

Friends of the Sandia Mountains Annual Newsletter, September 2020



**Friends of the Sandia Mountains
P.O. Box 1832,
Tijeras, New Mexico 87059**

From the President:

It has been my practice in the past to open these reports with a statement that somehow serves to describe the past year in some way. Sometimes it is a challenge to point out one specific thing that fits this purpose very well. This year, the topic was obvious, of course that would be the COVID-19 pandemic. Poor 2020, always to be remembered as the year of the big COVID outbreak. Just like the rest of the planet, the Friends of the Sandia Mountains was affected. Our monthly meetings were cancelled, volunteer activities were suspended, then altered with the usual social distancing and protective gear protocols. New ways of doing things had to be learned. Despite the alteration of routines, our dedicated volunteers continued their efforts to clear the trails, remove hazard trees, paint signage, remove graffiti, etc. To anyone familiar with our group of volunteers, this does not come as a surprise. FOSM is indeed fortunate to have a volunteer cadre made up of people so dedicated to working toward the public good that almost no obstacle will stand in their way to get the job done.

Hard to say how long all of this will last, but one thing for certain is that FOSM will adapt as needed to support our mission until, as they say, this too shall pass. Perhaps by the time this newsletter is published next year, COVID will just be another unpleasant memory.

This will be my last "From the President" report. I have chosen not to be a candidate in this year's election of officers. It seemed to me that I had served in this office for a very long time. As best I could tell from looking through some old records, I have been President for 16 years. I have greatly enjoyed the role, and it has been a completely positive experience for me to work with such a wonderful group of people. It's really not that hard a job, and for all practical purposes, FOSM pretty much runs itself. I just felt that there simply comes a time for new leadership to give it a go. I do not intend to ride off into the sunset and disappear. Unless the new

leadership has other plans, I will continue to coordinate the Trails Maintenance Crew, act as administrator of our email systems, help back-up the FOSM website and, as every job description says, perform “other duties as assigned”. I’ll probably be just about as busy as I have always been, maybe just get fewer emails.

It has been a fun ride. My sincere thanks to you all for your support through the years.

See you on the mountain...

Bob L.

FOSM Trails Crew Report

The FOSM Trails Crew is a group of volunteers who patrol Sandia Ranger District hiking trails removing fallen trees or those otherwise posing a hazard to users. The team will also cut back vegetation that protrudes into the trails and will perform minor tread work when necessary. The most commonly used implements are crosscut saws and other hand tools, including loppers, pruning saws, Pulaskis, and cant hooks. Where appropriate in areas outside wilderness boundaries, chain saws can be used. In addition to a core group, the crew can be made up of other individuals wishing to help. The team size can vary with the scope of work to be done. Projects are scheduled based upon reports submitted to the Cibola Trail Rangers email group or information otherwise received and compiled onto the Trail Tree Report by Sally Lowder. As the trees are removed from the trails, they are deleted from that report. The crew usually conducts its work on Mondays but will go out other times as needed. During the current one-year reporting period, the crew removed a total of 109 trees ranging in size from three to twenty-two inches in diameter. The circumstances of COVID-19, removal of fallen trees by other volunteers, and perhaps even a reduction in the number of dead trees falling resulted in a smaller number of trees removed by the crew this year in comparison with prior years. (Bob Lowder)

Trail Construction Projects

FOSM and other volunteers contributed to trail projects under the direction of Kerry Wood, Trails and Wilderness Program Manager, Forest Service, and Russell Berman, Trails Foreman, SRD.

A total of 28 trail sessions were coordinated in fiscal year 2020 with SRD. There were challenges to overcome besides a little bad weather: using gas chainsaws to cut trail corridor or the power auger to install trail signs was prohibited between March 1 and August 31 to avoid disturbing nesting goshawks (so the Stage 2 fire restrictions never affected us); Covid-19 impacts hit us early in the calendar year but the volunteers eventually continued work under USFS mitigation measures; the greatest impact was the federal court injunction on “timber management” which was narrowly interpreted to include seedlings, saplings, and branches and ultimately stopped FOSM trail projects in August 2020.

Cienega/Armijo Trails Improvement Project

The primary focus for the fiscal year was the Cienega/Armijo Trails Improvement Project (CATIP), first launched in 2017. The new trail system is over 85% complete and will add more than six miles of new sustainable trails to the SRD trail network when finished. FOSM has contributed a LOT of time to this project. Because the court injunction impacted most corridor clearing, the crews limited their efforts to building planned trails in masticated areas or in less dense ponderosa forest. Several sections of unsustainable user trail were bypassed and obliterated.

