

Utah
Arizona
Colorado
New Mexico

Community-Public Land Stewardship INITIATIVES

Spring 2000

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Initiative to protect 10,500 acres



For months, commissioners and members of historical societies in Colorado's Ouray and San Juan counties have worked quietly with the Office of Community Services at Fort Lewis College and the Trust for Public Lands to negotiate with landowners to purchase 10,500 acres of mining claims atop Red Mountain and place them in the National Forest System.

The partners publicized their efforts in January in order to initiate grassroots support to encourage congressional representatives and senators to appropriate Land and Water Conservation Fund money to buy the land. Initiative organizers say \$7.5 million is needed for phase one, plus more next year for remaining lands.

"Action alert" letters have been circulated among many organizations and communities since February in a grassroots campaign to influence Congress to appropriate the money. An eight-minute video is available to learn more and to see the lands and historical town, railroad and mining structures included in the Red Mountain Project. Individuals involved in the project have also been giving talks about their efforts. More information is available at

<http://www.redmountainproject.com/>.

For more information, contact Bob Risch in Ouray (970) 325-4205, Beverly Rich in Silverton (970) 387-5488, or Ken Francis at Office of Community Services (970) 247-7311.

The OCS defines four program areas

Recently, the Office of Community Services more concretely defined four overarching program areas of operation within which most of its projects fall. Although members of the OCS staff have worked in these areas for several years, articulating and emphasizing them will create better understanding among our partners and potential partners about OCS resources.

The program areas are:

- Community-Public Land Partnerships
- Community Development Assistance
- Heritage Preservation
- Research and Dissemination

The new program areas also represent efforts to more closely match Office of Community Services programs and projects with its mission and the mission of Fort Lewis College.

Sustainable forestry grants offered by the Laird Norton Endowment

The Laird Norton Endowment Foundation welcomes letters of inquiry for projects in: development and implementation of sustainable forestry certification; forestland owner education and assistance; collaborative stewardship in forest-dependent communities; restoration forestry research, demonstration, and implementation; K-12 sustainable forestry education; forestry-related college-level internships; distinguished visitor programs; and ecosystem-based approaches to forestry.

Deadlines are March 10 and September 10, 2000 for preliminary letters, and April 1 and October 1, 2000 for invited proposals. Contact Patrick de Freitas, LNEF, 801 2nd Ave., #1300, Seattle, WA 98104-1581, (206) 464-5242, e-mail: info@lairdnorton.org or on the Web at <http://www.lairdnorton.org/>

Private forests conference announced

The National Council on Private Forests will host the conference *Fragmentation 2000 — A Conference on Sustaining Private Forests in the 21st Century*, September 18-20, in Annapolis, Maryland. The conference has three goals: sharing what is known about private forests of all sizes; comparing agreement, disagreement or just-don't-know situations for sustaining private forests; and reporting with a proceedings to make papers quickly and widely available.

For more information: Terri Bates, 3325 Rose Lane, Falls Church, VA 22042, 703/538-1134, Bates-Stasny@erols.com.

DISCOVERIES DISCOVERIES

Virginia Stewardship website launched

The Global Environment and Technology Foundation and the Virginia Environmental Endowment recently announce the launching of a new website, *The Virginia Center for Stewardship*, <http://www.sustainableusa.org/va>, also referred to as the Virginia Center.

The Virginia Center is a window into the stewardship activities and best practices occurring throughout Virginia. The Center is both an electronic and "human" network of individuals, organizations and institutions working in Virginia to promote economic growth and improved environmental performance in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Virginia Center will help integrate and leverage existing environmental activities, foster innovative partnerships and create new opportunities to solve complex stewardship challenges in Virginia.

COMMUNITY-PUBLIC LANDS STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVES is a periodic newsletter prepared at the Office of Community Services, Fort Lewis College. We welcome submissions of news, event information, editorials, and essay ideas. Please write or call:

Editor: Tim Richard, Research and Communication Development at the Office of Community Services, Fort Lewis College, 1000 Rim Drive, Durango, Colorado 81301. PHONE: (970) 247-7066. FAX: (970) 247-7032. E-MAIL: richard_t@fortlewis.edu

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.

