

Utah

Arizona

Colorado

New Mexico

Community-Public Land

Stewardship

INITIATIVES

A periodical publication from the Office of Community Services at Fort Lewis College

Summer 2000

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OCS receives grant to evaluate restoration projects in Four Corners

This spring the Office of Community Services received a \$30,000 grant from the Four Corners Sustainable Forests Partnership to develop an evaluation framework of on-going restoration projects funded by the partnership.

The objective of the evaluation project is to learn what is working in restoration forestry and associated product and market research and development in the Four Corners. The project's aim is to document what project partners are learning about effectively implementing sustainable principles and practices, then to produce a framework for evaluating similar future projects.

This year, through the leadership of the New Mexico State Department of Forestry and others, the FCSFP received \$1,000,000 of congressionally appropriated funds to assess the state of timber-related businesses and seeks ways to rejuvenate economic and ecological health of communities.

Principal researchers Sam Burns and Tim Richard have developed a survey questionnaire for the evaluation study of the projects with the assistance of FCSFP steering committee members. Richard and Burns are now contacting key project representatives by phone to record preliminary information. Later this summer they will visit sites to gather follow up data.

The seven projects that were funded in 1999 by FCSFP which Richard and Burns will visit vary widely, but all focus on some economic, social or ecological aspect of forest restoration.

The evaluation study is expected to be conducted throughout the summer 2000, with findings becoming available and opportunities for exchange on them sometime during fall and winter this year.

For more information about the study, contact Tim Richard at (970) 247-7066. For information about the Four Corners Sustainable Forests Partnership, contact Judy Kowalski at New Mexico's Forestry Division; (505) 827-7474.

1999 FCSFP projects that will be included in the evaluation:

- an apprenticeship program and cluster of small forestry enterprises in Catron County, NM;
- a research, demonstration, product development and market assessment of commercial wood products in Vallecitos, New Mexico;
- a collaboration between Zuni and federal land managers to encourage local economic development through job creation and value-added initiatives at Zuni Pueblo lands;
- an analysis of forest restoration activities and small-diameter timber monitoring near Holbrook, Arizona;
- an evaluation of opportunities, barriers and resources needed for reestablishing a post and pole industry in northern Arizona;
- an investigation of an Alaskan double-diffusion process for wood preservation treatments;
- organizational and business development of a forest products cooperative in southern Utah.

BLM and 3 Colorado counties sign Scenic Byway MOUs

This spring in southwest Colorado, memorandums of understanding (MOUs) were signed by the Bureau of Land Management and Hinsdale, Ouray and San Juan counties to work together at managing the popular Alpine Loop Backcountry Scenic Byway.

The MOUs represent efforts to increase the communications among the BLM and communities in identifying strategies for managing the Loop. The MOU signers agreed to organize two meetings, one before the tourism season in which BLM staff, county commissioners and commissioner-appointed representatives share information and a September meeting among all three counties and the BLM to discuss summer and fall tourism experiences, and collaborative projects for the upcoming year.

More interaction among partners is expected when preparation of an Alpine Loop corridor management plan begins. The BLM and others are awaiting notice of a grant award that would provide funds for the project.

For more information, contact Ken Francis, OCS (970) 247-7310.

Forest Trust to support businesses needing assistance

The Forest Trust (505-983-8992) in Santa Fe has been awarded a grant by the Four Corners Sustainable Forests Partnership to manage technical assistance funds. Forest Trust Staff will administer small grants to businesses that have an identified need. The Trust will also maintain a list of consultants and other technical assistance providers. Funding requests will be reviewed by the FCSFP Marketing and Utilization Program Oversight Committee.

FCSFP hires marketing and utilization specialist

The Four Corners Sustainable Forests Partnership recently enlisted a specialist to coordinate its Marketing and Utilization Program for FY 2000. Tim Reader, already involved in research and assistance, will begin work in July to get "hands-on technical assistance to any forest-based business in the region to improve their sustainability or to get started."

Reader is evaluating responses to a survey that has been sent out to identify businesses' needs. He plans to meet with every Four Corners forest-based business interested in the program. He will document needs and help connect businesses with technical assistance providers.

