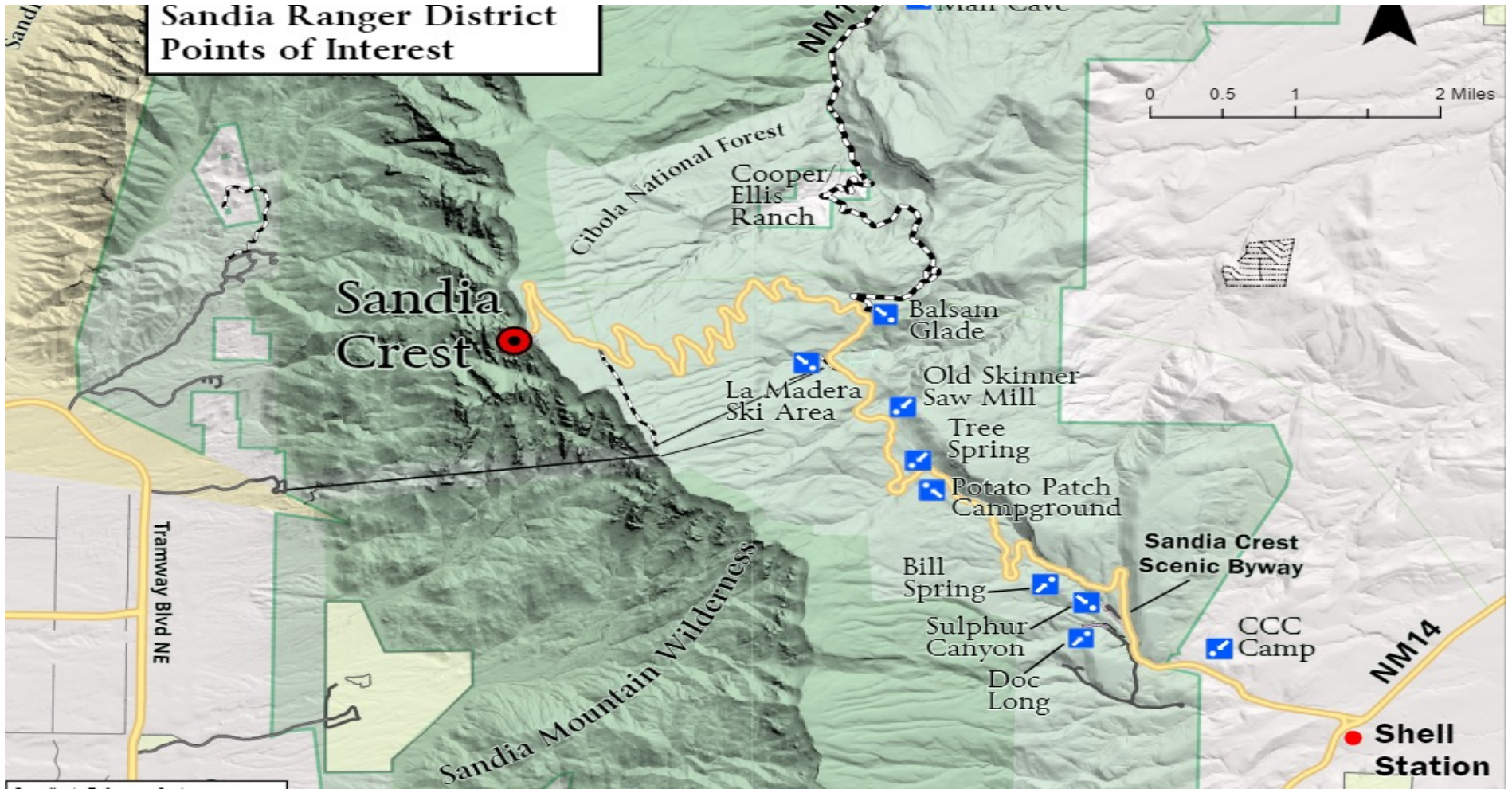
