



Friends of the Sandia Mountains
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Friends of the Sandia Mountains

General Membership Meeting
October 7, 2025

Featured speaker:
Stan Davis
“EarthCaches of the Sandias”





Agenda

- President's Remarks – Mike Madden
- Projects Report – Sam Beard
- Treasurer's Report – Jeff Young
- FY2025 Volunteer Hours – Silke Bletzer
- Bylaws and Policies Revision – Silke Bletzer
- Sam Beard Award – Jamey Browning
- Election of FY2026 Officers and Board Members – Mike Madden
- Program Introduction – Cliff Giles
- EarthCaching – Stan Davis
- Q&As
- Adjourn

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President's Remarks, Mike Madden

- Notables since our meeting on September 2, 2025:
 - This was the first year FOSM and SRD staffed a table at the 9/21 East Mountain Celebration
 - Mike and Jamey met with Ken Born on 9/25, Ken took many actions, now delayed due to the shutdown
 - Ken did approve a tool storage container, and Little Free Library outside the front doors



President's Remarks, Mike Madden

- Notables since our meeting on September 2, 2025:
 - This was the second year FOSM tracked its own hours, thank you Rav and Silke
 - Sam is once again creating our Annual Newsletter, to be issued later this month, a HUGE effort!
 - AAH Fall Cleanup, Crest Road, mile 4-5, 10/14, 9-11 AM, RSVP to Susan Gregory
 - 2026 Snowshoe Classic to be held on January 24



President's Remarks, Mike Madden

Welcome, New Members!

Deb C. Hall – September 12

Megan Batchelor – September 1

Memberships by Level

Individual – 53

Family – 18

Sustaining – 6

Sponsor – 6

Benefactor – 2

Life Sponsor – 64

Total Memberships – 149



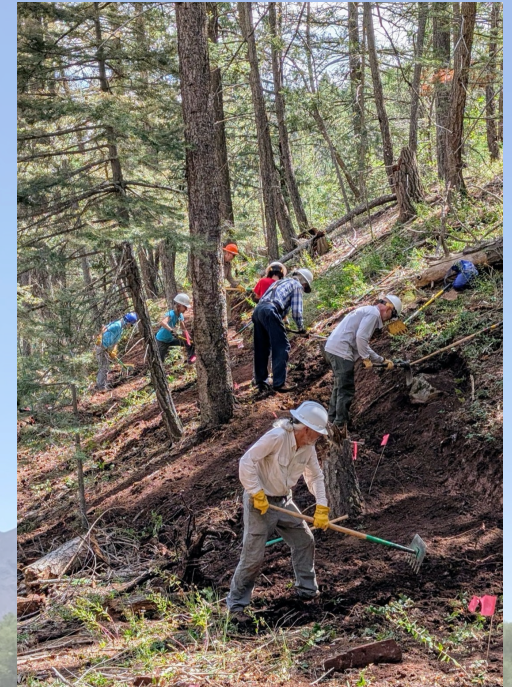
Projects Report, Sam Beard, Projects Chair



Projects	Since 9/2/25	FY2025 Totals
Trail Maintenance	5	32
Trail Construction	4	45
Painting and Graffiti Removal	3	26
Adopt-a-Highway	0	2
General Projects	7	62
Totals	19	167



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Projects Report, Sam Beard, Projects Chair

- Trail Maintenance Led by Bob Lowder and Byron Garner (5 outings)
 - September 8 – Survey and Ellis Trails
 - September 15 – Tecolote Trail (FOSM Adopt-a-Trail)
 - September 22 – 10K South and Tree Spring Trails
 - September 29 – Ellis, 10K North, and Survey Trails
 - October 6 – Challenge Trail near Bill Spring intersection

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 (4 outings)
 - September 4 – North Faulty Trail reroutes
 - September 11 - Sulphur Canyon Trail reroutes
 - September 18 – Old Faulty Trail reroutes
 - October 2 – Old Faulty Trail reroutes

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Projects Report, Sam Beard, Projects Chair

- Painting and Graffiti Removal Projects Led by Sam Beard (3 outings)
 - September 2 – Removed graffiti from CCC stone shelter in La Cueva PA
 - September 9 – Repainted Cibola National Forest sign in Mountainair District
 - October 6 – Graffiti removal in Juan Tabo and La Cueva PAs

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Projects Report, Sam Beard, Projects Chair

- General Projects Led by Sam Beard (7 outings)
 - September 3 – Processed donation wood near Kiwanis Meadow gate
 - September 5 – Repaired bridge in Cienega PA (with Tracy and Bryan Pitts)
 - September 10 – Replaced two fence posts in Doc Long PA
 - September 13 – Finished replacement of men's restroom door in Juan Tabo PA
 - September 17 – Replaced fence posts and rails in Cienega PA
 - September 24 – Felled hazard trees on upper South Crest and Crest Nature Trails
 - October 1 – Processed donation wood near Crest electronics site



FOSM in Numbers FY2025

October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

About half of all FOSM members joined weekly crews in FY2025

- A large hardcore group goes out almost every week, undeterred by sun, rain or snow
- Many others also monitor trails and provide input into Sally's Tree Report

Total Volunteer Hours
FY2025

8653

Total Participants & Hours by Crew **5569**

Group sizes vary by event, total number of volunteers shown represents members who joined at least on one day

FOSM Crew	Volunteers	Hours
Monday Trail Maintenance Crew	28	1425
Tuesday Paint & Graffiti Removal	6	190
Wednesday General Projects Crew	30	1424
Thursday Trail Building Crew	32	2530

Total Number of active
Volunteers

71

Individual Contributions

3084 Hours



Top Contributors

October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025 (FY2025)

We all love the Sandia Mountains and its forests. Some are continuously going above and beyond!

