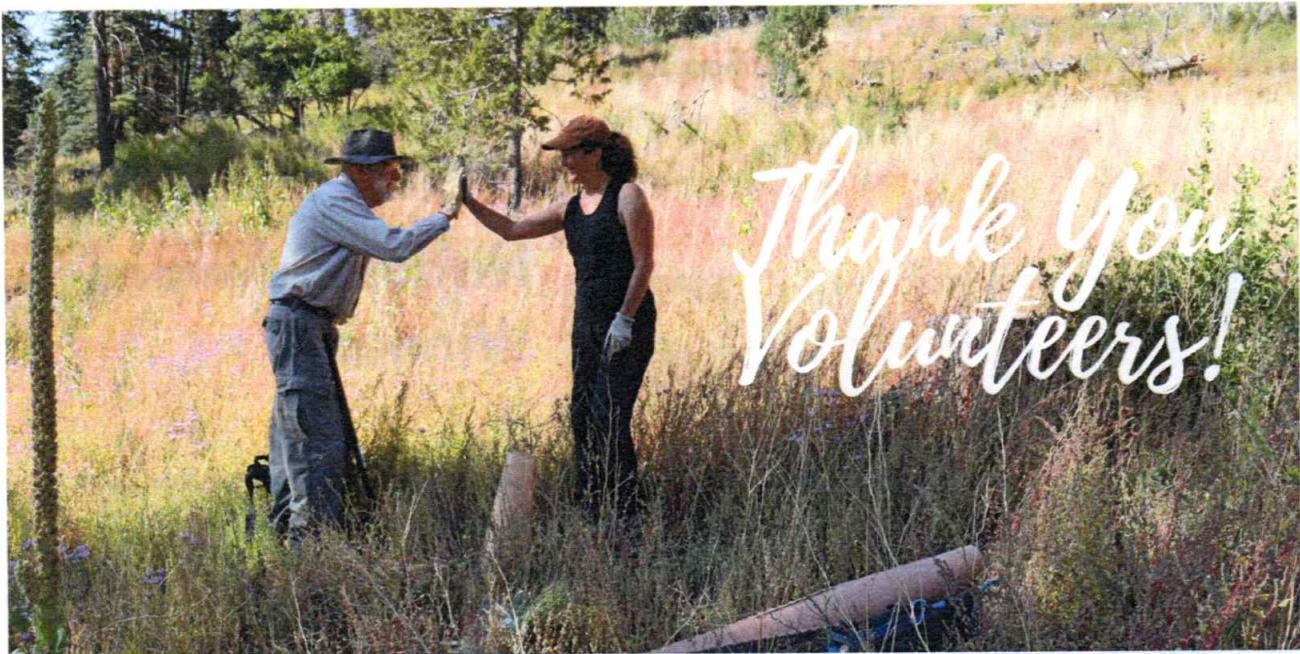




Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Cibola National Forest Sandia Ranger District Volunteer Program



Description: Forest volunteers high-five in an open field.

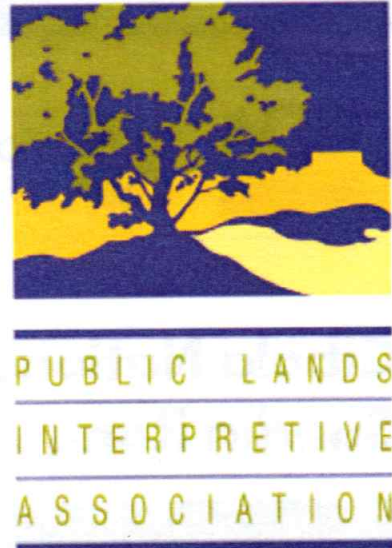
Accomplishment Report - Fiscal Year 2022

It has been some time since we have been able to come together to celebrate our incredible group of volunteers here on the Sandia Ranger District and we are grateful to finally be able to meet in person again after the seclusion of the Covid-19 pandemic. We look forward to seeing everyone who can make it and taking a moment to stop our busy schedules to celebrate this year's accomplishments. While we find it impossible to truly acknowledge and thank each of you in the way that we would like, we hope that each and every one of you knows how much we appreciate your contributions.

Taking the time to compile, review and reflect on volunteer contributions brings to light just how astounding these contributions are. This past year we worked with 9 volunteer groups and close to 200 individual volunteers who contributed a combined 15,844 hours. We are certain we are missing some hours also and that the true amount of hours is likely far more. Although it is impossible to simply put a monetary value on volunteer contributions, because volunteers bring so much more than this, it is still remarkable to consider that the Independent Sector values a volunteer hour at \$29.95 per hour which is a combined contribution of \$474, 524 this year alone.