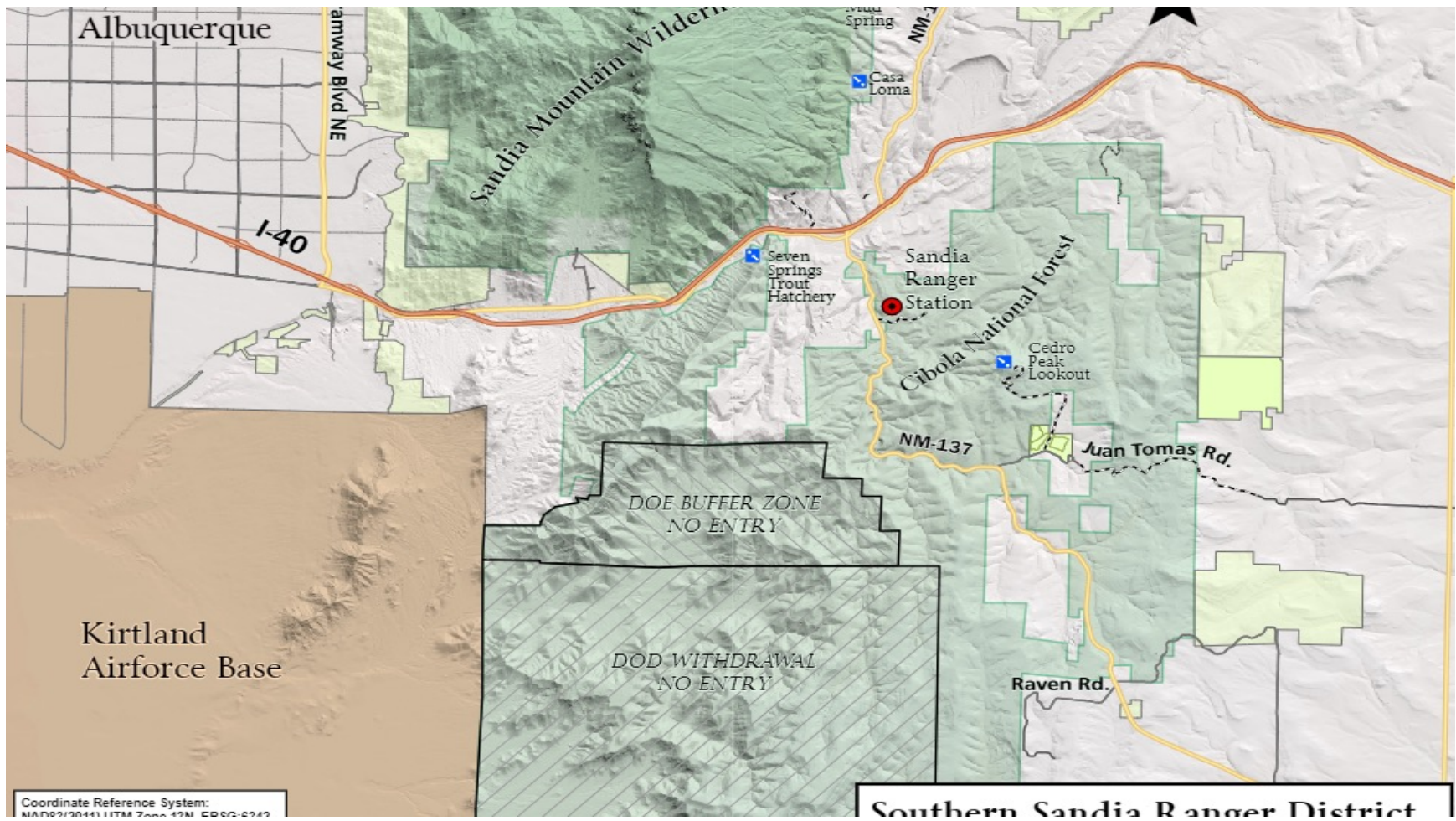