The Program's main goal is to provide a linkage between the technical assistance needs of local entities and providers of that assistance.

"I plan to be out there and let the guys know we're trying to give them some help on marketing and utilization," Reader says. The Program is another step toward the FCSFP mission of building linkages between healthy forest ecosystems and healthy communities.

As need arises, Reader plans to conduct small research projects and technology demonstrations. He can be reached at 970-247-5250 to request information or a site visit.

DISCOVERIES DISCOVERIES

Website measures ecosystem benefits for the layperson

www.ecosystemvaluation.org/

This new Website examines how economists attempt to assign values to ecosystem service. It outlines general and specific topics under the following sections: The Big Picture, Essentials of Ecosystem Valuation, Dollar-based Ecosystem Valuation Methods, Ecosystem Benefit Indicators, and Links.

The Website is developed for the non economist, explaining topics in terms for the average person. It also has a glossary in case you need some definitions. It was developed as a collaborative project of the US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, US Department of Commerce, NOAA-Sea Grant Office, and University of Maryland, Center for Environmental Science.

CU Law Center Watershed Sourcebook is available

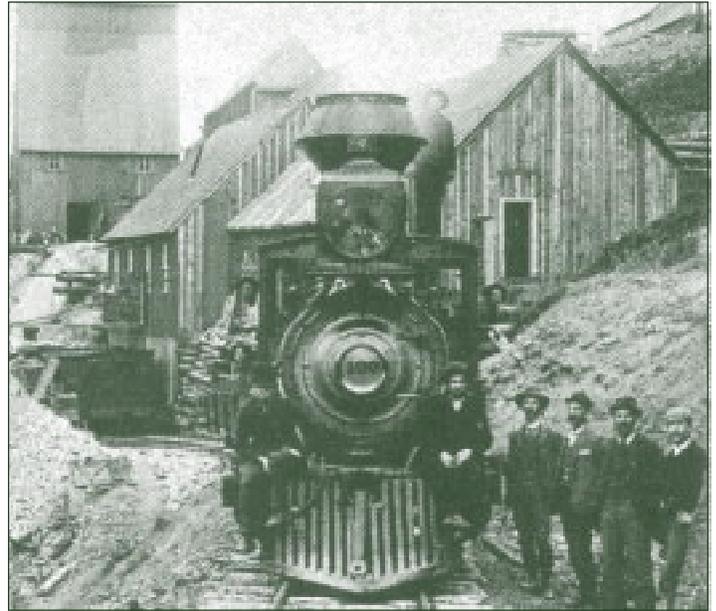
The *New Watershed Source Book* recently completed by the University of Colorado Natural Resource Law Center in Boulder is available. This reference describes watershed initiatives (partnerships, councils, or groups) in the West. It features dozens of brief case studies and one long one, a directory of 347 watershed initiatives, and survey data from 118 initiatives. It summarizes laws influencing community-based conservation and talks about effectiveness and appropriateness.

The Source Book hardcopy is available at a cost, or on the Internet and CD-ROM sometime soon. Contact the Natural Resources Law Center, U. of Colorado, Campus Box 401, Boulder, CO 80309-0401, (303) 492-1296.

Historic preservation warms up with the summer weather

Anticipation and confidence are growing for the first phase of the Red Mountain Project, on which we reported in *Initiatives* last March. The Red Mountain Project Task Force continues its publicity and letter writing campaign to encourage Congress to use money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for a first phase purchase of acreage on Red Mountain. The Trust for Public Land currently has 3,200 acres of land owned by Idarado Corporation under contract for the purchase, if funding is approved by Congress.

Anticipation is growing that if Congress favors the purchase, it may appropriate the money as early as late August or September. Colorado Senator Wayne Allard (R) is one of the most prominent politicians endorsing the project.



RED MOUNTAIN PASS may be named one of “America’s Most Endangered Places” by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Last summer, NTHP president Richard Moe toured the area and this April a production company was filming for a show on the History Channel about Red Mountain.