A Special Thank You and Welcome

We are excited to be embarking on a new partnership this year with the Public Lands Interpretive Association. A special thank you to Executive Director **Amanda Keith**, our new shared staff member **Megan Lemcke**, and the **PLIA staff** for providing food and refreshments for this event, creating this publication, and assisting with overall logistics. We are looking forward to developing this new partnership and increasing our abilities to provide high quality resources to our public.



Stephanie Long studying bear scat with local students.
Photo courtesy Beth Meyer.

National Award Winner

Congratulations to **Stephanie Long** for winning the **National Citizen Stewardship and Partnerships Award** for her outstanding contributions to the Forest Service mission. Stephanie has been a volunteer and partner with the Sandia Ranger District since 2013. She is a founder of the Sandia Mountain Bear Collaborative; a Master Naturalist, helping to train people to become stewards of the natural environment; a member of the Board of Directors for the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo; a member of New Mexico Site Watch; and a member of the Sandia Collaborative. Her tireless work throughout these organizations is often behind the scenes, so we are delighted that she is being recognized through this very competitive award.

Volunteer Program Highlights

Friends of the Sandia Mountains

Happy 25th Anniversary to the Friends of the Sandia Mountains!

In 1996, The Sandia Ranger District had an active volunteer program. The district ranger at the time, Floyd Thompson requested that they form a nonprofit Friends organization to support the ranger district. In 1997 the Friends was originally incorporated as New Mexico Friends of the Forest which was later changed to Friends of the Sandia Mountains (FOSM). Sam Beard and Don Carnicom are the two remaining actively participating founding fathers. Over the years the organization has continued to grow and has become an important participant in accomplishing work on the district. For more information and to read their annual newsletter, visit www.friendsofthesandias.org. Congratulations FOSM. As we love to say on the district, FOSM is awesome! Following is a very brief summary highlighting a few major areas of contribution.

Thursday Trail Crew

Special thank you to **Jenny Blackmore**, for her contributions this year, and a special heartfelt thank you and acknowledgement of the incredible contributions that **Bob and Betsy Galloway** contributed over the years. Bob's legacy will continue to live on in the trails that he helped to build. This year the crew worked on construction of the Challenge Trail Extension, a new extension for Wagon Trail, the Placitas Area Trail System, the Palomas Peak Trail, an extension of the Rocky Point Trail. This crew continues to be incredibly instrumental in providing a high quality trail system for the public.

Trails Maintenance Crew

The Trails Maintenance Crew is a group of volunteers who patrol the Sandia Ranger District. This year the crew removed a total of 280 trees from 21 different trails or trail sections. A special thank you this year to **Byron Garner** for his support of this crew.



Friends of Sandia Mountain work with Talking Talons Youth Leadership to get the Capulin Snow Play area ready for the winter

Special Projects and Painting

The special projects team completed numerous task this year that have helped improve and maintain the district. The contributions are too numerous even to list and include areas from parking lot striping, educational programs, graffiti removal, historic preservation, recreation facility maintenance, interpretive signage and assisting with hazard tree identification and removal. This support more than doubles the amount that our staff are able to accomplish in a given year. Special thank you to **Sam Beard, Michael Arndt** and **Anne Hickman** for their leadership and contributions to special projects this year.

Farewell Bob Galloway

Bob Galloway, longtime FOSM member and project leader, died on September 18, 2022. Bob was a most talented individual who leaves behind a legacy in the trails system that will be long remembered. He contributed so much by doing what he loved to do, build trails and tackle any other USFS needs. Thankfully, he was here to see the Cienega-Armijo Trails Improvement Project (CATIP) trail complex completed after 5+ years, much of it under his leadership.

Bob will be sorely missed. This is a particularly heavy loss for the Thursday Trail Construction Crew, as they have been hoping for Bob's return and leadership during the more than a year of his treatments.

Rest in peace, Bob. Our thoughts are with you, Betsy.



Friends of Tijeras Pueblo

Friends of Tijeras Pueblo is a 501(c)(3) organization working in partnership with the Sandia Ranger District whose mission is dedicated to the preservation of Tijeras Pueblo Archaeological Site through protection, promotion and interpretation. Members encourage appreciation of and respect for traditional pueblo lifeways, past and present. This year saw the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo reestablish their training program for the new volunteers. They successfully planted their gardens in May, which resulted in a plentiful bounty. The Friends of Tijeras Pueblo also opened museum doors, the trails, and garden to school groups and participated in the East Mountain Celebration and New Mexico State Archeology Fair in Bernalillo. Special thank you to **Paula Michel** and the **Tijeras Pueblo Garden Crew** for their contributions this year to the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo.