HISTORY OF THE SANDIA RANGER DISTRICT

People, Places and Events







FORESTS OF NEW MEXICO – TREATY OF GUADALUPE HIDALGO

- The United States acquired lands comprising Arizona and New Mexico by treaty with Mexico in 1848
 - Those lands not owned by private individuals including communal land grants became part of the public domain
 - Congress passed a law stating that all land grants under Mexican law were not legally binding under the 1848 treaty
 - There was a provision entitled Restoration to Re entry of the Forests



FORESTS OF NEW MEXICO – TREATY OF GUADALUPE HIDALGO

- For a period of 30 years, various claims and legal filings were filed for the 90,000 acres that consisted of portions of the Manzano and Sandia Mountains
- In 2004, a General Accounting Office (GAO) investigation concluded that all legal processes and procedures had been followed and concluding there was no legal claim to any of the original land grant claims
- The New Mexico Land Grant Council is still active and is pursuing legislation to allow them to continue traditional uses of the forest which includes grazing



MANZANO FOREST RESERVES / CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST

- In 1906, the Manzano Forest Reserves was established by proclamation of President Teddy Roosevelt
- In 1907, the Manzano Forest Reserve became part of the Manzano National Forest
- In 1931, the Manzano National Forest was incorporated into the Cibola National Forest



SANDIA RANGER STATION

- In 1906, the first ranger station was built near its present day location
 - At that time it was known as the Cedro Ranger Station
 - The first ranger on the district was a fellow by the name of H.B. Hammond
- The CCC built a new ranger station in the 1930's which was replaced in the 1960's. During this time it was called the Tijeras Ranger Station
- The current ranger station was built in the 1990's



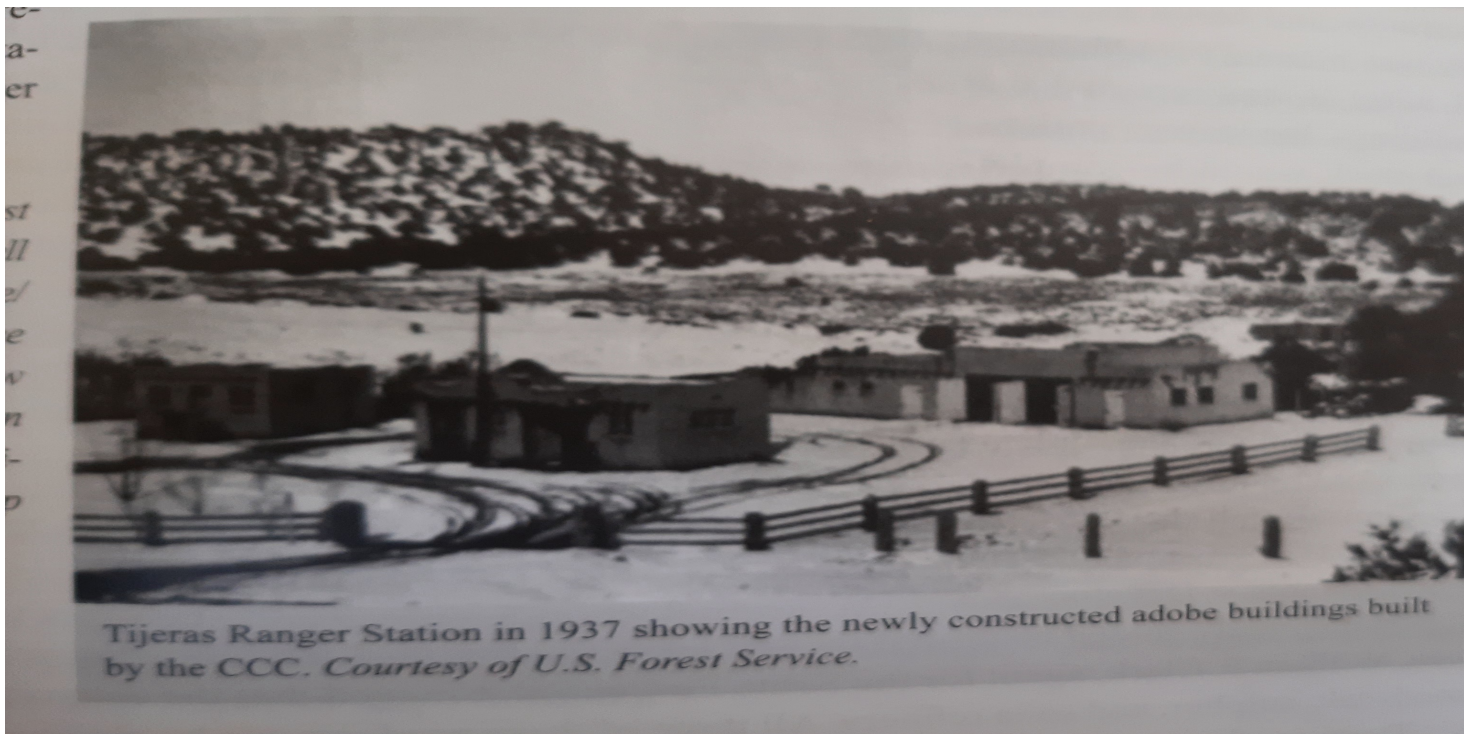
SANDIA RANGER STATION



Forest Ranger H.B. Hammond at the Cedro Ranger Station in 1911. Hammond later developed the Sandia Park Country Club and founded the community of Sandia Park. *Courtesy of U.S. Forest Service.*



SANDIA RANGER STATION



SANDIA RANGER STATION



Cedro Ranger Station in 1922. Photo by James O'Brien, courtesy of EMHS Archives, donated by Jeanette McKenna.



CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS IN THE SANDIA MOUNTAINS

- The Civilian Conservation Corps was established in 1933 by President Franklin D Roosevelt
- There were 15 camps in New Mexico and over 2,000 men
- The CCC had a large camp in Sandia Park near the present day location of Tinkertown
- They were responsible for the construction of picnic grounds and campgrounds at Cienega, Doc Long and Sulphur
- They cleared trees for the first primitive ski area near Tree Spring
- Las Huertas Picnic area was also built by the CCC and served as a side camp during the 1930's



FIRST AUTOMOBILE UP THE MOUNTAIN

- The first auto made it to the top of the mountain in 1920
- It was an Army truck with Signal Corps gear on it
- It took a month of cutting trees to get it to the top from Capulin Spring



SULPHUR SPRINGS

- The name has been used since the 20's
- A newspaper reported that the water in "Lower Sulphur and Long's springs was unsafe to drink
- In 1934 the area was open as a recreation area and campground
- There were several privately-owned homes available in the canyon during the 20's.



DOC LONG PICNIC GROUND

- Named for Dr William Henry Long
- The original pavilion and picnic ground were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1935
- Bill Spring is likely named after Dr. Long
- In 1922, the Albuquerque Journal reported the first campsite at what is now Doc Long



COLE SPRING

- The Forest Service named the area for Chauncy Cole, who purchased property in the area in 1928
- The Avery family had land in the area as well. They rented summer cabins in the late 1920's
- In 1936, the Forest Service made improvements to the recreation area
- The Cole Spring picnic ground closed to the public in 2001



CEDRO FIRE LOOKOUT - 1937



20's

10/2/24



TREE SPRING

- It is said the name comes from the fact that a spring flowed from a large tree stump
- Tree Spring is located near an open meadow that was once the Potato Patch Campground
- A 1930's Forest Service travel guide indicated there was an enclosed improved campground here
- A ½ mile past Tree Spring near the Tecolote Hiking trail was the location of the Old Skinner Sawmill



POTATO PATCH CAMPGROUND



Potato Patch campground in 1924. *Courtesy of U.S. Forest Service.*



TRAVERTINE FALLS



ELLIS RANCH

- In 1893, George Ellis moved his family from Albuquerque to the area known as Ellis Ranch
- He would build a two-story, five bedroom log cabin
- The ranch had a field of wheat, large garden, cattle and chickens
- In 1906, Augustus Ellis shot the last recorded grizzly in the Sandia Mountains near the ranch
- In 1923, Charlotte Ellis sold the 160 acre homestead to Dr. Hugh Cooper for \$10,000
- The log cabin built by George Ellis burned to the ground in 1991



CHARLOTTE ELLIS – FIRST PERSON ON SKIS IN THE SANDIAS



BALSAM GLADE

- The sheltered area is an exact replica of that built by the CCC in the 1930's
- Balsam Glade was named by an early American settler who mistook the white fir that grows here for a balsam fir.
- From 1935 to 1941, the YMCA operated a summer camp here
- The short trail behind the picnic shelter takes you to the La Madera overlook.



STEPS TO YMCA CAMP



MUD SPRING

- Mud Spring sits just inside the southeast boundary of the Sandia Ranger District
- The spring attracts a wide variety of wildlife including bears, mountain lions, mule deer and bobcats
- There is a concrete box that overflows creating a mud hole and thus the name
- Immediately above mud spring is an ancient pueblo ruin that many believe was a sweat lodge
- The only public access to the trail is from South Sandia Crest trail using the Faulty trail
- A non-maintained trail comes from the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center



CIENEGA CANYON AND TUNNEL SPRINGS AND SEVEN SPRINGS FISH HATCHERIES

Cienega Canyon

- Cienega is a Spanish word meaning marsh or wetland
- The name has been used since at least the 1920's
- In 1921, the Duke City Rotary Club decided to build a lodge for the Boy Scouts in the canyon.
- In the 1930's, the Civilian Conservation Corps made improvements to the area including a water pipeline that provided water to the picnic area and summer camps at Cienega, Doc Long and Sulphur Canyon

