



Friends of the Sandia Mountains
friendsofthesandias.org

Friends of the Sandia Mountains (FOSM)

Presentation for Rio Grande Chapter of Sierra Club

by

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October 6, 2023





History

- Founded in 1997 as New Mexico Friends of the Forest

*New Mexico Friends of the Forest is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to **working in partnership with the United States Forest Service** and other groups and individuals to **maintain, protect, and restore the natural, cultural, and scenic resources of New Mexico's forest lands** for the enjoyment and use of present and future generations. Our focus is on conservation and education activities within the **Sandia** and Mountainair **Ranger Districts** of the Cibola National Forest and adjacent lands.*

- Name changed to Friends of the Sandia Mountains in 2004 to better reflect scope of activities

- Boots-on-the-ground support to Sandia Ranger District (Crystal)
- Not a political or activist group
- All-volunteer organization

- Nonprofit under section 501(c)(3) of IRS code

- Legal name: New Mexico Friends of the Forest dba Friends of the Sandia Mountains

Our founders: Still active well into their 80s!



Sam Beard



Don Carnicom



Membership

- Currently 162 members
 - All volunteers
 - 40 additions in past year
 - 52 Life Sponsors
- Monthly membership meetings with guest speakers
 - April through October
 - Held at Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras
 - Livestreamed using Zoom for members who can't make meeting

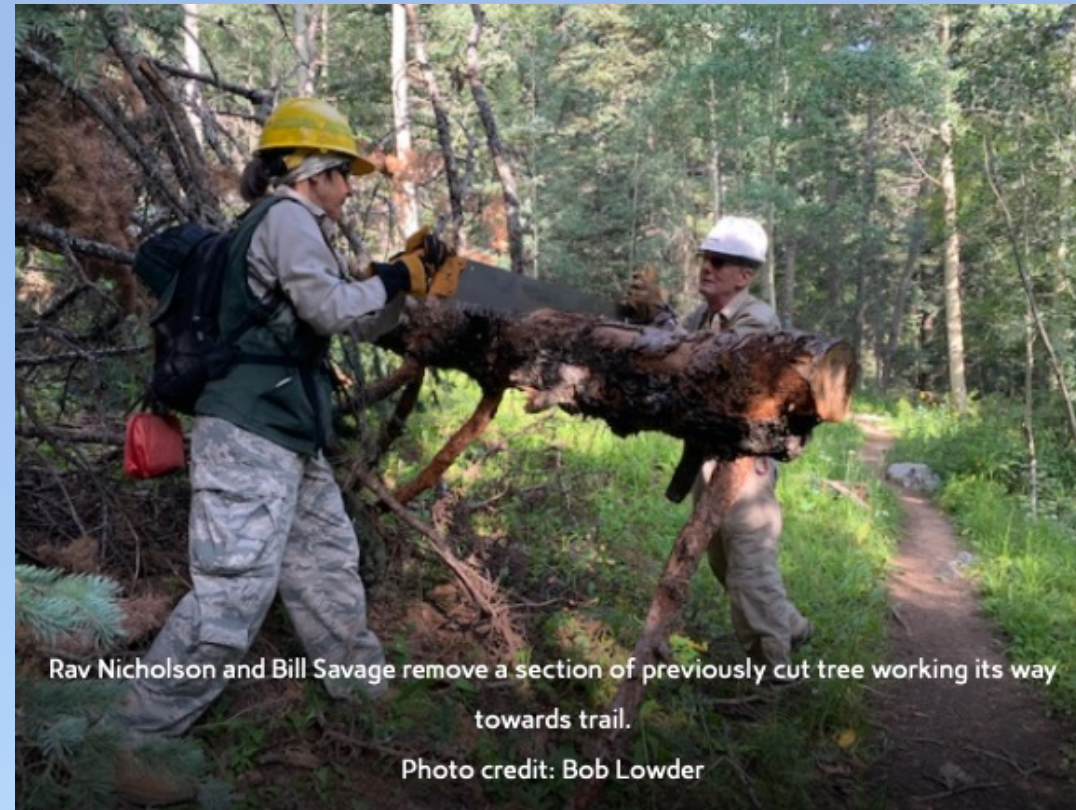


Volunteer Opportunities

- Trail construction
 - Trail extensions and rerouting
 - Work on Thursdays
 - Led by Jenny Blackmore
- Trail maintenance
 - Fallen tree removal and trail tread repairs
 - Work on Mondays
 - Led by Bob Lowder and Byron Garner
- General projects
 - Hazard tree removal, tree thinning, brush removal, fence and structure repairs, donation firewood
 - Work on Wednesdays
 - Led by Sam Beard
- Painting and graffiti removal
 - Work on Tuesdays
 - Led by Anne Hickman and Sam Beard
- Youth outreach
 - Forest education and service projects
 - Led by Lou Romero
- Adopt-a-highway
 - Mile 4-5 of Crest Highway
 - Two projects each year
 - Led by Steve Roholt
- Annual snowshoe event
 - Staged in January
 - Led by Mike Madden and others
- Visitor orientation at Crest House (when open)
 - May through Balloon Fiesta
 - Led by Don Smiset