Recreation Program Volunteer

We would like to give a special thank you to **Donald Glenn** for his tireless hours volunteering for the Recreation Program again this year. Donald contributes his time and talent in many areas to keep our recreation sites looking amazing.

Restoration of the Water Canyon
Cabin on the Magdalena Ranger
District

Wildlife Adopt a Drop Program

Water is one of the four essential habitat components for wildlife. The other three are food, cover and space. Where water is lacking, but other habitat essentials are available, water may be developed using artificial means, or a combination of human created and natural means to benefit wildlife. Artificial water catchments are known as guzzlers or trick tanks. A trick tank consists of a catchment surface for collecting precipitation, a tank to store it in, and access to water via a drinker. For various reasons, catchment systems may stop functioning and/or harsh sunlight and weathering can cause systems to break-down. The Adopt a Drop for Wildlife program on the Sandia and Mountainair Ranger Districts was created to address these issues by enabling volunteers to take stewardship of a wildlife water tank and oversee basic maintenance of that tank. Thanks to many individuals and outdoorsmen groups, our tanks are functioning and providing water to wildlife almost year round and especially when it is needed most.

Visitor Information and Public Services

Our Visitor Information volunteers assist us at the front desk at the District office, at the Four Seasons Visitor Center and at the Sandia Crest House. The increase in visitors we have seen with the Covid 19 pandemic seems to holding strong and this great volunteer base helps us provide information such as maps and publications, as well as interpretive information and educational programs for youth. Special thank you to **Kathleen Ackerson** for supporting the Four Seasons Visitor Center and helping us to beta test our new scheduling program!

A very special thank you to **Jim Hughes** for his many hours of support at the front desk and keeping us going during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic when most of the district staff were working from home,



Volunteers working on the Sandia Nordic Ski Trails

Sandia Nordic Ski Club

The Sandia Nordic Trails Improvement Project (SNTIP) is a component of the broader Sandia Trails Improvement Project, which was approved in March, 2021. The Sandia Nordic trails are located between the Ellis and 10K parking areas and bordered by the Sandia Peak Ski Area to the south. The objective of the SNTIP is to improve the quality and user friendliness of the trails by widening and leveling the trail system. Improvements completed this year will provide additional access for beginner and novice skiers to enjoy the SNSC groomed trail system by establishing 2 new loop options that may be combined with the Service Road. Sandia Nordic also conducted 3 Saturday volunteer outings. The number of volunteer hours dedicated to the SNTIP this summer/fall - which includes hours provided by FOSM and NMVFO - totaled 622 through October 5th.

Special thank you to **Scott Dietrich and Jeff Huser** for their contributions this year to the Nordica Trails and for beta testing our new volunteer platform!



Jess Huser cutting roots of a huge stump to make it easier for the mini excavator to dig out.

Placitas Area Trails Association

The Placitas Area Trail Association has been a valued partner in supporting several aspects of trail work around Placitas. Often combining forces with other volunteer groups greatly increasing the collective impact on this high use trail system.

Special thank you to **Chris Casey** for his contributions this year.

New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors

We are continuously grateful to work with the New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors. This year they helped construct a connector trail to a water source on the Canoncito Trail..

Special thank you to **Jenny Blackmore** for leading this group.



Volunteers build new trail in Placitas area.

