



Sandia Ranger District

Emerging from Covid

Renewing Connections

Back Together Again

Emerging from a pandemic, and growing!

Crystal Powell, District Ranger Updates

- Our growing staff
- Back to the Office
- Restoration Project Implementation
- Projects in Planning

Julie Padilla, Acting Deputy Ranger Updates

- Recreation Project Updates
- Community Engagement
- Public Information
- Partnerships



Back at the Office



- Staffing increased to support national priorities
- Office and Workshop Reorganization
- Some have a better view



Restoration Projects Updates

- Sandia Hazard Tree and Thinning Project
- Cedro Landscape Restoration
 - Cedro 3 and 4
- Cedro Creek Restoration
- Prescribed Burn Projects



Projects in Planning

- La Madera Fuels Reduction
- Foothills Trail Project Planning
- Heli-base Modernization
- Invasives treatment plan - Cedro





Recreation, Community Engagement, Visitor Information and Partnerships

Julie Padilla, Acting Deputy Ranger



Recreation Project Updates

- Nine Mile Picnic Area
- Sandia Crest Recreation Area
- Juan Tabo and La Cueva Picnic Areas
- Sandia Cave Improvements
- Trail Program Updates
- Downhill Mountain Bike Trails
- New Fee Implementation





Nine Mile Picnic Area

- A beautiful site nestled in the aspen trees
- Construction this summer
- Fully accessible site
- Trail Head parking to access the Challenge Trail
- New picnic tables, restrooms and amenities
- Awarded \$850,000 through the Great American Outdoors Act



Sandia Crest Recreation Area

- Construction anticipated next summer
- Awarded a total of \$3.6 through the Great American Outdoors Act
- Updating all Amenities

Juan Tabo and La Cueva Picnic Areas

- Currently working through design options in consultation with Sandia Pueblo that would:
 - update aging infrastructure
 - protect the site from vandalism
 - increase accessibility
- Applying for funding through the Great American Outdoors Act



Sandia Cave Improvement Project

Project includes four main components:

1. Parking Lot Redesign
2. Trail and Trail Features
3. Replacement of spiral staircase
4. Site interpretation

Project will likely be phased and partial funding has been awarded



Trail Updates



Volunteers Make it Happen!

FOSM Thursday Crew > FOSM Monday Crew > NM Volunteers for the Outdoors > 505 Cycling > Placitas Area Trails Association > Sandia Nordic Ski Club > The National Interscholastic Cycling Association > Albuquerque Mountain Bike Association >

Accomplishments

- Placitas area trails ~95% complete thanks to PATA and FOSM
- Completed construction of Road Noise trail
- ~90% complete on the challenge extension
- ~90% complete on groomed Nordic ski trails

Future focus

- Complete work for Cedro area, and finishing the Sandia Trails Improvement Project focusing on Downhill Mountain Bike Trails



Downhill Mountain Bike Trails Project

- Part of the Sandia Trails Improvement Project
- Partnership with Albuquerque Mountain Biking Association
- Another awardee of the NM State Outdoor Recreation Division's Trails+ grant
- Two year grant that began this year
- Will be an exclusive Mountain Bike use



New Fee Implemented

- Four New Mexico Forests sought input on increasing fees in 2021 and 2022
- Fee Proposal went before the Resource Advisory Council and was recently approved
- Regional Office is anticipated to provide the final approval
- Fees will be increased in group areas and Picnic Areas and Trail Heads will increase from \$3 to \$5
- New Enchantment Pass anticipated to be offered for \$40 or 24 volunteer hours



Community Engagement: Public Gatherings

- National Public Lands Day
- National Trails Day
- District Open House Coming Soon
- Volunteer Appreciation Event



Community Engagement: Environmental Education

Developing a vision

- Over one third of New Mexico's school age children live within an hour's drive of the Sandia Mountains – not just for children!
- Many of our management approaches identified in the Cibola National Forest Land Management Plan focus on public education and outreach as an important management approach
- Many of our partners are delivering high quality programs, how can we work together?

District Educational Goals

- Wildfire prevention
- Forest health
- Protection of Endangered Species
- Interacting with wildlife
- Sharing knowledge about what we do
- Understanding impacts from a changing climate
- Understanding our rich cultural heritage and protecting archaeological resource
- Encouraging land stewardship and inspiring new conservationists
- Expanding our workforce



Working Together

Public Lands Interpretive Association

- Sandia Junior Ranger Booklet
- Forest Health and Fire Prevention field programs with Middle School students
- APS Every Kid Outdoor Program

Talking Talons Youth Leadership

- Curious Coyotes Club – connecting youth to climate issues
- Youth crew

Friends of Tijeras Pueblo

- Interpretation for visiting public and school groups
- Summer camp program

Seeking to expand and support programs with FOSM, Ciudad Soil and Water, Sandia Mountain Natural History Center, Youth Corps and others



Public Information

- New Sandia Visitor Map Coming Soon
- New resource guides for La Luz Trail Head and the Manzanita Mountains
- New Kiosk Signs
- New Pocket Guide
- New trail decals
- Other misc. signage



Random Info

[Douglas Fire Tussock Moth information](#)

[David Canyon Prescribed Burn\(RX\) Video](#)

[Reimagine Recreation National Strategy](#)

[National Trails Strategy](#) [10 Yr Challenge](#)

THANK YOU!

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QUESTIONS?