Claudia Bergsohn and Eric Russell working on Un Poquito Canyon Trail



Rav Nicholson and Bill Savage remove a section of previously cut tree working its way towards trail.
Photo credit: Bob Lowder



Russell Parker, Ellie Parker, Jane Harrison, and Anne Hickman paint gable end of restroom at Yucca site in Oak Flat PA.
Photo credit: Sam Beard



Eric Russell makes face cut before felling hazard tree while Sim Cook keeps hikers on trail at a safe distance



2020 snowshoe race start



Digital Arts and Technology Academy (DATA) Students
at Doc Long PA



Fran Lusso and Dave Weaver at visitor center in Crest House

Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup Project





Perhaps You've Heard of Us

FOSM Featured on KOB TV

- **October 14, 2021, [FOSM Overview](#) (2:53)**
- **January 22, 2022, [Snowshoe Event](#) (2:42)**
- **May 13-16, 2022, [Watermelon 100](#) (3:35)**
- **November 17, 2022, [Trail Building](#) (3:13)**
- **January 21, 2023, [Snowshoe Event](#) (0:39)**
- **May 24, 2023, [Steve Stucker Meet and Greet](#) (2:31)**
- **August 17, 2023, [Challenge Trail extension](#) (3:29)**



October 6, 2023

FOSM Featured by *Albuquerque Journal*

- **January 30, 2022, [Snowshoe event](#)**
- **January 5, 2023, [Trail construction](#)**
- **August 29, 2023, [Trail construction](#)**

FOSM Recognized by City (GOV TV)

- **August 21, 2021, [FOSM Overview](#) (15:01)**







FOSM Recognized by Cibola National Forest

- May 2018 - The Friends of the Sandia Mountains have been recognized by the USDA Forest Service with the **National Award for Enduring Service**. 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.
- “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.



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

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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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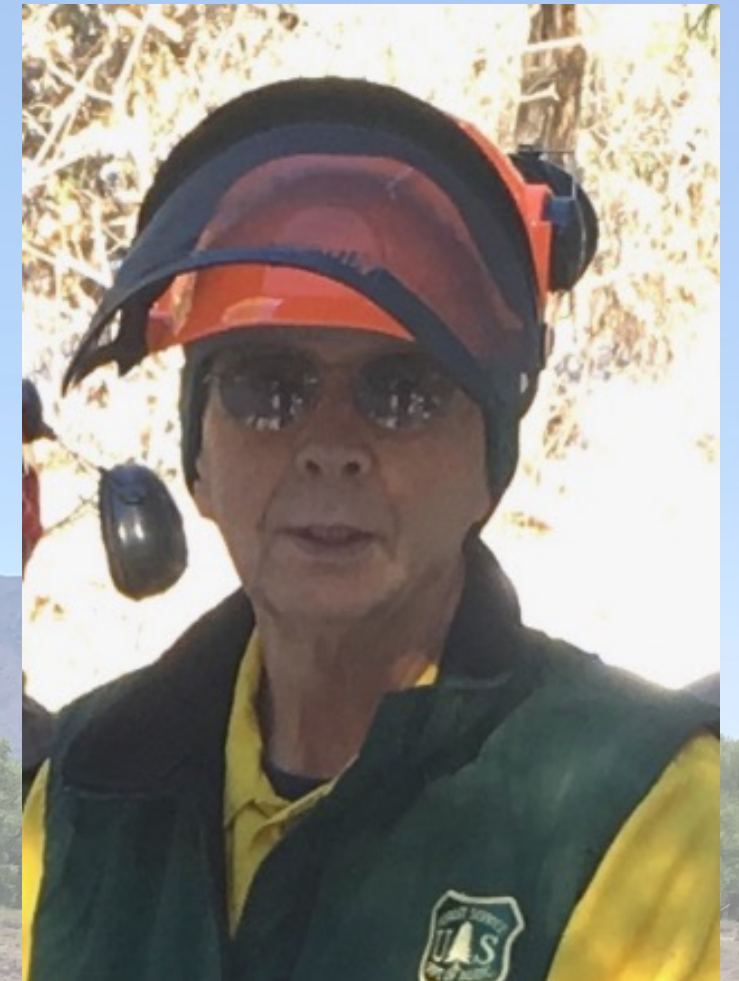