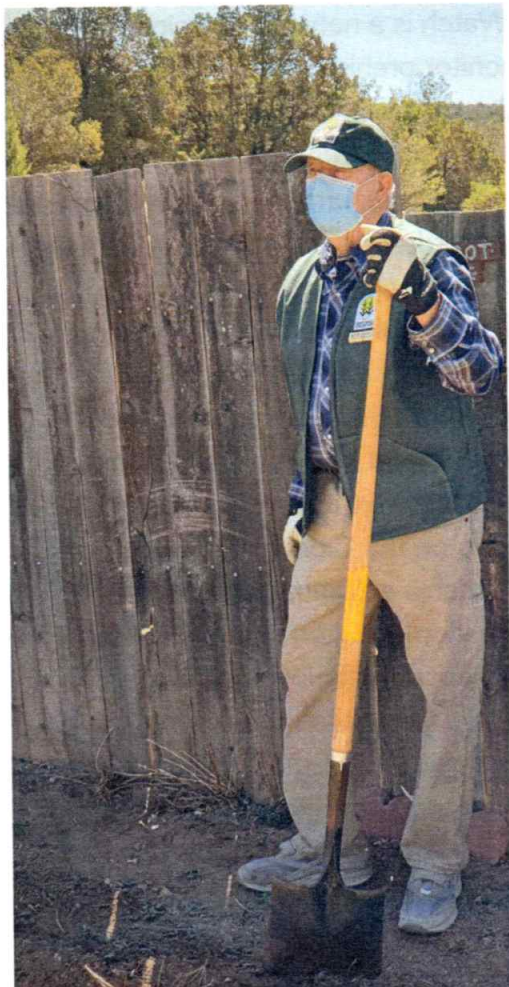
New Mexico Site Watch

New Mexico SiteWatch is a network of trained volunteers who monitor prehistoric and historic resources on public, private and tribal lands in their communities. Archaeological sites, historic buildings and places, trails, neon signs, bridges and structures are adopted by site stewards who routinely monitor them for signs of erosion, wear and tear, vandalism, and looting. The Cibola National Forest has 49 volunteers in two chapters (Torrance County Site Watch and Sandia/Tijeras SiteWatch) that participate in the NM SiteWatch program. A total of 19 sites are monitored across the Forest. In addition to site monitoring, SiteWatch volunteers on the Cibola National Forest participate in stewardship activities, including preservation/stabilization of historic structures and archaeological sites, documentation of new sites, research and archival work related to preservation of high priority archaeological sites, graffiti removal, and more. In 2022, a new group of SiteWatch volunteers was formed within the larger Sandia/Tijeras chapter that is dedicated to monitoring and developing strategies for vegetation/erosion control at Tijeras Pueblo archaeological site. Special thank you to **Lee Riley** (Sandia/Tijeras Chapter) and **John Groh** (Torrance Chapter) for their contributions this year.

Albuquerque Mountain Bike Association

Throughout 2022, AMBA has been involved in a variety of trail construction and maintenance activities, including the Challenge Trail Extension, Sulphur Canyon, and North Course. Besides trail work, AMBA was able to invest in their own equipment, ranging from a wheelbarrow to hedger, and McLeods to helmets, leading to additional trail development possibilities. This was all possible with the help of the IMBA Dig-In grant, which was matched by Shimano. In addition, it was recently announced that AMBA was a recipient of the NMEDD Outdoor Recreation's Trails+ grant! The \$99,999 award must be matched 1:1, with a large portion coming from collaborative volunteer opportunities with the USFS. The proposal entails maintenance and new construction of a downhill trail system within the existing North Course corridor just east of the 10k parking lot.

Special thank you to **Jeremy Peterson & Hannah Russert** for their contributions to trails this year.



Lynn Bender helping with the gardens.

Archaeology Program Volunteers

This year Archaeology volunteers continued to support work on the district (and this year across the forest too) in multiple significant ways. We are especially excited to have completed a long time project to restore the Water Canyon Cabin on the Magdalena Ranger District. We would like to extend a special thank you to the group that came together to complete this important project this year. We would also like to extend a special thank you to **Eric Rinehart, Deb Beeson, Lynn Bender** for their ongoing contributions to the program at large.



Volunteer Accomplishments

Cibola National Forest | Sandia Ranger District

Fiscal Year 2022

Volunteer Value

\$474,527.80

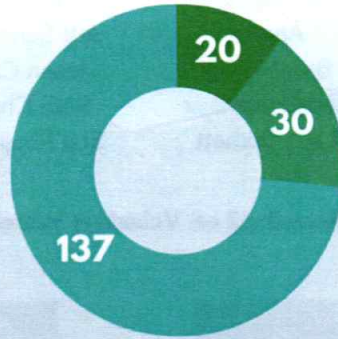
for

15,844

volunteer hours (at \$29.95/hour).