Citizens invited to participate in a five-county economic development strategy

For the first time in six years, steps are being taken in southwest Colorado counties to involve citizen participation in updating economic development strategies. This June, Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado invites residents to join county officials and business leaders in setting economic goals and identifying projects to help develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region.

The strategy, or “CEDS” for short, is a five-year guide Region 9 uses to help local communities and the region as a whole create jobs, foster more stable and diversified economies, and improve residents’ quality of life.

Region 9 assists five counties and the towns of southwest Colorado, and the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribes with community and economic development planning and implementation. Funded by local governments, the Economic Development Administration, and the State of Colorado, it facilitates business expansion, relocation, investment, and job creation and retention.

Citizens will also be able to review “Community Development Action Plans,” or CDAPs, which are part of the CEDS document. They outline key community and economic development initiatives being undertaken in areas such as tourism, business development, agriculture, health care,

schools, infrastructure, public lands, land use, etc. They list various types of local projects.

The CEDS and the CDAPs help “ensure that public dollars are spent on what counties want, need and identify through community involvement,” says Marsha Porter-Norton of Operation Healthy Communities, who is coordinating the process. Region 9 also uses the CDAPs to guide funding decisions for grants, loans and certain types of community technical assistance.

June’s meetings are specifically meant to engage residents in setting community-wide goals and identifying projects that are compatible with their desires for the future of the communities and counties. The meetings, and eventually the overall strategy, will help reveal what regional opportunities are emerging from the meetings and allow communities to become more familiar with each other’s circumstances and niche in the region’s overall economic picture.

The information contained in the CEDS document, which Region 9 plans to publish in a booklet, will be useful for new residents to the area, potential new businesses, and even grant writers, in addition to planners, chambers of commerce(s), and government officials.

For meeting places and times, and for more information, call the Operation Healthy Communities office at 382-0585.

FC Sustainable Forests Partnership selects 2000 demo projects

The Four Corners Sustainable Forests Partnership recently announced 18 projects in the Four Corners selected to receive funding through the Community-Based Forest Restoration Demonstration Program. For more details on the projects, which are briefly described below, contact Judy Kowalski at 505-827-7474.

ARIZONA

- *Coconino Natural Resources Conservation District* (Flagstaff)—Research, design, and construct small diameter log trusses for public display and educational workshops.
- *Little Colorado RC&D* (Holbrook)—Training for two different specialized manufacturing machines that expand production of small diameter forest products.

COLORADO

- *Stonertop Lumber* (Dolores)—Demonstration on the San Juan National Forest and a childcare center playground to be created of a Rotochopper, portable equipment that converts very small trees and mill waste into value-added products.
- *Lankford Foresters, Inc.* (Westcliffe)—Further expand two Sangre de Cristo collaborative partnership businesses into an integrated, community-based forestry operation and training with Center for Holistic Management.
- *Department of Forest Sciences, CSU* (Ft. Collins)—Expand double diffusion treatment technology to actual use in highway and campground structures; further market research and entry. Test mechanical properties of small diameter tree wood harvested for structural uses.
- *Painted Sky RC&D* (Delta)—Economic feasibility testing for the use of 4x4-inch width materials for end and edge gluing into wider and longer materials suitable for manufacture of furniture and cabinets.

NEW MEXICO

- *Madera Forest Products Association* (Vallecitos)—Demonstrate the commercial applicability of connectors specifically designed for small diameter timber in affordable housing.
- *La Montana de Truchas* (Truchas)—Address degraded forests and grasslands through forest restoration, community training in wood processing and forestry skills, and development of community employment opportunities.
- *Las Humanas* (Tajique)—Perform restoration work and train workers in forestry restoration techniques.

- *New Mexico State University Advanced Manufacturing Center* (Mountainair)—Technical assistance for the design and construction of prototype equipment for producing juniper/plastic composite materials to be used in construction and sign applications for P&M Signs of Mountainair.
- *Gila WoodNet* (Silver City)—Further forest restoration activities as part of a larger effort to test equipment, design restoration prescriptions, and conduct community education on forest restoration.
- *Catron County Citizens Group* (Glenwood)—Develop a log sort yard and business incubator, coordinate a marketing program, and develop a business assistance center. These are pieces of a larger partnership effort.