FOSM Volunteers Recognized by City of Albuquerque



- September 2019 - Co-founder Sam Beard recognized as Volunteer of the Month

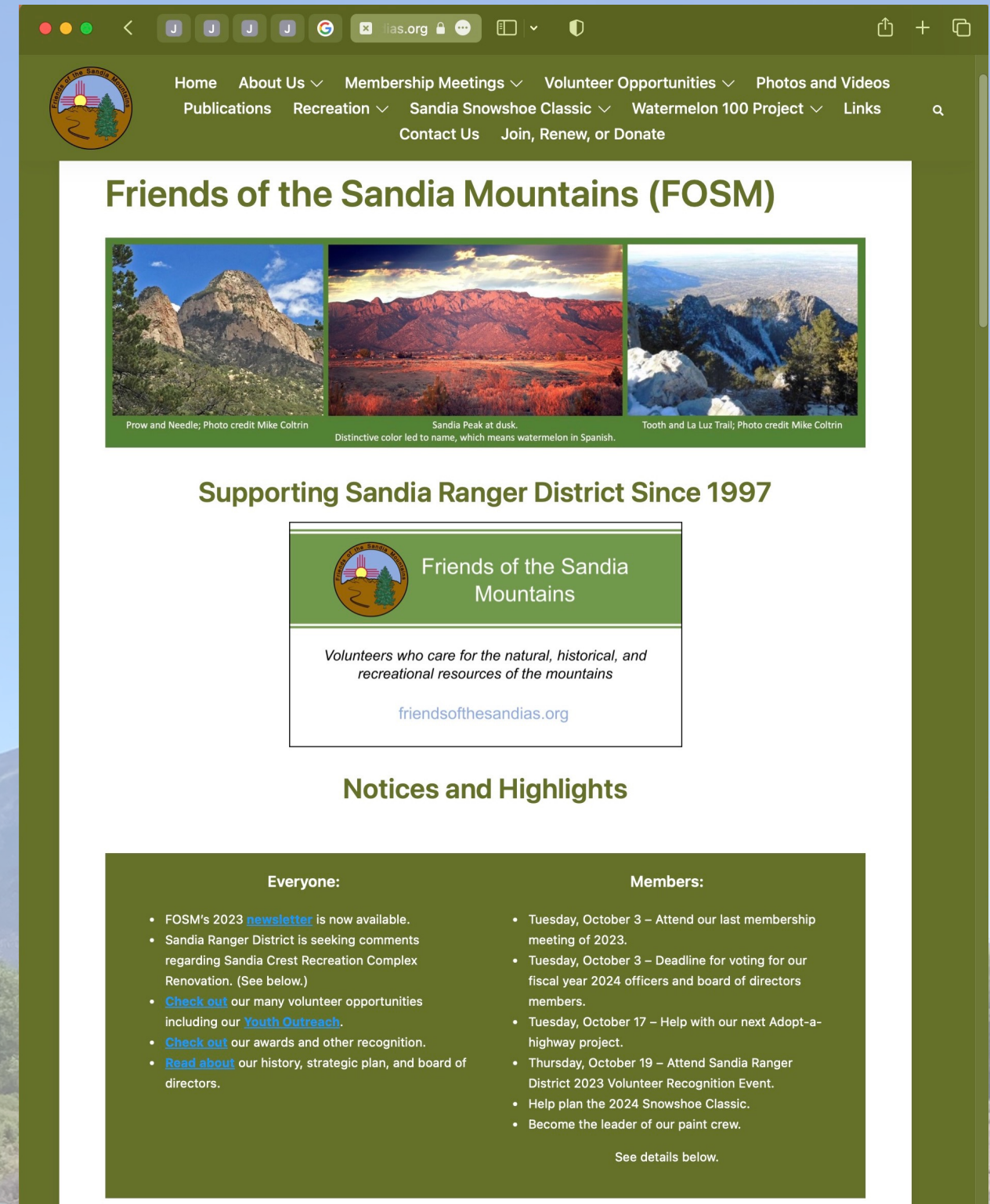
- March 2021 - Former President Bob Lowder recognized as Volunteer of the Month





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Email Contacts

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- adoptatrail@friendsofthesandias.org – request information about Adopt-a-Trail program
- webmaster@friendsofthesandias.org – request information or provide comments about website



Questions?