Tunnel Springs and Seven Springs Fish Hatcheries

- Mining in the Tunnel Springs area created the source of water that would generate about seven gallons per minute even after the mine was caved in
- The hatchery was created in the early 1900's, closed, then reopened
- The hatchery eventually closed for good in the 1930's
- The Seven Springs fish hatchery operated in Tijeras Canyon from 1934 to 1965



SANDIA MAN CAVE

- In the mid-30's, Frank Hibben and Wesley Bliss began excavating the cave
- In 1937, Hibben reported he had found remains that were the oldest ever recorded. He called them "Sandia Man"
- Hibbens published a book on his archaeological finds in 1946
- In 1961, Congress declared Sandia Man Cave as a National Historical Landmark
- The Smithsonian and other archaeologists published reports that questioned the authenticity of Hibben's findings
- As a result of the controversy, Sandia Man and Sandia Man Cave was removed from textbooks
- The Forest Service eventually removed the bronze plaque near the cave entrance



SANDIA PEAK SKI AREA

- La Madera was originally established with a few runs at Tree Springs in 1937
- In 1946, Bob Nordhaus bought the assets of the Albuquerque Ski Club and formed the La Madera Ski company
- A 4,200 foot t-bar was installed at La Madera which at the time was the longest in the United States
- At the time, both high school and the University of New Mexico ski teams trained here
- The first chair was installed in 1963
- Ben Abruzzo and Bob Nordhaus formed the Sandia Peak Ski and Tramway in the early 1960's
- The Forest Service paved the road to the ski area in 1959



LODGE AT LA MADERA - 1938



1. Lodge at La Madera, Madera National Forest, California, 1938. U.S. Forest Service, National Forest System, Madera National Forest, California, 1938. U.S. Forest Service, National Forest System, Madera National Forest, California, 1938.



SANDIA PEAK TRAM

- The tram originally opened in 1966
- It took two years to complete construction of the tram
- It took more than 5,000 helicopter trips up and down the mountain carrying men, cables and supplies
- At the time, the 14,000 foot tram was the longest in North America
- At the time, Tower One at 233 feet was the tallest structure in Bernalillo County
- It has taken more than 12 million people to the top of the Crest



TRAIL CONSTRUCTION IN THE SANDIAS

- In 1887, Juan Neito and a partner opened a mine near the crest, below the present day Crest House
 - They hauled tools and supplies up a trail that would later become the La Luz trail
- The reconstruction of this trail in 1966, converted a four and one-half mile trail to seven and one-half mile trail
- The Faulty Trail was built along the route of an old wagon road
- A 1966 Albuquerque Journal article reported that the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile nature trail from Kiwanis Cabin to the Crest parking lot was complete



BIGHORN SHEEP IN THE SANDIA MOUNTAINS

- In 1939, 1940 and 1941, New Mexico Game and Fish led by Elliott Barker, transplanted a ram and two ewes from Banff into the Sandia Mountains
- The population was estimated to be as great as 300 animals by the early 1960's
- Animals were trapped and relocated from the Sandias into the Pecos Wilderness
- The population began to decline by the mid-1970's
- The last recorded sighting of a bighorn in the Sandia Mountains was in 1992



HUNTING AND WILDLIFE IN THE SANDIAS

- An article in the Albuquerque Journal from 1941 indicated 300 bow permits were issued for the Sandia Game Refuge
- After that State Game Director Elliott Barker reported that rifle hunters would be given a shot to harvest deer
- A 1968 article in the Journal indicated deer hunters who harvested deer on top could use the tram to transport their game to the bottom.
- In the late 40's, there were still rifle hunts for deer in the Sandias



WILDFIRE IN THE SANDIAS

- The largest and most visible fire in the Sandias occurred in 1967.
 - The fire was likely started by lightning about 2 miles above the Juan Tabo Picnic area
 - It burned nearly 500 acres and 250 firefighters battled the blaze
- The 1989 fire in the Manzanitas scorched nearly 500 acres, evacuating homes and closing roads
- The Cooper fire scorched 125 acres off of NM 165
 - It was started by some bottle rockets set off near the entrance of Cooper's Ranch



DOD WITHDRAWAL

- In 1952, 15,000 acres was withdrawn from the Forest Service by the Atomic Energy Commission
- In 1954, an additional 4,500 acres were withdrawn for the Defense Department
- For decades though, local residents had used the withdrawal for hiking, biking, camping and horseback riding
- In 1990, Kirtland announced plans to increase military activity in the area and wanted the public kept out and the area restricted
- Today the withdrawal is still restricted to public entry