UTAH

- *Utah State University Extension Service* (Richfield)—Partnership working to conduct forest restoration, research on small log processing, data collection and monitoring plan, and expand markets for restoration by-products.
- *Utah Rural Development Council* (Cedar City)—On-going effort to build skills and cooperative marketing strategies for producers of value-added small diameter wood products, as well as to connect with regional, national, and international markets. Series of artisan workshops, small business seminars, and construction of a trade show booth.

REGIONAL

- *TRADE* (Santa Fe)—Demonstration of the uses of small diameter timber in the custom furniture making and home furnishings industry through a show to be held in Santa Fe for artisans from throughout the Four Corners. Training program on marketing will be offered through the show.
- *National Network of Forest Practitioners* (Santa Fe)—Technical assistance referral and coordination for communities in the region. \$55,000 will be made available to contract technical assistance services for local entities.
- *Office of Community Services* (Durango)—Development of an evaluation program for Four Corners Partnership projects in order to describe and assess project outcomes.

OCS technical assistance and preservation programs overlap in Pagosa Springs project

Community stewardship comes in many forms and one of the most common these days in southwest Colorado is an effort to preserve historical mining and railroad structures and the heritage of the region's towns. The Office of Community Services has been deeply immersed in this and other types of stewardship efforts through all of its programs. Jim Dietrich, OCS landscape architect/planner who consults communities on various landscaping and planning projects and initiatives through the Technical Assistance program, recently was able to participate in a project in which two OCS programs overlapped—historical preservation and technical assistance.

Jim has been key in planning a community/heritage center and museum for the Fred Harman Art Museum just west of Pagosa Springs, Colorado. The Ruben Gomez store located at Pagosa Junction for decades is now the latest addition to the historical “frontier” town being rebuilt with authentic original buildings collected from around the area.

Tourists and locals alike can start visiting the village sometime this summer.

Pagosa Junction, with a population of up to 270 in 1930, was a Durango & Rio Grande Western depot on the San Juan River and on the line to Dulce and Chama. It became a virtual ghost town soon afterwards when rail service ended. The area became part of the Southern Ute tribal lands, and recently the tribe stopped renewing a lease it had with the Padilla family that had lived there for decades.

The Pagosa Springs community convinced the tribe to cancel the planned destruction of the building until they could move it to town and become part of the Harman museum. Then they asked Dietrich to draw up long-range development plans to help locate the Gomez building, several other buildings, as well as parking lots and walking trails. Tourists and locals alike can start visiting the village sometime this summer.

OCS usually provides Dietrich's services through a Colorado Energy Impact Assistance grant. If the community can put in matching funds, more project objectives can be accomplished. OCS has completed several of these types of design projects in southwest Colorado.

Dietrich also just completed a fairgrounds master plan for Montezuma and Archuleta counties. For more information about Dietrich's work or other OCS technical assistance projects, contact him at (970) 565-8525, or OCS at 247-7333.

OCS Website features services and info on four program areas

The Office of Community Services is developing a Website that provides information about community and public land stewardship in the Four Corners in addition to other programs in which OCS is involved. As part of efforts to define, practice and communicate stewardship principles, OCS hopes the site will enhance the resources available to *Initiatives* readers.

Any suggestions to links, papers or other materials that might complement the site are welcome and encouraged.

Check the web address www.fortlewis.edu for when the site will be available. Click “Community Services” after FLC's home page pops up. Or just write an e-mail request to notify you when it is running.

Please contact Tim Richard, (970) 247-7066, richard_t@fortlewis.edu for more information, ideas, suggestions, and possible links.

COMMUNITY-PUBLIC LANDS STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVES is a periodic newsletter prepared at the Office of Community Services, Fort Lewis College.

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The Office of Community Services at Fort Lewis College assists rural communities, state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations with planning and community development projects. It facilitates and coordinates projects in land-use planning, historic preservation, public policy, and human services. OCS builds partnerships that are inclusive and participatory, that value community heritage and ecosystem stewardship. It also offers Fort Lewis College students educational opportunities as assistants in its programs and projects.