With the CATIP network nearing completion, quite a few sessions were devoted to installing trail signs at completed trail intersections or private property access points. The trail signs were procured through a grant from the local REI outlet. Only 16 signs of the required total of 64 remain to be installed. The Covid-19 impacts have resulted in heavier recreational trail traffic, and the new signs help orient folks venturing onto the CATIP trails. (Bob Galloway)

Downed Trees Removed from Trails

The Sandia Mountains enjoyed a decent snowpack this year; at least enough for a good snowshoe race held in January, 2020. However, the weather warmed up quickly this year and the rains failed to come. The winds began in January and still, as of 9/10/20, have not ceased. Some of the strongest winds of the year were just as FOSM was closing out FY 2020. These trees that were toppled will be reported for the FY 2021.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!! I can't say it enough: THANK YOU!! All your hard work of hiking, reporting and working has made our Sandia Mountain more enjoyable to hike. We had **388** trees across trails reported since 9/10/19 to 9/10/20. There were **429** trees removed (that includes 32 removed by Forest Gnome). That is the largest number removed by a mysterious volunteer(s).

While we have been busy this year, it has not been one of the busiest seasons on record: 2015 FOSM cleared 179 trees; 2016 jumped to 408 trees; 2017 was 590; 2018 was 488; 2019 was a banner year of 725 trees and now in 2020 we dropped to 429 trees. Some of our trails in the Wilderness areas remain to be cleared of their many downed trees. When you consider the distance and time to hike from Hwy 536 to 10KN to Osha Loop to Penasco Blanco, it is almost time to turn around and head back to Hwy 536. Not much time could be spent removing those trees. The heat of the summer plays a big part in not taking on this daunting task. Ask the FOSM Crew who are all above 65 years young. All are in tremendous shape and would probably do the work if there was a Starbucks and a Motel 6 stationed in the middle of Penasco Blanco. There have been reports of orders to a beer truck to show up at the end of the work days, but it has NEVER shown up!!! Dang, they all have to wait until they get home. (Sally Lowder)

Reports from Treasurer Tim Brown

Membership - We now have 109 memberships compared with 106 at this time last year. New memberships are: Paul Karas, Kurt Nolte, Bronwyn Wilson, Michael Cox, Larry Shore, Clare Castiglia, Donald Scheese, Peggy Butzer, Gail Leedy, Jackie Hertel, John Samuli, Ivy and Vincent Logan, Randi Walker, Mike Ellis, Bruce Hansche, Cris Hustad, David Bernstein, Larry Larrichio, Claudia Bergsohn, Peter Chang and Robert Koehn. Welcome Everyone!

Financial Report - We began FY2020 on October 1, 2019 with a checking account balance of \$17,674.46 and on September 1, 2020 the balance was \$27,558.20. We also have two CDs which total \$41,535.81. The largest expense was \$3,139.21 for the Snowshoe Race. The largest revenue was \$6,545.87 from donations and grants for specific projects and Snowshoe Race \$6,460.00.

Audits - In November 2019 Art Arenholz completed an audit of the FOSM financial records. He reported the records to be accurate and in good shape. Also, in November 2019 Tim Brown completed an audit of the FOSM physical assets.

Expenditures in Support of the Sandia Ranger District - Total Expenditures were \$5,487.15 broken down as follows: Snowshoe Race \$3,139.21 and miscellaneous projects \$1,982.99.

Field Guide to the Sandia Mountains - UNM Press reports that the sales to date are approximately 13,000 copies. They are currently selling about 200 copies per year.

17th Annual Sandia Snowshoe Race

The 17th annual Sandia Snowshoe Race was held on Saturday January 25, 2020. Snow conditions were excellent this year, and the race field filled at 175 on Tuesday, January 21st. 154 of these entrants participated in the race this year. We had the expected number of no shows, and the parking lot was fully plowed this year, thanks to our friends at the Sandia Ranger District. Our parking crew, led by Don Smiset, did a superb job assisting people to park this year,

We had clear weather with light winds. The temperature at 10:00 a. m. was 30 degrees F. The FOSM Trails Crew had done an excellent job preparing the course, and we had several positive comments from our racers. Our volunteers, many of whom are FOSM members, stepped up to help. Volunteers are the heart of an event like this, and we would not be able to hold it without them.

Our overall winner this year was Brantley Lutz with a stellar time of 25:32. Second overall and first female finisher was defending champion Michelle Hummel with a time of 26:16.

Many thanks go to our sponsors, most of whom donated their goods and services. (Steve Roholt)

Paint Crew Report

The paint crew continued their annual projects to stripe parking lots and paint restrooms and trash receptables. In addition, this year they completed special projects to paint the large shelter

at the upper Crest parking lot and to paint the SRD horse trailer used in FOSM projects. A greater emphasis was placed on graffiti removal. A list of projects at various locations follows.