Community-public land opportunities emerging from tourism assessment

The Four Corners Tourism Assessment, conducted last summer and fall by the Office of Community Services in New Mexico and Colorado, is emerging with information to help better understand the diverse character and situations of Four Corners communities and their relationships with public lands.

A report summarizing the first phase of findings of the assessment will be available this spring from OCS. It describes community attitudes and capacity for increased tourism, public land capacity for increased visitation, ideas for how public land agencies, community leaders, and tourism businesses can work better together, and lists sustainable tourism-related projects on which they can cooperatively implement.

Four Corners communities run the gamut from being overwhelmed to being relatively unaffected by tourism. Moab, Utah and Telluride, Colorado are obvious examples where visitors, recreation and related changes have significantly altered the social fabric, as well as the physical landscape. Blanding, Utah, Cuba, New Mexico, and Holbrook, Arizona, on the other hand, remain largely outside the stream of development.

Although most Four Corners communities are near prevalent national- and state-managed public lands, they seldom interact with each other in ways that benefit their future prosperity.

The survey addressed questions of sustainability and opportunity at the local level and across the region.

Local projects that achieve objectives of conservation, stewardship and economic opportunity in which communities, tourism, businesses and public land agency staffs can work on together have been identified. Assessment findings also suggest actions and collaboration on a regional level with regard to significant capital improvements, information sharing and training.

Within a region of such economic and cultural diversity, concerted, long-term actions will be necessary to achieve a modicum of balanced resource utilization, cooperation with and among public land management agencies, and a fair distribution of tourism and recreation development. Without strategic participation and intentional action, the Four Corners region will continue to be a place characterized by countervailing strains of resource over-utilization and limited and unequal community development opportunities.

As the Four Corners Heritage Council and its partners complete their assessment for Utah and Arizona, another report will be prepared to identify projects for implementation.

The Four Corners Tourism Assessment was funded by grants from the USDA Forest Service Region 2, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs for 1999 and 2000.

FCSF Partnership calls for project proposals

Through its demonstration grants program, the Four Corners Sustainable Forests Partnership is devoting up to \$600,000 this year to fund restoration projects in the Four Corners. *Requests For Proposals* are due by March 31, 2000. For more information, call Judy Kowalski in New Mexico, (505) 827-7474.

\$3M in grants to help conserve private lands

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) National Association of Conservation Districts announced last month its plans to devote \$3 million received from the NRCS to a competitive challenge-grant program to support conservation projects on private lands across the country.

The grants will be awarded through a competitive process to federal, state, and local governments, education institutions, and nonprofit organizations. Proposals are being accepted for projects that: demonstrate value for fish and wildlife; unite conservation and agricultural interests; have leverage (better matches rank higher); strong on-the-ground components; are "working landscapes" projects that integrate conservation practices in ongoing agricultural, ranching and forestry operations; add value to the Conservation Title of the Farm Bill; address agricultural conservation at the watershed or landscape scale.

For projects in Arizona, California, Hawaii, New Mexico, and Nevada send pre-proposals to: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Southwest Regional Office, 28 2nd Street, 6th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105 (415-778-0999). Send pre-proposals for work in all other locations to: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, 1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20036 (202-857-0166).

Deadline for proposals ends March 31

Partnership gets \$1M for Four Corners forests and communities

The Four Corners Sustainable Forests Partnership, formerly the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, received one million dollars from Congress for fiscal year 2000 to fund restoration forestry programs and projects in the Four Corners region. Partnership organizers view the appropriation as a vehicle for implementing a second year of forest restoration, maintenance and risk reduction through sustainable, community-based forest enterprises.



Partnership long-term goals

- Merge environmental and economic concerns by helping identify relationships between ecosystem needs and jobs in the forest and manufacturing value-added products.
- Strengthen and diversify rural economies by supporting community-led projects that achieve forest restoration and create high-value manufacturing opportunities with the by-products.
- Increase regional expertise on small-diameter wood utilization and innovative forest restoration strategies.
- Connect the best forest product development and marketing technical assistance to local entrepreneurs and other interests.
- Reduce the loss of natural resources to catastrophic fire, insect, and disease by restoring at-risk forest ecosystems.
- Increase regional agreement and understanding around forest restoration.

