized in Forest Service award ceremony

Albuquerque, NM, May 31, 2018 – Please join the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands in congratulating two outstanding volunteer organizations - Friends of the Sandia Mountains and the Pecos Chapter of the Back Country Horsemen. Both are recipients of the USDA Forest Service National and Regional Volunteer and Service Awards.

Each year, the agency recognizes individuals, organizations, and partners for their efforts in four categories - Enduring Service, Restoration, Leadership, and Citizen Stewardship and Partnerships.

This year, Friends of the Sandia Mountains won the National award in the Enduring Service category. For more than 22 years, they have helped maintain and paint facilities, fell hazard trees, build and maintain trails, serve at the Sandia Crest Information Center, and restore historical buildings. The Enduring Service Regional award went to the Pecos Chapter of the Back Country Horsemen. For more than 20 years, this group has maintained miles of trails in the Manzano Mountains on the Mountainair Ranger District.

“So many volunteers contribute endless hours of time and energy to the success of our mission and we appreciate each and every one of them,” said Steve Hattenbach, Forest Supervisor. “Congratulations to Friends of the Sandia Mountains and the Back Country Horsemen, and thanks to all of our volunteers for the support that you provide.”

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