

Utah
Arizona
Colorado
New Mexico

Community-Public Land Stewardship INITIATIVES

Fall 1999

In This Issue

1 Taos Roundtable more than just scratched the surface

2 San Juan National Forest files Notice of Intent to revise its forest plan

Study findings show links in rural community development, National Forest planning and the RCA program

3 The emerging role of community stewardship in preserving Colorado's Anasazi archaeology

4 Today's market prices encourage ecological forest restoration

NAU to host international forest restoration conference

5 Historic preservation efforts
Research consortium forms

6 Study team is finishing sustainable tourism survey Four Corners

Panel of scientists to consider forest restoration strategies

Taos Roundtable more than just scratched the surface

It is late August in northern New Mexico and autumn light has begun its descent. The mountains circling Taos on the north and east reflect a hazy blue. Over 200 people have gathered to discuss their work and the future possibilities of a new approach to forests in the Four Corners of the Southwest. It is

a roundtable of the Four Corners Sustainable Forests Partnership where educators, loggers, scientists, commu-

nity members, political leaders, and managers of public and private lands have come to discover a new way of doing business.

"Building Strategies and Coalitions for Forests and Communities" began August 25 with words of vision and encouragement. The new vision everyone sought was how best to restore the Southwest's forests to more natural conditions. Representative Tom Udall, New Mexico, stressed the importance of pursuing sustainability through collaboration among key interests in forests. He underscored critical connections among the economic, social and ecological dimensions of sustainability.

Jim Furnish, deputy chief of the Forest System of the US Forest Service, talked about people touching the land and being touched by it, caring about the land and each other, and reaching a level of "willful accord" that enables them to move in a new direction.

Much effort had been put into an assessment of forests in the Four Corners region, addressing timber production and how the industry is utilizing it. The assessment found that across the study area in New Mexico, Arizona and Utah (data incomplete in Colorado) 67-78 percent of the mixed conifer, 56-69 percent of the ponderosa pine, and 73-76 percent of the spruce-fir fall in the six-inch and smaller classes—much more than would be expected. The feasibility of new forest-product

... thematic working groups ... will create action plans to be reviewed by the partnership's steering committee.

San Juan National Forest files Notice of Intent to revise its land and resource management forest plan

The San Juan National Forest recently published in the Federal Register a Notice of Intent to revise its land and resource management plan. The 1.8 million acre San Juan has already taken a number of steps towards revising its plan, which it refers to as significant reasons for launching a revision. Along with changes in laws, regulations, and policies as reasons, the NIO also listed new information and values identified by the general public, tribes, monitoring and scientific research, and lessons learned from management about accomplishing desired conditions.

Other information presented in the NOI includes a list of revision topics and news that the forest is considering specific management for some roads, closing some vacant range allotments. The Forest Service plans to complete a Draft Environmental Impact Statement by spring 2001 and a Final EIS by fall 2002.

University of Arkansas study links rural community development with forest planning and the RCA program

Researchers at the Human Environmental Science Department at the University of Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station and the Office of Community Services at Fort Lewis College recently completed a two-year national study of 22 local, community-based development projects showing potential for linking with national forest planning and management. The project was funded by the USDA's National Research Institute.

In the study's final report and a 16-page *Executive Summary*, entitled *Rural Development and Community-Based Forest Planning and Management: A New, Collaborative Paradigm*, researchers Irene Frentz, Sam Burns, Donald Voth, and Charles Sperry outline and discuss contexts of interdependency and polarization in which the Forest Service and communities interact. They suggest solutions and recommend actions, writing that processes of increasing demand from the public, awareness of stewardship of natural resources by knowledgeable people, and growing support for ecosystem management suggest that a new alignment for community, economy, and ecology is not only taking place, but is advisable for shifting "from resource outputs to sustainability, from products to stewardship, and from conflict to partnership."

The researchers direct recommendations for improving relationships and actions between communities and the Forest Service specifically to district rangers, supervisors, the deputy chief, Rural Community Assistance program coordinators and Washington leaders, and to community leaders across the country. Copies of the *Executive Summary* are now available in limited numbers. The summary and the full report are going to the key individuals. The Forest Service recently requested 1,500 more copies for distribution within the Forest Service.

DISCOVERIES DISCOVERIES

Internet helps to build knowledge

The Internet has a plethora of sustainable community development sites. Initiatives readers may find some of the following websites useful.