During 2000, the Partnership will concentrate on the following emphasis areas:

- **Forest restoration demonstration grants**
- **Utilization and marketing technical assistance**
- **Public information campaign**
- **A number of smaller programs, including support for a large scientific conference on restoration forestry in Flagstaff this year.**

Proposals for this year's Forest Restoration Demonstration Grant Program are due March 31. The RFP is available through Judy Kowalski at 505-827-7474.

Contact your state's representative below to learn about the Four Corners Sustainable Forests Partnership

Arizona

Amber Hill
Little Colorado RC&D
(520) 524-6063 ext. 204

Colorado

Carla Garrison
Montezuma County
(970) 565-6061

Utah

David Schen
Utah Division of Forestry
(801) 538-5504

New Mexico

Judy Kowalski
New Mexico Forestry Division
(505) 827-7474

Tribal

Wayne Waquiu
Bureau of Indian Affairs
(505) 346-7536

FCSFP to hire an outreach person

The Four Corners Sustainable Forests Partnership has designated funding for a marketing and utilization program in Arizona, Utah, New Mexico and Colorado.

Tim Reader, recent master's graduate from Northern Arizona University who has been conducting market research with the Colorado State Forest Service in Durango, will be hired to serve as an outreach person for small businesses throughout the region.

Funding will be available to provide individual businesses with specific assistance, such as marketing, business planning and technology development. The assessment conducted in 1999 will be refined and made available this coming year.

San Juan NF begins two stewardship contracting pilots

The San Juan National Forest recently received approval to experiment with two stewardship contracting projects. The USDA Forest Service received its authority to conduct the experiments from the 1999 Interior Appropriations Bill, Section 347.

The two project areas will be located in the Beaver Meadows and Cherry Creek areas of the San Juan National Forest. The Beaver Meadows pilot project, located just outside of the town of Bayfield, is designed to manage mixed conifer stands and will be operated as a service contract with a local harvesting business. The business owner will be responsible for a number of activities, including the removal of low-value wood, road maintenance and obliteration, and other tasks. The project is expected to begin during the summer of 2000. San Juan National Forest forester Dave Crawford (970-385-1274) is managing the project.

The Cherry Creek project is much more ambitious and is expected to occur over a large landscape near Mancos, Colorado. The goal for the Cherry Creek project is to manage a number of smaller tracts of land that have high ecological priority. The Colorado State Forest Service will manage small contracts with various businesses to complete work at each harvest site. That work will include tree harvesting, road removal, habitat improvements, and weed control among other things.

The San Juan National Forest will oversee both the Beaver Meadows and the Cherry Creek stewardship contracting pilot projects, as well as conduct all NEPA work associated with them.

A high level of monitoring is required for each project and one group has been formed to help monitor the Cherry Creek project, while a second group is in the process of forming. If you are interested in participating in these local monitoring groups, contact Carla Garrison in Cortez at (970) 565-6061.

BEAVER MEADOWS, near Bayfield, Colorado, is one of two locations in the San Juan National Forest selected for conducting a pilot stewardship contracting project.



NEWS NOTES

Non-timber products subject of Spring Pinchot Institute workshop

This spring the Pinchot Institute will take a lead role in planning a national assessment workshop for non-timber forest products. Supported by the Turner and Ford Foundations, the US Forest Service and the BLM, the workshop will convene representatives from across the US to discuss the national status of research and policy on non-timber forest products.

Speakers will be invited to frame issues on a national scale. Working groups will consider and draft national policy recommendations. The workshop outcome will be written up for a chapter in a national assessment book set to be published in May.

For more information, contact Will Price at the Pinchot Institute (willprice@pinchot.org).

OCS looking for website additions

The Office of Community Services is developing a website that provides information about community and public land stewardship in the Four Corners as part of its efforts to define, practice and communicate stewardship principles.

Please contact Tim Richard, (970) 247-7066, richard_t@fortlewis.edu if you have links, papers or other materials you think might be useful additions to the new website.

New Mexico Pueblos and tribes projects aim to restore woodlands

Efforts to develop sustainable forest enterprises in New Mexico have been supporting tribal and Pueblo goals of upholding traditional forest uses and values, ensuring long-term forest health, and strengthening the economic base of tribal communities.