A Big Shout Out goes to:

Volunteer	Total Hours
Jamey Browning	686
Sam Beard	646
Cliff Giles	562
Steve Roholt	381
Sim Cook	363
Laura Leon	335
Byron Garner	315
Eric Russell	301
Luis Cuadros	253
Mike Madden	213

Total Volunteer Hours by
Top 10 Contributors

4054

- Over 200 hours were also contributed by Joelle Hertel, Dan Benton and Claudia Bergsohn.
- And close to 200 hours by Bruce Hansche and Bill Perkins
- 15 additional volunteers contributed over 100 hours

A BIG THANK YOU to all!



Bylaws & Policies Revision

- At the February board meeting an update to the FOSM Bylaws & Policies was decided:
 - Policies had been updated as needed, but not recently (last on Sept. 11, 2019)
 - Bylaws have not been changed since the original incorporation of the NM Friends of the Forest
- A core team reviewed bylaws from several other non-profits, incl. NMVFO and the Las Placitas Association, and revised the FOSM bylaws
 - Core team: Silke Bletzer, Mike Madden, Cliff Giles, Dan Benton
- The policies were streamlined and reworded where needed
 - Input and review provided by: Silke, Mike, Cliff, Sally Lowder, Lou Romero, Joe Meade
 - New policies were added for FOSM sawyer requirements, FOSM documentation, and the SAM Beard award



Bylaws & Policies Revision

- At the August board meeting, the revised bylaws and policies were approved by the board
- Per FOSM bylaws, Mike Madden distributed the new draft (and policies) to the full membership for review August 9th, 2025, with comments due to Silke by Sept. 9th
 - No comments were received
 - A majority of the members present at the October 7th annual membership meeting is required for final approval of the new bylaws



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Sam Beard Achievement Award

- Annually, starting in 2025, this award is given to members of the Friends of the Sandia Mountains (FOSM) in recognition of exceptional volunteer service to the Forest Service and our public lands.
- The award is named for Sam Beard who epitomizes the basis of the award.
- Sam cofounded FOSM in 1997 and still spends most days every week in dedicated service to its mission at an age when most have passed or retired to a comfortable chair.

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2025 Sam Beard Achievement Award Winner

Nominations were solicited from the board and weekly crew leaders. The board chose **Don Carnicom** to receive the 2025 award.

- Don was a cofounder of FOSM and has supported our organization for 28 years.

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Award Plaque

For permanent
display in the
Ranger Station
meeting room



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Scenic Byway Memento



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FY 2026 Election of Officers and Board Members

- A hearty thank you to Officers Cliff Giles (5 years as VP) and Jeff Young (1 year as Treasurer)... and to Board Members Steve Roholt (4 years) and Joe Meade (2 years)
- The Nominating Committee led by Susan Gregory, plus Sam Beard, Sim Cook, and Byron Garner chose: Kerry Jones for VP, Scott Dietrich for Treasurer... Cliff Giles and Laura Leon for Board Members
- Those up for re-election and choosing to continue to serve are: Officers Mike Madden (President), Silke Bletzer (Secretary)... And Board Members Sam Beard, Sim Cook, Byron Garner, Jenny Blackmore, and Jamey Browning



FY 2026 Election of Officers and Board Members

- Ballots and Bios were sent to all members on 9/5, and were due 9/19.
- Were any write-ins received on the ballots? Any additional nominations from the floor?
- Election vote by acclamation.
- Congratulations to the new Board!
- A meeting of the new Board will follow soon.



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Program Introduction, Cliff Giles, Vice-President

EarthCaches of the Sandias

presented by Stan Davis
prepared for FOSM, October 7th, 2025



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Program Introduction, Cliff Giles, Vice-President

- EarthCaches (ECs) are a special category of geocache sponsored by the Geological Society of America.
 - Almost 30,000 ECs worldwide
 - New Mexico home to over 100, Sandias home to 17, with 12 of those being new ones the author recently “published”.
- Teach an Earth Science lesson, include tasks that reinforce that lesson, and are based on the world around us – not on informational signs.
- Talk will be a guided tour through geologic time, from the Proterozoic to the Holocene, highlighting some of the less well-known, but still fascinating, geology as represented by the new ECs.
- ECs are entirely virtual, meaning they are not associated with any physical cache container in the field. “Treasure” is the geology, and the geology is the fun!



Speaker Introduction, Cliff Giles, Vice-President

- Stan Davis
 - Retired after 35 years as a geophysicist in the oil industry
 - Moved to Albuquerque in 2019, lured in part by easy access to the outdoors and abundant trails close by in the Sandias and elsewhere in New Mexico
 - Enjoys hiking the variety of trails (and “off-trails”) here and investigating the local geology
 - Hiked more than 2,500 miles in the Sandia mountains and foothills since moving here
 - Is a volunteer for his neighborhood association and writes articles about the Sandias for the association’s newsletter
 - Became a hike leader for the New Mexico Mountain Club in 2025 and has led geology-themed hikes in the Sandias with the club
 - Member of the Pastel Society of New Mexico and enjoys painting landscapes and subjects from the Sandias