- A. Striped Parking Lots – Crest, Sulphur Canyon Picnic Area (PA), Oak Flat and Locust PAs, La Cueva PA, and Tree Spring Trailhead (TH)
- B. Painted Trash Receptacles – 12 in La Cueva PA, 1 at the Crest Overlook, and 1 at 10K North TH.
- C. Painted Doors and/or Exterior Walls of Restrooms – Crest House, two at the large Crest parking lot, and 10K North TH.
- D. Painted posts and exterior walls of large shelter at Upper Crest Parking lot and sign board at the Recreation Fee Pay Post.
- E. Painted exterior and interior of SRD horse trailer with white paint.
- F. Painted over graffiti on seven large concrete barriers along NM-165 (Placitas Road).
- G. Applied yellow safety paint to edges of steps in the side walk between the Crest upper parking lot and the overlook.
- H. Applied Penofin to two benches at the Capulin Bird Log and three picnic tables at 10K North TH, Horse Trailer Parking lot, and FOSM Guard Station.
- I. Graffiti removal with success ranging from complete removal to partial removal was done at the following locations: 1. Juan Tabo PA – CCC stone shelter and a very large boulder; 2. 10K N TH – five boulders ranging from small to large; 3. Crest Overlook – two patches on a stone wall; 4. La Luz parking area – 5 boulders and one restroom exterior wall; 6. Crest Nature Trail – three large boulders, a few trees, and several small boulders. (Anne Hickman and Sam Beard)

Medical and Saw Certifications

The year of 2020 has been an exceptional year for arranging any type of work, training, meetings, and certifications due to the CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19). Some of our trainings and certifications have been put on hold due to the inability to have meetings and any group size greater than 5 in attendance. We await USFS direction and better times ahead!!

Every year there are classes to be taken by our Chainsaw/Crosscut Sawyers to maintain their current certifications for saw work on the Sandia Ranger District. We currently have 26 certified sawyers: 10 chainsaw, 21 crosscut, and 5 with dual certifications. There are 5 members in chainsaw trainee status. This allows them to receive field practice with a certified B sawyer. They will receive final certification with a C Sawyer from the Sandia Ranger District at a later time. These members are Byron Garner, Scott Dietrich, Mark Grazier, Michael Arndt, and Ben Meisner. Four of these individuals already are B certified for crosscut saw work.

The medical part of the certification process must be completed every year (Bloodborne Pathogens), every 2 years (CPR/AED) and every 3 years (1st AID). We have just a few members that are currently awaiting final medical certification due to COVID-19 putting trainings on hold.

All of our Chainsaw members are currently fully certified. We have 10 Crosscut saw members needing recertification that are in HOLD status due to restrictions on trainings. Their

recertifications will come when USFS lifts the restrictions being placed on trainings/certifications.

Included here are the names of the certified sawyers (crosscut-cc) (chainsaw-cs):

Sam Beard cc cs, Bob Lowder cc cs, Dan Benton cs, Bill Savage cc cs, Betsy Galloway cc, Bob Galloway cc cs, Jim Levesque cc, Eric Russell cc cs, Rav Nicholson cc, Steve Roholt cc, Byron Garner cc, Jerry Pekarek cc, Dave Gabel cc, Bill White cs, Dennis Crowther, cs, David McCreery cc, Chris Fritzsche cc, Jerry Carroll cs, Bet Gendron cc, Sim Cook cc, Cleve Sharp cc, Scott Dietrich cc, Jenny Blackmore cc, Mark Grazier cc, Lorna Morrow cs, and Michael Arndt cc.

Thanks to all our sawyers and other volunteers for their amazing work in the District this year despite all the work interruptions we have had. (Sally Lowder)

Meadow Restoration in the Cedro CFRP

The Cedro CFRP (Collaborative Forest Restoration Project) is a multi-year multi-organization project on several hundred acres of the Sandia Ranger District located along Forest Road 242 (Juan Tomas Road) between NM-337 and the village of Juan Tomas. Working with FOSM are two other non-profit organizations: The Nature Conservancy and Talking Talons Youth Leadership. FOSM has committed to thinning 36 acres of forest with scattered trees in three years. The primary objective of the FOSM thinning project is meadow restoration by removing pinon and juniper trees. Tree trunks and large branches are piled and collected as fuelwood as part of Eagle Scout projects.

Provisions of the thinning prescription are to remove pinon and juniper trees with DRC (diameter at root collar) less than 13 inches, not fell ponderosa pines and Gambel oaks, pile felled trunks for fuelwood, place slash in drainages to reduce erosion or scatter it, not fell trees within 25 feet of three drainages and not within 50 feet of a large arroyo along the lower edge of the meadow.

