



Friends of the Sandia Mountains
friendsofthesandias.org

Friends of the Sandia Mountains

General Membership Meeting
April 1, 2025

Featured speaker:
Ken Born, Sandia District Ranger





Agenda

- President's Remarks – Mike Madden
- Projects Report – Sam Beard
- Treasurer's Report – Jeff Young
- Future Programs – Cliff Giles
- Sandia Ranger District Updates – Ken Born
- Q&As
- Adjourn



April 1, 2025



President's Remarks, Mike Madden

- Notables since our meeting on October 1, 2024:
 - Jan 15 – Ken Born appointed Sandia District Ranger
 - Jan 18 - 21st Sandia Snowshoe Classic
 - Jan 30 - Briefed Forest Service Volunteer Program Coordinators
 - Mar 14 - SRD/FOSM Annual Projects Meeting
 - April 22 - Earth Day brushing, 3 dozen Sandia Prep 8th graders
 - May 13 - AAH Crest Road Clean-up
 - June 7 - National Trails Day
 - TBD - Talking Talons YCC for 3 weeks



President's Remarks, Mike Madden

- Notables since our meeting on October 1, 2024:
 - Jan 9 – Dave Weaver passed away
 - Mar 12 - Don Smiset passed away
 - Seeking a Paint Crew Leader
 - Looking for a VP - Cliff Giles stepping down in Oct
 - Looking for a Treasurer - Jeff Young stepping down in Oct



President's Remarks, Mike Madden

Memberships by Level

Individual – 52

Family – 17

Sustaining – 6

Sponsor – 5

Benefactor – 3

Life Sponsor – 63

Total Memberships – 146

Welcome, New Members!

Bill Perkins – March 31

Ira (Bud) Bickford – March 19

Noel Wagner – March 15

Craig Tucker – March 11

Roger Squires – March 11

Richard Fagioli – March 3

Jim Houle – March 3

John McNett – March 2

Carolyn Grady – March 2

Brandon Sanchez – February 26

John Samuli – January 26

Caleb Kirby-Meyer – January 23

Mimi Junick – January 5

Scott Nicolaysen – December 26

Karen Thorn – October 15

Glen Clement – October 15

Peter Rhyins – October 4

Thanks, New Life Members!

Mimi Junick

Karen Thorn

Jon Driskell



Projects Report, Sam Beard, Projects Chair

- Outings Since October 2024 Meeting
 - Trail Maintenance – 15
 - Trail Construction – 19
 - Painting and Graffiti Removal – 9
 - General Projects – 11
 - Total Outings – 54



Projects Report, Sam Beard, Projects Chair

- Trail Maintenance Led by Bob Lowder and Byron Garner (15 outings)
 - October 2024 – 4 outings: Ellis, Survey, 10K North, 10K South, Switchback, Rocky Point, South Crest, Tree Spring, Sulphur, Faulty, Armijo, Acequia, and Wagon Trails.
 - November 2024 – 1 outing: Cienega-Armijo area trails.
 - December 2024 – 3 outings: North Mystery/Faulty Trail.
 - January 2025 – 1 outing: Three Bottles Advanced Trail.
 - February 2025 – 2 outings: Survey, 10K North, Tecolote, and Bill Spring Trails.
 - March 2025 – 4 outings: North Faulty, Embudito, and Bill Spring Trails.

Note: This does not include trail maintenance performed by individuals and reported via Cibola Trail Rangers (CTR). We recognize and greatly appreciate these efforts!



Projects Report, Sam Beard, Projects Chair

- Trail Construction Led by Laura Leon (19 outings)
 - October 2024 – 6 outings: Ellis, Double Eagle, Tablezon, and Challenge Trails
 - November 2024 – 2 outings: Strip Mine and Tablezon Trails.
 - December 2024 – 3 outings: Tablezon and Piedra Lisa Trails.
 - January 2025 – no outings
 - February 2025 – 4 outings: Chalk Dust, Piedra Lisa, and North Mystery/Faulty Trails.
 - March 2025 – 4 outings: North Faulty Trail.



Projects Report, Sam Beard, Projects Chair

- Painting and Graffiti Removal Projects Led by Sam Beard (10 outings)
 - October 2024 – 2 outings: Paint Crest and Ellis restrooms; remove graffiti at Otero TH.
 - November 2024 – 1 outing: Remove graffiti at Juan Tabo Picnic Area shelter.
 - December 2024 – 3 outings: Paint over tags at large culvert, paint Embudito Trail sign, paint sign in front of Ranger Station.
 - January 2025 – 1 outing: Remove tags at Otero TH.
 - February 2025 – 1 outing: Remove tags at CCC shelter.
 - March 2025 – 2 outings: Remove tags in City Open Space, repair and paint Cibola National Forest sign.