THE CREW ABOVE IS PART of the Pueblo of the Jemez Walatowa Woodlands Initiative enterprise and the Pueblo's management plan to improve wildlife habitat and forest health.

Working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Forestry Branch, tribes are sponsoring woodland project grants in five Pueblos that will ultimately affect the health and management of 4.7 million acres of tribal land.

The Pueblo of Zuni built a sawmill in 1998 to mill lumber and wood products for Shalako (religious) houses and kivas. It was meant as a community service, rather than as a commercial enterprise, but it now produces timber for homes, since most in Zuni build their own houses. Zuni Pueblo also partners with the US Forest Service to explore markets for small-diameter timber products.

The Pueblo of Picuris is developing a forest crew with expertise in thinning forest overgrowth as part of the Pueblo's plan to make 17,000 acres of forest more sustainable for future generations. The crew works on contracts with the Forest Service and on producing small-diameter products. The project is part of the Northern Collaborative Stewardship Program in which the tribe partners with the USDA, BLM and Carson National Forest.

The Ramah Navajo Chapter recently finished a woodland management project in which 136 cords of piñon and juniper were harvested for firewood and sold to reservation residents. Five other sites are identified for work in the near future.

At the Pueblo of Santa Ana, tribal leaders have begun a bosque and river restoration project along the Rio Grande River. The effort includes fire fuel reduction on 300 acres. Underbrush, Russian olive trees and salt cedar are being removed and firewood is being made available for senior residents of the Pueblo.

[Parts of this article is excerpted from December's issue of One Voice, published by the Indian Health Services and the Bureau of Indian Affairs SW Region Branch of Forestry, (505) 346-7579, PO Box 26567, Albuquerque, NM 87125.]

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Kenney, Douglas S. (2000). *Arguing About Consensus: Examining the case against western watershed initiatives and other collaborative groups active in natural resources management*. Boulder, CO: Natural Resource Law Center, Univ. of Colorado School of Law.

Author Kenney examines and compares the movement of watershed initiatives and other collaborative groups in the western US with the messages of the "skeptics who fear that these approaches may have significant limitations that are not fully appreciated."

Kenney systematically examines arguments for and against what he calls the "ad hoc" community/collaborative model of governance and institutional reforms sweeping the West, bringing into his analysis those arguments given by the skeptics who say existing processes of decision-making, such as litigation, although not perfect, are effective.

Burns, Sam. (Feb. 2000). *Four Corners Gateway Tourism Initiative: Forging new, collaborative partnerships with public lands* (paper presented to Social Aspects of Recreation Research Conference, February 17 in Tempe, Arizona). Durango, CO: Office of Community Services.

This paper outlines findings from a survey in small Four Corners communities of key community leaders and of public lands staffs about their thoughts on the attitudes and capacities of communities and local public land attractions for increased tourism.

It lists some recommendations for improving capacity, such as increasing and improving communication among public land agency managers, community citizens and leaders, and tourism businesses in order to protect the quality of life residents want to preserve and to act responsibly towards the public lands that attract increasing numbers of visitors to the Four Corners.

Wood diffusion workshop carries on quest for small-diameter products

About 50 individuals involved in wood products industries in the Four Corners attended the workshop, "Wood Preservation Through the Use of Diffusible Preservatives" Jan. 28 in Durango to learn about two chemical diffusion systems for preserving small-diameter timber products.

The workshop was the latest in efforts to share information on manufacturing and marketing of preservative-treated wood in the Four Corners. Financial support was supplied by the Four Corners Sustainable Forestry Partnership, a coalition of county, state and industry partners dedicated to linking forest restoration and maintenance with the production and marketing of value-added products.

Diffusion treating can be done on green wood at lower cost and can be as effective as pressure treating.

Two chemical diffusion systems were described by Lee Gjovik, former researcher at the USDA Forest Products Lab and currently a Madison, Wisconsin consultant, and Lonnie Williams, President of Rich Mountain Wood Protection Services in Gulfport, Mississippi.

Gjovik discussed advantages and disadvantages of "double diffusion" as a commercial wood treating process.