During FY 2020, FOSM worked on this project only two days, November 19 and March 4 and thinned only about 1.5 acres. Earlier in the fall, FOSM was not permitted to fell trees due to the Mexico Spotted Owl court order. Finally, it was decided that FOSM could fell pinon and juniper trees, because they are not MSO habitat. In the spring, the virus closure and Stage 2 Fire Restrictions stopped the thinning work. (Sam Beard)

FOSM Email Notification Groups

Communication to and between members is important for most organizations, and ours is no exception. FOSM established its email notification system in 2002 using the Yahoo Groups system. Due to the unreliability of the Yahoo groups system, FOSM changed the carrier to Southwest Cyber Port, an Albuquerque company, in 2019.

Sandia Volunteers/FOSM – This group of about 193 email addresses is made up of all FOSM members, authorized USFS/SRD volunteers and others who have expressed an interest in receiving the information it provides. This system publishes announcements of FOSM projects,

monthly FOSM meetings, information from our partners at the USFS Sandia Ranger District, etc. Messages to this group require approval by a moderator.

Cibola Trail Rangers – This group of about 143 email addresses provides a forum for anyone to report trail conditions on our Sandia trails. Many of our trail maintenance projects have resulted from messages submitted on this system. Messages posted on this system do not require moderator approval. (Bob Lowder – System Administrator)

Adopt-A-Trail Program

For the most part, the Sandia Ranger District does not now use an adopt-a-trail model for trails on the District. Instead, interested groups are asked to take part in one of the scheduled trail work days during the summer season (typically April - October).

Since October 1, 2019, five legacy Adopt-A-Trail groups have performed 238.5 hours of trail work as of September 7, 2020. This compares to 666.5 hours at this point in FY2019. Groups reporting hours were the New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club (numerous cross country ski trails in the Sandia Crest area), Southwest Forest Service Amigos (North Crest and Oso Corredor trails), Friends of the Sandia Mountains (Tecolote and Cienega Nature trails), Rav and Ken Nicholson (10K South Trail), and the Happy Hoofers (South Crest Trail from the Crest House to the upper Tram Terminal).

The Covid-19 restriction on volunteer activities was undoubtedly responsible for the decrease of 428 hours from the prior year. Another 23 days remain in the fiscal reporting year and good weather may provide opportunities for additional hours that will be reported in next year's totals. Again this year the Southwest Forest Service Amigos had the most site visits (7). The Amigos also had the most hours (135). (Dan Benton)

Hazard Tree Removal

During the spring, SRD personnel selected hazard trees to be removed at a dozen sites, but due to fire and Coronavirus restrictions, FOSM volunteers began felling trees in July and felled 243 trees by September 25, when this newsletter was published. The maximum diameter of the felled trees was 22 inches. The number of trees felled at each site is given below. Additional trees will be felled in Cienega PA in September, and trees in Las Huertas PA will be felled in October.

1. Doc Long PA – 35
2. Sulphur Canyon PA – 60
3. Cienega Canyon PA – 23+
4. Tree Spring Trailhead – 2
5. Ski Area Overflow Parking Lot – 4
6. Balsam Glade PA – 22
7. Capulin Spring PA – 26
8. Capulin Snow Play Area – 39
9. Nine Mile PA – 24
10. Ellis Trailhead – 3
11. Crest Area – 5

Long Trails Work Day in the Snow

(Bob and Sally Lowder provided the following report of a cold trails work day in the snow on Dec. 2, 2019.)

Yesterday, Monday, December 2, 2019, the FOSM Trails Maintenance Crew removed a total of 37 trees from Crest Area trails. Areas covered include Kiwanis Meadow Road, and Buried Cable and Switchback Trails. Chain saws, crosscut saws, and other hand tools were used for this work. The trees ranged in size from 3 to 24 inches in diameter.

The weather was mostly clear and cold. There was good snow cover on all the areas the crew hiked. The snow appeared to be from 14 to 18 inches in depth with deeper drifts in spots. Snowshoes or skis are required to move safely on the trails. The Crest Road was mostly clear but with icy spots in shaded areas. It looked like all the paved parking areas have now been plowed. The snow ranged from slightly packed to unpacked and quite loose. There were a few sunny areas with thin coatings of crunchy ice. The loose snow presented uneven traction, especially for those carrying heavy packs and tools. Overall, there does seem to be a good base of snow for the upcoming winter.

Based upon observations of the crew and trail conditions reports that are starting to come in, it appears that the Sandias have suffered a repeat of the massive damage by the windstorms last spring. There is still a lot of work ahead to clear the trails of fallen trees.

Yesterdays crew consisted of Byron Garner, Cliff Giles, Jerry Pekarek, Jim Levesque, Eric Russell, Cleve Sharp and Bob Lowder. (Sally reported that Bob was gone from home 12 hours that day.) (On another day, the temperature was 7 F when the crew worked on the North Crest Trail.) (Sam Beard)

Other Projects

Picnic Table Maintenance - Penofin (Penetrating Oil Finish) was applied to picnic tables at 10K North Trailhead, Cienega Horse Trailer Parking Lot, and the FOSM Guard Station. Due to extensive damage due to graffiti and carving, the table at the gate on Kiwanis Meadow Road at the Crest was painted with Forest Service brown paint.