Projects Report, Sam Beard, Projects Chair

- General Projects Led by Sam Beard (11 outings)
 - October 2024 – 4 outings: Brush removal at intersection of Cienega and Crest Highway, remove trees on Sandia Nordic Ski Club trails, process logs near Ellis TH, fell hazard trees in Capulin Snow Play Area.
 - November 2024 – 1 outing: Fell and buck dead trees near boneyard.
 - December 2024 – 2 outings: Install work lights in workshop, fell hazard trees at Sandia Mountain Natural History Center.
 - March 2025 – 4 outings: Fell hazard trees in Doc Long and Cienega PAs, process broken treetop on Acequia Trail, process wood in Doc Long and Cienega PAs, remove restroom door in Juan Tabo PA for repair.



Projects Report, Sam Beard, Projects Chair

- Hundreds of reports and thousands of photos from projects since 2018 available on website (<https://friendsofthesandias.org/>).

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Volunteer Opportunities

The Friends of the Sandia Mountains sponsor many volunteer opportunities on the Sandia Ranger District. Find-out more here. Better yet, come to one of our monthly meetings and ask us how you can become involved in preserving our Sandia Mountains!

Weekly Activities

Several FOSM groups perform activities each week weather permitting. These are the boots-on-the-ground activities for which FOSM is noted. All crews welcome new volunteers. Click on a link below for more information about each crew and its activities.

Monday, Trail Maintenance

Tuesday, Painting and Graffiti Removal

Wednesday, General Projects

Thursday, Trail Construction

Saw Certification

Chainsaws and cross-cut saws are critical tools used by our crews. Gaining Forest Service authorization to use these tools is a very rigorous process. After successfully completing classes in saw basics as well as courses in first aid, CPR, AED usage, and blood-borne pathogens, candidates must demonstrate proficiency in the field, and saw certifications must be renewed every three years. The Forest Service and FOSM maintain certification records.

Youth Outreach

Requests for help from FOSM in support of youth activities in the forest grew steadily during the COVID pandemic to the point that we formalized a Youth Outreach initiative in partnership with Sandia Ranger District in early 2023. The initiative has two elements: forest education and service projects.

Visitor Orientation

Volunteers assist visitors at the Sandia Crest House from May through the Balloon Fiesta in October. Don Smiset is team leader.

Signage and Maps

FOSM members Don Carnicom and Jamey Browning work with the Forest Service to create, procure, and install informational signs and maps throughout Sandia Ranger District.

Request More Information

Click here if you would like more information about any of the above activities.



Photo credit: Sally Lowder

Trail maintenance – reports and photos

Bob or another crew member prepares a detailed report including photographs after each activity. These reports don't just document the work but also provide a great means of learning about the crew's activities for anyone interested in joining.

Reports and photos organized by year from 2018 can be accessed below.

Slent slideshows provide a review of an entire year's activities in just a few minutes.

Photos can be displayed as a list of file names or as a gallery of thumbnails (Tiles) as shown to the right.

Files can be downloaded using the menu at the top left. Selecting multiple files downloads a zip file.

Photo credits can be found in project leader reports.

Click to access reports of 2020 activities.

January 6, 2023 – Ken, Denis, Steve, John, Clark, Rex, Phil, and Jamey on Three Sisters Mountain Trail. Not shown: Byron Garner (photographer).

Click to access photos from 2020 activities.

Click to access 31 reports of 2024 activities.

Click to watch slideshow of 2024 activities. (9:34)

Click to access 397 photos of 2024 activities.

General projects – reports and photos

This crew usually works on Wednesdays and does a wide variety of things in support of the Forest Service to make our mountains more accessible and enjoyable for the public.

Sam Beard leads this crew, which uses chainsaws and numerous hand tools owned by FOSM to clear trees and brush from trails, fell hazard trees in picnic areas, rebuild fences in picnic areas, buck and split lumber into firewood for donations to charity, and clear meadows of invasive species of trees to name a few.

Reports and photos organized by year from 2018 can be accessed below.

Slent slideshows provide a review of an entire year's activities in just a few minutes.

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Photo credits can be found in project leader reports.

Click to access reports of 2020 activities.

Sam Cook felling brush of a hazard tree killed in Clearing Picnic Area.

Click to access images of 2020 activities.

Click to access 68 reports of 2024 activities.

Click to watch slideshow of 2024 activities. (14:35)

Click to access 747 images of 2024 activities.

Trail construction – reports and photos

This crew builds new or reroutes existing trails. Laura Leon leads the crew, which usually works on Thursdays.

Reports and photos organized by year from 2018 can be accessed below.