MEDALLION TREES

- Scattered throughout the Sandias are 85 medallion trees
- Dollar-sized medallions, tacked to the trunk of trees, mark ecological timelines that correlate to an historical event
- Medallion examples include the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, Henry IV becoming King of England in 1422 and Thomas Jefferson becoming President in 1801
- The oldest tree dates to the King of Scotland being crowned in 1371
- The youngest tree, marks Alaska becoming the 49th state in 1959



MEDALLION TREES



SANDIA MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS AND BATTLE FOR THE ROAD

- With the building of the tram and installation of electronic sites on top of the crest, local environmentalists became concerned
- In 1969, it came to head when the Forest Service announced a plan to run a major road from the Crest to the village of Placitas
- Richard Illing, was a driving force in the fight against the road.
- Albuquerque Wildlife and Conservation Association President, Gerald Wilson, wrote President Nixon about their opposition to the road
- President Nixon made public statements against the building of the road as result of their concerns
- In response to the public outcry, the Cibola National Forest Supervisor Wally Lloyd, decided that the plans for the Crest to Placitas road would be dropped



SANDIA MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS

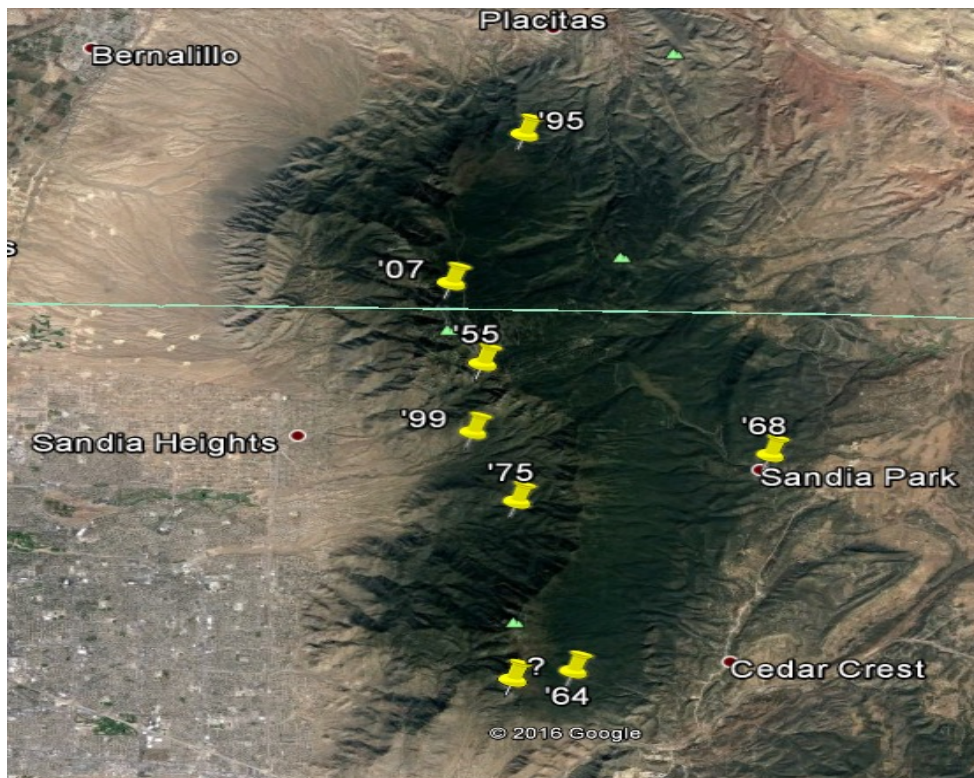
- Two primary drivers of wilderness were Cory Macdonald and Milton Conrad.
- The Wilderness Study Committee was advocating for wilderness to protect the existing nature of the forest.
- The next year the bill was introduced by Senator Pete Domenici and co-sponsored by Senator Harrison Schmidt
- Public Law 95-237 was passed by congress in February of 1978
- The law set aside a little over 30,000 acres. Additional acres would be added in the early 1980's now totaling 37,232 acres



SIGNALING BEACONS



PLANE CRASHES IN THE SANDIA MOUNTAINS



SABINO AND THE RIEDMONT FUR FARM