Cienega Nature Trail and Tecolote Trail – FOSM adopted these trails several years ago and usually perform maintenance each year. This year, FOSM members removed downed trees on CNT and removed debris, such as pine cones and needles, from the paved trail. The trail was passable for wheel chairs. Members also hiked Tecolote Trail and found no trees across it. Steve Roholt removed trash and other debris from around the Dry Camp Trailhead and the closed restroom. Sally Lowder reported that the AAT sign needed Penofin and paint. (Sam Beard)

New Steel Roof on Oak Flat Picnic Area Restroom – In the fall of 2019, a FOSM crew removed the old roof and installed a brown steel roof on one of the restrooms in Oak Flat Group Picnic Area. (Sam Beard)

Steel Roof on La Cueva Restroom Vent Structure – In November Russ and Ellie Parker and Sam Beard installed a new brown steel roof on the La Cueva Picnic Area restroom. The roof of this building is in very bad condition and should be replaced as soon as possible. (Sam Beard)

Chain Saw Maintenance – On February 26 FOSM members cleaned and repaired several chain saws at the SRD shop and cleaning station. Several saw chains were also sharpened. (Sam Beard)

Oak Flat Snow-Covered Restroom Roof Patched – In November, Russ and Ellie Parker and Sam Beard patched a hole in the roof of one of the Oak Flat Group Area restrooms. Russ cut and nailed down a sheet of galvanized flashing material over the hole and applied caulking around the edges. Obviously, this roof should be replaced. (Sam Beard)

Planting Seedlings at Dry Camp Trailhead – On September 2, several FOSM members helped the Cibola NF Silviculturist plant 200 ponderosa pine and Douglas fir seedlings in the thinned and masticated area around Dry Camp Trailhead. Protective plastic cones were placed around the seedlings. Sim Cook returned at least two days and worked hours each day watering the seedlings that had been planted in very dry soil. (Sam Beard)

Tree Spring Wildlife Drinker Cleaned

On May 19, Lou Romero and Sam Beard cleaned mud out of the wildlife drinker at Tree Spring which is located just above the Crest Highway about a quarter-mile below the Tree Spring Trailhead. When they returned on June 4, the drinker was full, and the water was clear. This drinker is a 55-gallon drum cut in half length wise and set in concrete. (Sam Beard)

New Wildlife Water Collector at Barro Site

In the fall of 2019, FOSM members worked with SRD employees and the Wildlife Biologist to install a new rain collector and drinker adjacent to the existing “clam shell” collector and drinker. These facilities are located on the Old Crest Road about one mile up the mountain from Doc Long Picnic Area. FOSM cleaned the old collector several years ago with water provided by a fire crew and their small fire engine. Don Carnicom also patched a hole in the fiberglass cover of the old rain collector. Note: The latest Cibola NF map of the Sandia RD shows that the name of the nearby canyon is “Barro”. We have used site names of “Barrow” and “Borrow” in the past. (Sam Beard)

Picnic Area Fence Maintenance

When Doc Long, Sulphur Canyon, and Cienega Canyon Picnic Areas were reconstructed numerous years ago, the fences were constructed with pressure-treated 6-inch posts and 4-inch poles 10 feet long. Several posts have been damaged by rot in the ground or breakage due to being hit by vehicles. Also, numerous poles have been broken or have rotted. This summer approximately a dozen posts in Cienega and Sulphur PAs have been replaced or stabilized. The pressure treated posts can be purchased locally from farm supply stores, but these sources only sell 8-foot long poles. FOSM purchased 50 pressure-treated 10-foot poles at a cost of approximately \$1200 from Hunter Bower Lumber Company in July, and they have been stored

at Don Carnicom's house near Doc Long Picnic Area. Damaged poles will be replaced on Wednesday work days when the FOSM crew is not working on higher priority projects. (Sam Beard and Don Carnicom)

Restoration of La Cueva Picnic Area

In Fall the volunteers from the carpenters union continued repair of concrete table tops and benches at the La Cueva Recreation area. Several Saturdays were devoted to forming, placing concrete and color coating the damaged tables and benches.