Williams discussed borates for above-ground wood preservation, describing them as easy to apply and as toxic to mammals as table salt. He described their once-common use in the US during the 1930s and current use throughout Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

Conventional wood preservation relies on pressure treating to force chemicals into dried wood. This expensive method is not always effective for treating some timber species in the region. As a non-pressure process, diffusion treatment occurs when the movement of preservative chemical in a water-based solution is conducted into the wood by the water already contained in the lumber being treated. Diffusion treating can be done on green wood at lower cost and can be as effective as pressure treating.

Tim Reader, forest product consultant with Montezuma County, Colorado, hosted the workshop. He described a double-diffusion wood treatment facility in Tyonek, Alaska.

"In addition to getting the word out about the potential of wood preservation as a value-added option for our regional forest products community, we must also work at developing a 'hands-on' familiarity with treating wood using diffusible preservatives throughout our Four Corners region," Reader said. "This hands-on familiarity will be accomplished through treating trials and demonstrations with cooperators from our local timber industry and interested communities."

For more information, call Reader at (970) 247-5250.

Staff transitions mark new changes at OCS

Founder and long-time Office of Community Services Director of Programs Sam Burns handed the job over to Ken Francis, who officially assumed administration of OCS budget and staff with the New Year.

Burns, who established OCS with a Kellogg Foundation grant, has guided OCS since its inception in 1978. He handed the title over in order to pursue research interests as Director of Research at OCS.

Ken Francis, a Durango, Colorado native, has worked for years in association with OCS, assisting partners and clients in a variety of community development projects.

Mike Preston, who began OCS with Burns as field associate, will remain Associate Director and continue to coordinate the Montezuma County Federal Lands Program in Cortez, which he helped to establish in 1992.

Shannon Manfredi, Community Development Associate since 1995, recently became Executive Director of Southwest Youth Corps, a work and educational program she co-founded while at OCS.

Marcella Mosher recently joined the staff as office accountant and project assistant. She is becoming familiar with OCS's various grants in order to improve tracking and record keeping methods. After working in accounting for nearly 20 years, five of them at Fort Lewis College, Mosher is interested in applying her UCLA history degree to OCS historical preservation projects.

Tim Richard, Research and Communication Associate, completed his fifth year assisting in facilitating community and public land planning and decision making. He also coordinates production of communication materials about OCS projects, with an overall goal of facilitating and documenting community and public-land agency dialogues about issues related to the sustainability of communities and landscapes.

Where is Red Mountain Pass?

US Highway 550
between Silverton
and Ouray crosses over

Read about efforts to protect
10,500 acres on page one.

Red Mountain Pass, one of the highest in Colorado. Known as the "Million Dollar Highway," 550 winds through some of the country's most dramatic alpine scenery. Much of it is through national forest lands, but few people realize that some 60 percent of the scenery visible from the highway over Red Mountain Pass between Ouray and Silverton is privately owned.

Many fear that this world-class landscape will suffer from residential and commercial development at the expense of its valuable historical, ecological and scenic wealth if something is not done to place 10,500 acres, currently for sale, under public ownership as part of the San Juan and Uncompahgre national forests.

Development in such a pristine, fragile place is a real possibility that many are unwilling to accept. Colorado Preservation Inc., a statewide organization comprised of leading historical preservation professionals, lists Red Mountain Pass on its most endangered list of heritage sites. It is also being considered for similar listing by a national historic organization. This concern has grown into a monumental grassroots effort that potentially can set a precedent across the West to save mining claims from development.

Idarado Mining Corporation is the largest property owner interested in turning its properties over to the San Juan and Uncompahgre national forests. Several additional smaller landowners have expressed interest, as well.

CALENDAR

April 25-27, 2000

"Steps Towards Stewardship:
Ponderosa Pine Ecosystems
Restoration and Conservation
Conference"

Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff
This conference on ponderosa pine ecosystems and conservation is part of the first annual Grand Canyon Forests Festival and a week-long celebration including a variety of events.

Call for more information: (520) 523-8063:
<http://www.for.nau.edu/ecorest/conf>

September 18-20, 2000

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

See Page 2 for details

COMMUNITY-PUBLIC LAND STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVES

c/o Office of Community Services
1000 Rim Drive
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