“Canyons of the Ancients”

The Prospects for Community-Based Stewardship

In May 1999, Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt came to Southwest Colorado to announce an initiative for enhanced protection of 164,000 acres of archaeological resources on BLM land in western Montezuma and Dolores counties. Following proclamation of the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument in Utah, the Secretary’s announcement touched off a firestorm of controversy over how to respond to his challenge.

During summer 1999, a Working Group was appointed, which conducted six public meetings and issued a report on community input. In February 2000, legislation based on the Working Group report was introduced in the House and Senate to create the “Canyons of the Ancients National Conservation Area.” In March, Senate hearings on the NCA legislation were abruptly canceled, largely due to strident and persistent opposition by a property rights group who argued that NCA legislation was caving in to a conspiracy to kick multiple-use off public land and seize private property, and that it would be better to fight a National Monument Proclamation in court. In April, Secretary Babbitt, in a telephone call to the Montezuma County Commissioners, stated that he was forwarding a proposal to proclaim Canyon of the Ancients National Monument to President Clinton.

Given the reality that this episode began with top-down intervention, resulted in the proposal and withdrawal of Congressional legislation, and appears to be headed for a Presidential proclamation, what are the prospects that community-based stewardship can be an effective approach to the care and management of this landscape? Not only do the ingredients exist to develop a community stewardship strategy, but such an approach is the only way to ensure a future of productive harmony between contemporary uses of this landscape and extensive remains of the Ancestral Puebloans that inhabited the area before migrating out during the 1300s to be absorbed into other southwestern Pueblo communities.

The consensus in the Working Group Report, forged out of the stormy public meetings during the summer of 1999, goes beyond an inventory of concerns about multiple use, freedom of access and exploration, the protection of private property rights and the sustainability of the local economy and tax base. The report also confirms the need to

protect some of the highest concentration of archaeological sites known in the country from vandalism and unintentional damage from rising levels of recreational use.

The Working Group Report states that funding levels to BLM for managing this area are “woefully inadequate,” but suggests that additional funding and staffing should support a management plan that has community stewardship as its centerpiece, rather than as an afterthought. Additional staffing should emphasize skills in volunteer coordination, recreation management, archaeological interpretation and visitor education. Building on volunteers who have already adopted sites, and tightening up communication networks with horseback and bike riders, hikers, grazers, oil companies and adjacent landowners is the only way to have enough eyes to watch over this vast and rugged area and respond effectively to threats to the resource.

Some people who participated in the public discussions emphasized the intrinsic value of the archaeological resources. Others primarily value the wide range of uses, rights, and freedom of access to this treasured landscape. People with both of these perspectives share a common interest in making sure that the archaeological resources and the landscape that has supported thousands of years of habitation are well cared for. The Working Group Report called for an advisory council made up of the full range of these interests to develop and help implement a community-stewardship oriented management plan.

The cliff dwellers of Mesa Verde National Park, which made the archaeological resources of Southwest Colorado internationally renowned, represent the last and most defensive stages of Ancestral Puebloan settlement which today are tightly managed by the Park Service. The Canyons of the Ancients, which cover both public and private land, supported more extensive and long-standing networks of extended family agricultural settlements. It is appropriate that the responsibility for care of the Canyons of the Ancients should be substantially vested in today’s inhabitants of this landscape. Being able to extend this trust is the challenge to the federal government; living up to this trust is the challenge to the local community.

—Michael Preston, Associate Director OCS/FLC
Coordinator, Montezuma County Federal Lands Program

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Bengston, David N. & Fan, David P. (2000). **The Recreation Fee Demonstration Program on the National Forests: An Analysis of Public Attitudes and Beliefs, 1996 - 1999**. St. Paul, MN: North Central Research Station, USDA Forest Service.

Public debate over the recreational fee demonstration program on national forests is the subject of this final report to the Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources staff in the Washington, DC office of the USDA Forest Service.

The report is based on a study that analyzed the debate coverage in the news media, which authors described as a quick and efficient way “to take the pulse of the public.”