At the interior of Juan Tabo rock shelter, field stone bench pedestals had been restored and built up last year. The work was completed to replicate the style and placement of the original 1930's Civilian Conservation Corps design. Also, in Fall the carpenters union volunteers again gave their Saturdays to form and place concrete on the pedestals to conclude the bench seating in the Juan Tabo rock shelter. Unfortunately, cold weather in Fall prevented the color coating and patching some damage to the concrete. Of course, when the weather warmed in Spring enough to do concrete work, COVID prevented completion of the color coating. The benches in the interior of the shelter are usable, just not yet as attractive as planned. (Joelle Hertel)

FOSM Publications

Recreation Guide to the Sandia and Manzanita Mountains - This year we continued to distribute this free visitor's guide that includes information about sport activities, picnic areas, camping, volunteer work, parking fees and passes, wilderness restrictions, temperatures and precipitation, maps, trail lengths and difficulty, and Leave No Trace. The guide is available at the Ranger Station, Crest Visitor Center, REI, and Tinker town. In addition, they are frequently distributed at all FOSM outreach activities and handed out by FOSM Volunteers to visitors at the Tram and the Crest. After the extensive updating last year, there was no new activity on this project except for keeping the distribution outlet supplied with copies as needed. (Don Carnicom)

Sandia Crest Area Trails Map

Kerry Wood, the Forest Service Trails and Wilderness Program Manager, designed an excellent map of the trails in the Crest/Tram Area which our volunteers hand out to visitors at the Tram and the Crest. Our most recent order for 2000 copies last year continues to be adequate for our current needs. (Don Carnicom)

Sandia Ranger District Signage Program

The FOSM Signage Committee continued to keep an updated inventory of the interpretative education signs on the District. Many of the signs are concentrated in the Crest, Tram and Kiwanis Meadow areas. Others are scattered throughout the picnic areas and trailheads around the District. Maintenance, such as graffiti removal and complete sign replacement was performed as required throughout the year.

After a Tram Nature Trail sign was vandalized (destroyed) it was discovered the digital data base for all of these signs was in a PSD format which is no longer used by most sign makers. Consequently, we had all PSD files converted to PDF files by a local shop, ARI Graphix & Signs.

The Scenic Byway signs are a series of 20 numbered signs along the 13.6 miles of the Sandia Crest Highway (NM 536) describing points of interest from NM 14 to Sandia Crest. In years past FOSM printed a small booklet explaining the details about each point of interest. Additionally, a link has been added to the FOSM web site covering everything in that booklet, as the supply of booklets has been depleted.

This year we replaced five of the signs that were becoming very weathered. The five signs depleted our supply of replacement signs. Assuming we can find a source, we are considering ordering more replacement signs. (Don Carnicom)

FOSM Records Retention

Throughout the year we continued to get our corporate records collected and filed. Now all electronic files and hard copy records are stored in a locked cabinet in the FOSM office at the Ranger Station. The electronic files are stored on a flash drive that is updated about twice a year. A duplicate set of files are kept on another flash drive and on a hard drive. Any director issuing a document they wish to have retained can copy it to the email address, fosmrecords@friendsofthesandias.org, and it will end up on the flash drive. (Don Carnicom)

FOSM Outreach

The Celebrate Wildlife Event at Wildlife West Nature Park was cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be rescheduled next year. (Don Carnicom)

Official Ballot: October 1, 2020 Annual FOSM Election

We appreciate the contributions of those Board members whose two-year terms are expiring at the end of September: Sam Beard and Eric Russell. Continuing Board Members are Dan Benton, Don Carnicom, Mike Coltrin and Sally Lowder. The one-year terms of Officers are also expiring as follows: Bob Lowder, President; Lou Romero, Vice President; Tim Brown, Treasurer and Rav Nicholson, Secretary. The members listed below have been nominated for Officer and Board Member positions. (Officers are also members of the Board)

Only current members of the Friends of the Sandia Mountains are eligible to vote in the annual election.

In accordance with Section 5.4.3 of the Bylaws, the Nominating Committee has put forth the following list of candidates for consideration by the general membership:

Please mark your vote with an X in the space provided or write-in another candidate below.

PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	TREASURER	SECRETARY
1. Mike Madden _____	1. Cliff Giles ____	1. Tim Brown ____	1. Rav Nicholson ____
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____

INCUMBENT BOARD MEMBERS (Vote for two)

1. Sam Beard	1. Eric Russell
2. _____	2. _____

NEW VACANT POSITIONS (Vote for two)

1. Sim Cook	1. David McCreery	1. Joelle Hertel
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____
1. Byron Garner	1. Joe Meade	
2. _____	2. _____	