Rate calculated by Independent Sector

Individuals by Volunteer Hours



187

 Individual volunteers

- 250+ Hours
- 100-249 Hours
- 1-99 Hours

9

Regular Volunteer Groups

Friends of the Sandia Mountains

Albuquerque Mountain Bike Association

505 Elevate

Placitas Area Trails Association

Friends of Tijeras Pueblo

Sandia Nordic Ski Club

New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors

New Mexico Mountain Club

"Adopt a Trail" Participating Groups

Volunteer Hours by Program Area



8.8

 Years of volunteer time

84.7

 Average hours per volunteer

Volunteers with 1-29 hours

Lane Findley	Peter Anderson	Alexa Whittenburg	Leroy Paheco	Chris Murray	Pauline Ho
Pauli Netto	Tim McDonald	Alyssa Ochs	Leslie Chavez	Mike Rahmer	Julia Templin
Bill Stanley	Vicky Kauffman	Sharon Hanna	Lucy Berglund	Katie Zieg Reid	Joe Meade
Chris Mommsen	Rene Archer	Judith Tamm	Matt Hansche	Andre Biane	John Cooper
Eddie Moore	Adam Johnson	Mike Argeanas	Murt Sullivan	Ed DiBello	Rick Buss
Glen Koelling	Brian Salem	Morrow Hall	Nadine Sullivan	Bill Savage	Ralph Wrons
Greg Weix	Dan Greer	Karen Argeanas	Burt Schiffers	Neil	Wyatt Garcia
John Quinley	Anne Ravenstone	Wynette Burnett	Casey Cook	Robert Hembach	Johnny Branum
Jon Dellios	Barbara Simms	Jack Woodson	Cindy Chavez	Chris Ksanzuak	Joy Lancaster
Karl Walczak	Cathy Lynch	Jan Cool	Dave Chichura	Clayton TenEyck	Matt Brennan
Laura Biedermann	Laura Salem	Jan Hagmaier	Ella Lendah	Mike Botto	Mills Michael
Lorna Morrow	Evelyn Moran	Andres	Jeff Schornack	Sue Mealy	Rich Barnett
Luke Schnickel	Ezekiel Argeanas	Braden Vick	Joann Casey	Joyce Muthing	Rob Love
Noel Wagner	Raquela Thomas	Ladd Hagmaier	Seth Chavez	Mike de	Iris Crisman
Paul Gourley	Gerald Muisemet	Larry Burnett	Sue Roujanslay		Jan Campbell
Jean Mariner					Rob Vitello

Award: 32 oz. Volunteer Water Bottle

Volunteers with 30-99 hours

Mark Grazier	Richard Miller	Bob Berglund	Pete Golden
Chris Casey	Don Smiset	Connie Flores	Rick Koll
Tami Meade	Jory Meade	David Phillips	Susan Smith
Paul Karas	Courtnee Bennett	Ginger Foerster	Jane Harrison
Larry Larrichio	Ralph Kopp	Hayward Franklin	Joe Beman
Jetsy Galloway	Timothy McDonald	Kathy Pacheco	Tony Pachell
Bob Galloway	Dave Gabel	Kay Lopez	Claudia Bergsohn
JC Glies	Silke Blefzer	Paul Baumann	David McCreery
Kitsie Smiset	Bill Simms	Paul Cord	Ronald Stumpf
David Bernstein	Ken Nicholson	Nick Torino	Kathleen Ackerson
Phil Cromer	Tim Garner	Pete Rhyins	Jan Ankerson

Award: 32 oz. Volunteer Water Bottle & Sandia Amenity Pass

Volunteers with 100-249 hours

Andre Huffmire	Melissa Molinar	Louis Romero	Cliff Giles
Ann Ruhnka	Paul Marien	Jim Houle	Donald Glenn
Deb Beeson	Susan Marien	John Hayden	Catherine Kelly
Jonas Hart	Bruce Hansche	Luis Cuadros	Tim Murphy
Kym Cambell	Michael Arndt	Jeff Huser	Gregory Busse
Melissa Krasser	Pat Madden	Mike Madden	Anne Hickman
Paul Neville	Lee Riley	Rav Nicholson	Nancy Woodworth
Stephanie Long	Scott Dietrich	Jerry Pekarek	Carolyn Warren
Terri Neville	Cleave Sharp	Don Carnicom	Ward Beers
Jan Vincent	Dennis Crowther	Steve Roholt	Jamey Browning

Award: 32 oz. Volunteer Water Bottle, Sandia Amenity Pass or choice of book & Challenge coin

Volunteers with 250-499 hours

Ellie Parker	Dan Benton	Paula Michel
Eric Rinehart	Bob Lowder	Russell Parker
Jean Payne	Eric Russell	Jerry Carroll
John Groh	Jenny Blackmore	Byron Garner
Lisa Chasanov	Joelle Hertel	Sally Lowder
Sim Cook	Pete Bohlin	

Award: 32 oz. Volunteer Water Bottle, America the Beautiful Volunteer Pass or Amenity Pass, Choice of book & Challenge coin

Volunteers with 500-999 hours

Sam Beard James Hughes Lynn Bender

Award: 32 oz. Volunteer Water Bottle, America the Beautiful Volunteer Pass or Amenity Pass, Choice of book & Challenge coin