Slent slideshows provide a review of an entire year's activities in just a few minutes.

Photos can be displayed as a list of file names or as a gallery of thumbnails (Tiles) as shown to the right.

Files can be downloaded using the menu at the top left. Selecting multiple files downloads a zip file.

Photo credits can be found in project leader reports.

Click to access 2020 reports.

February 20, 2023 – Bruce, Jan and Laura prepare to drop off a load of rocks. These trail loads were moved in all.

Click to access 2020 photos.

Click to access 39 reports of 2024 activities.

Click to watch a slideshow of 2024 trail construction crew activities (12:55).

Major projects include Lower Pine and Ellis Trail reroutes. Reports and most photos by Laura Leon.

Click to access 393 images of 2024 activities.

April 1, 2025

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Future Programs, Cliff Giles, Vice–President

- May 6, 2025 – Jen Medina-Gray, Canyon Young, and Julie Padilla, Trail construction
- June 3, 2025 – Jamey Browning, Trail mapping
- July 1, 2025 – Steve Glass, Cuidad Soil and Water Conservation District and Tijeras Creek Watershed Collaborative
- August 5, 2025 – TBD
- September 2, 2025 – TBD
- October 7, 2025 – FOSM year-end update and election results, Mike Madden; Guest speaker - TBD



Future Programs, Cliff Giles, Vice-President

- Chart shows progress relative to 2022 poll of board of directors regarding organizations of interest.
- A new VP with fresh program ideas needed after this year.
 - You don't have to become webmaster!

Organization	Date	Speaker/Comments
La Madera Volunteer Fire Department	7/5/22	Jerry Carroll
NM Volunteers for the Outdoors	5/3/22	Ed DiBello
Southwest Coordination Center -- Dispatch	8/2/22	Elliott Herrera, Albuquerque Interagency Dispatch Center
Bernalillo County Open Space	7/11/23	Adam Splittek
City of Albuquerque Open Space	9/6/22	Jessica Sapunar-Jursich
Albuquerque Mountain Rescue Council	6/6/23	International Mountain Medicine Center, Jason Williams
	8/1/23	Cibola SAR, Shannon Braune
NM Forestry Division	8/6/24	Lawrence Crane, Bernalillo District
Sandia Mountain Natural History Center	9/5/23	Paul Mauermann
Albuquerque Mountain Bike Association	5/2/23	Hannah Russett
FS Kids in the Woods Program		Still active?
NM Cross Country Ski Club	9/3/24	Sam Beard
Sandia Collaborative*	6/1/21	Mike Madden
Talking Talons Youth Leadership	5/7/24	John Ross
Tijeras Creek Watershed Collaborative	7/1/25	Steven Glass, CNM, Sandia Collaborative
Central New Mexico Audubon Chapter		
Cuidad Soil and Water Conservation District	7/1/25	Steven Glass, CNM, Sandia Collaborative
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps		
Sandia Nordic Ski Club*	4/6/21	Scott Dietrich
Albuquerque Wildlife Federation		
The Nature Conservancy in New Mexico		
Think Trees New Mexico		
East Mountain Wildfire Preparedness Association		
East Mountain Regional Trails Council		
New Mexico Mountain Club		
Friends of the Tijeras Pueblo		
505 Cycling		
Albuquerque Road Runners Club		
Backcountry Horsemen of NM		
Boy Scouts of America, Great Southwest Council		
Bureau of Land Management		Jackie Leyba, BLM; participates in Sandia Collaborative
NM Wilderness Alliance		
NM Historic Preservation Division - Sitewatch		
*Presentation preceded ranked-choice poll.		



Program Introduction, Mike Madden, President

- New Sandia District Ranger's view of:
 - How partnerships are at the heart of how the Forest Service and Sandia Ranger District accomplishes its mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.
 - District, forest, and national priorities for the year
 - How the district and FOSM can strengthen our partnership to achieve those priorities in the months and years to come.



Program Introduction, Mike Madden, President

- Speaker: Ken Born, Sandia District Ranger
 - More than 15 years of federal service
 - Appointed acting District Ranger in October 2024 and District Ranger in January 2015
 - Previously at US Forest Service's Southwestern Regional Office from 2018
 - Primarily served as Recreation Special Uses Program Manager supporting administration of commercial permits which authorize ski areas, resorts, marinas, outfitters and guides, and recreation events on National Forest System lands.
 - District Ranger on the Coronado National Forest near Tucson from 2015-2018
 - Began Forest Service career as Forest Planner for the Tonto National Forest in Phoenix, AZ
 - Also served in local government, spending his early career working as land use planner
 - Bachelor of Science degree in environmental planning from Northern Arizona University and Master of Arts degree in public policy from Stony Brook University