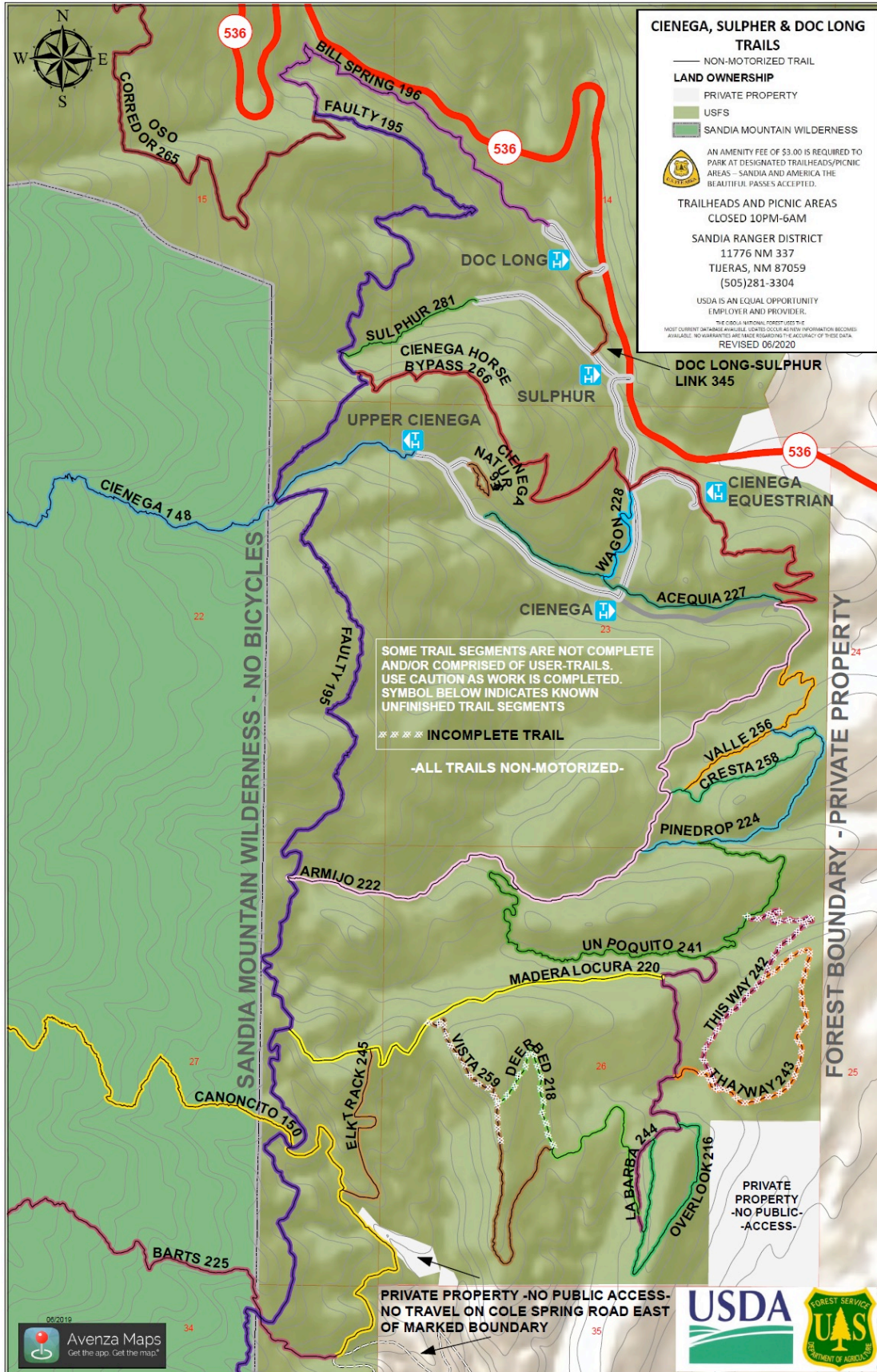
Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there will be no Annual Meeting of the Membership. This election is being conducted via email or surface mail only. Complete your ballot, and email it to

info@friendsofthesandias.org

If you wish to mail a hard copy, send it to;

Friends of the Sandia Mountains
P.O. Box 1832
Tijeras, New Mexico 87059

All ballots must be received by 5:00 pm. September 30, 2020.





Steep side slope and rocky terrain make for tough cutting.



Last sign before winter.



A new wildlife rain collector and drinker were installed at the Barro site in the fall of 2019.



Masticator used the thinned areas at Dry Camp Trailhead and Nine Mile Picnic Area



A steel roof was installed on a restroom in Oak Flat Group Picnic Area.
L to R: Dan Benton, Jim Levesque, Sim Cook, Ellie Parker, and Russ Parker



Paint crew painted the SRD horse trailer exterior and interior. L to R: Anne Hickman and Jane Harrison



Volunteers thinning the Cedro CFRP area in the fall (Top 11-19-19) and spring (Bottom 3-4-20).



Before and after graffiti remover was used on a Juan Tabo Picnic Area boulder in July.



Top – Two posts replaced in Cienega PA. L to R: Dan Benton, Don Carnicom and Dennis Crowther. Bottom – One post replaced in Sulphur PA. L to R: Dennis Crowther, Jerry Carroll, Dan Benton, and Sam Beard. (The SRD map indicates that this drainage is Sulphur Spring.)



Anne Hickman painting the shelter at the upper Crest parking lot on August 11.