For their study, researchers Bengston and Fan took a random sample of several thousand news stories about recreation fees on the national forests, which they downloaded from 109 news sources (local and regional newspapers, national newspapers, newswires, and television and radio news transcripts) contained in the LEXIS-NEXIS commercial online database. These stories were analyzed using the InfoTrend method for predicting public opinion from the mass media.

They include in their report the favorable and non-favorable attitudes towards recreational fees most frequently expressed and identified by the study.

Overall, expressions of favorable beliefs about the fee program outweighed unfavorable beliefs by about 2 to 1—65 percent favorable and 35 percent unfavorable. Later during the survey, researchers found an increase of unfavorable attitudes linked to protests around the country organized by groups opposed to recreation fees.

“We found an increasing trend in the share of unfavorable attitudes toward the RFDP at the aggregate, national level,” Bengston and Fan write. However, they found the trend was due to an increase in unfavorable attitudes in four southern California forests and the national forests of Oregon and Washington. There was no change over time in the share of unfavorable attitudes in the rest of the nation.

The report lists media sources in Forest Service regions including those in the Four Corners—Regions 2, 3, and 4.

The report is available from David N. Bengston, USDA Forest Service, North Central Research Station, 1992 Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108, (651) 649-5162, dbengston@fs.fed.us.

Moote, Margaret A. & Conley, Alex. (3 May 2000). **Learning about Collaboration Research and Assessment of Community-based Collaboratives**. Tucson, AZ: Udall Center.

Learning about Collaboration Research and Assessment of Community-based Collaboratives is the final report of a workshop held October 9 and 10, 1999, by the Consortium for Research and Assessment of Community-based Collaboratives, initiated in 1998 by the University of Virginia's Institute for Environmental Negotiation (IEN). The report summarizes the discussions that were held during those two days and presents a set of research questions developed by the group.

It was the first major activity of the Consortium, in which academics, professional mediators and facilitators, collaborative-group participants, federal agency staff members, and environmental activists discussed the role of research in informing and assessing collaborative and community-based approaches to natural resources management.

The workshop and the report were hosted and funded by the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy at the University of Arizona. The report is available by contacting Alex Conley, Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, 803 East First Street, Tucson, Arizona 85719, (520) 884-4393 mailbox 304.

Povilitis, Tony. (2000). **Slipping Through Our Hands: Imperiled Wildlife of the Greater San Juans**. Illustrations by Amy Grogan. Willcox, Arizona: Life Net Publishing.

Slipping Through Our Hands: Imperiled Wildlife of the Greater San Juans is a guide to endangered and vulnerable wildlife of the San Juan Mountains, San Juan Basin, and San Luis Valley. It includes:

- Profiles of 110 animal and plant species
 - Original drawings and illustrations
 - Regional and North American range maps
 - Species conservation & legal status
 - Information on habitat and threats
 - Natural history & historical notes
 - Conservation measures for wildlife advocates, landowners, public agencies, and all citizens
 - Observations and vignettes from the author's field notes.
- Available from: Life Net Publishing, HCR Route 3, Box 3845, Willcox, Arizona 85643. Price: \$12, plus \$2.50 s&h.



CALENDAR

June 16-18th, 2000

The Third Annual Community Research Network Conference
"Common Problems, Uncommon Resources: Exploring the Social and Economic Challenges to Community-Based Research"

Atlanta, Georgia

Community activists and organizers, scholars, funders, students, experienced practitioners of community-based research, and others interested in community-based research are invited to the Third Annual CRN Conference. This year's agenda will address barriers to secure funding and resources to conduct research projects in disadvantaged or marginalized communities.

For more information: [http://www.Loka.org/
conf_2000.htm](http://www.Loka.org/conf_2000.htm); 413-559-5860;
e-mail: Loka@Loka.org

September 18-20, 2000

Fragmentation 2000 — A
Conference on Sustaining Private
Forests in the 21st Century
Annapolis, Maryland-Radisson Hotel

Oct. 27-Nov. 3, 2000

Forest Service National Rural
Community Assistance Partnership
Conference

Stowe, Vermont

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COMMUNITY-PUBLIC LAND STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVES

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