Bill Savage after he had felled a hazard tree at Ellis Trailhead on August 26.



Anne Hickman at stone wall before and after graffiti was removed on the Crest Nature Trail.



Mike Madden bucking a down tree on Crest Trail 130 North.



Trails Crew at work in the snow on December 2, 2019. L to R: Eric Russell, Jim Levesque, Cleve Sharp, Byron Garner, Jerry Pekarek, and Bob Lowder.



Trails Crew bucking a log in the snow on Gravel Pit Trail.



Trails Crew using a crosscut saw on Survey Trail.



Russ Parker patching hole in Oak Flat Group PA restroom roof with steel flashing in November.



Eric Russell repairing a chain saw on February 26 at the SRD shop.



New metal roof on restroom vent structure in La Cueva PA. Note the turned-up edges of the old shingles on the building roof.



Black bear seen by Lou Romero and Sam Beard on NM-165 (Placitas Road) on June 24.



Tree spring wildlife water trough was cleaned out on May 19. Tree Spring is in the background at the stone walls just below the Old Crest Highway.



Clear water in trough on June 4. The trough is a 55-gallon steel drum cut length wise and set in concrete. (Lou Romero and Sam Beard)

Project Participants in FY2020

About two to three dozen members frequently volunteer to work on the weekly projects, and about 20 members typically work each week.

The FOSM officers, Board Members, and the Sandia Ranger District Staff appreciate very much the support of all the FOSM members. The names are roughly in alphabetical order. The volunteers who worked on FOSM projects in FY2020 were Jelke Adema, Michael Arndt, Dean Athow, Rikki Barrett, Robin Bender, Courtnee Bennett, Dan Benton, Claudia Bergsohn, Tom Baumgartel, David Bernstein, Kyra Blakeman, Jenny Blackmore, Anna Brown, Tim Brown, Richard Buss, Marilyn Caldwell, Don Carnicom, Anthony Campbell, Jerry Carroll, Chris Casey, Tom Claus, Casey Cook, Sim Cook, Dewayne Coombs, Phil Cromer, Dennis Crowther, Scott Dietrich, Mari Draper, Gordon Eatman, Helene Eckrich, Joe Espinosa, Vicki Farrar, Heather Farrell, Jay Fielding, Dave Gabel, Bob and Betsy Galloway, Byron Garner, Tim Garner, Bet Gendron, Steve Gendron, Cliff Giles, Mark Grazier, James Hann, George Guerdrum, Selena Gutierrez, Bruce Hansche, Dave Harding, Jane Harrison, Diana Helgesen, Joelle Hertel, Anne Hickman, Pauline Ho, Don Hoke, Jim Houle, Gay Huffman, Jeff Huser, Chris Hustad, Kathleen Kackerson, Betsy Kapiloff, Sue Keil, Chris Kelleher, Jim and Judy Levesque, Larry Littlefield, Kathy Lord, Bob and Sally Lowder, Fotoni Lujan, Fran Lusso, Mike Madden, Pat Madden, Bonnie Mauldin, Pam McCoy, David McCreery, Joe Meade, Ben Meisner, Khondeh Mirshek, Lorna Morrow, Tim Murphy, Rav and Ken Nicholson, Terry Owen, Russ and Ellie Parker, Jim Patrick, Marj Patrick, Jean Payne, Jerry Pekarek, Rosalie Rayburn, Pete Rhyins, Eric Rinehart, Amy Rizzo, Frances Robertson, Steve Roholt, Lou Romero, Lynn Ruger, Eric Russell, Scott Russell, Gerhard Salinger, Dustin Sandquist, Bill Savage, Becky Schnellker, Cleve Sharp, Kitsie and Don Smiset, Mark Starr, Roland Stumpf, Tim Taylor, Doug Thiesen, Raquela Thomas, Paul Torno, John Torres, Renee' Tourville, John Vande Castle, Dennis and Linda Vik, Kandi Voss, Walter Wapman, Dave Weaver, Bill White, Roger Wrolstad, Nan Zou, and Sam Beard. (Sam Beard)

Publication of the FY2020 Newsletter

A huge "Thank You" to the following people who contributed to the publication of the FY2020 Friends of the Sandia Mountains Annual Newsletter: authors who contributed articles, photographers who made informative and interesting pictures, reviewers who found errors in the early versions, and FOSM volunteers who completed the many projects for us to report. This is our year-end historical review that is available to all members, volunteers, and visitors to our meetings. (Sam Beard, Editor)

FOSM Officers

- * President – Bob Lowder
- * Vice-President – Lou Romero
- * Treasurer – Tim Brown
- * Secretary – Rav Nicholson

Board Members

- * Sam Beard
- * Dan Benton

- * Don Carnicom
- * Sally Lowder
- * Eric Russell