Center of the American West

The Center of the American West's website (University of Colorado College of Arts and Sciences) is notable for the data it provides on demographic trends in the West. In its *Handbook for New Westerners* the Center discusses "What Should Every Westerner Know?" and "What five things would you like non-Westerners to understand about life in the West?"

www.centerwest.org

Sustainable Business.com

Find in-depth sustainable business in four topic areas: Green Dream Jobs, Sustainable Business Insider, Business Opportunities, & Links Library at:

www.sustainablebusiness.com

Special Forest Products Web Page

Virginia Tech Department of Wood Science and Forest Products, USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station and Top of the Ozarks RC&D are operating the first web site for gathering information about non-timber forest products, management and potential markets.

<http://www.sfp.forprod.vt.edu/>

USDA's Forest Service Eco-Watch

Eco-Watch authors describe their site as "your chance to discuss emerging issues, policy, and law in forest and rangeland ecosystem management."

<http://www.fs.fed.us/eco/eco-watch/ecowatch.html>

COMMUNITY-PUBLIC LANDS STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVES is a periodic newsletter prepared for printing 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 emerging role of community stewardship in preserving Colorado's Anasazi archaeology

A stewardship initiative in southwest Colorado is underway to protect Anasazi archaeology and contemporary uses across 165,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management land designated as an "Area of Critical Environmental Concern" in western Montezuma and Dolores counties. The stewardship question is: How should the unique resources and uses in the ACEC be protected?

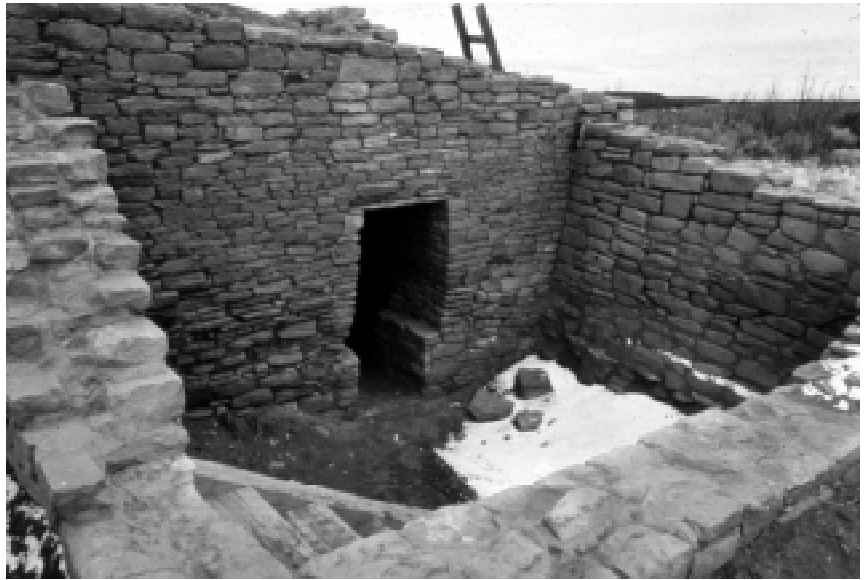
The ACEC's archaeological sites left behind by Ancestral Puebloans, the people who built Mesa Verde National Park's cliff dwellings, differ from the more spectacular cliff dwellings, in that most of the archaeology lies at an "angle of repose" with subtle evidence on the surface, such as rubble mounds, kiva indentations and pottery fragments. This is where the "working people" lived and farmed as compared to Mesa Verde's defensive and ceremonial canyonhead dwellings.

This distinction persists today in that the ACEC contains working grazing permits and oil and gas development, including the largest known CO2 dome in the US. Oil and gas revenues bring over \$6 million in revenues to the federal treasury and provide for 40 percent of Montezuma County's property tax base and 20 percent of Dolores County's. Other people working in the ACEC are archaeologists and the thousands who come each year to field schools, such as Crow Canyon Archaeological Center.

Another distinction is the extent to which this rugged landscape hosts all manner of local and regional recreation.

In spite of sporadic attention in the past two decades, the ACEC receives \$1.25 per acre in the annual budget just like any other piece of BLM land. During a spring 1999 visit, Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt suggested pursuing protection through a Presidential proclamation designating a National Monument under the Antiquities Act. After the creation of the Grande Staircase-Escalante National Monument, everyone knew exactly what he was talking about.

The Colorado Congressional delegation's response was, "Don't do anything without public involvement and without consulting Congress and locally elected officials." The Montezuma County Commission response was: "Don't do anything without working with the local community."



Lowry Ruins, one of the few sites in the ACEC that has been excavated and stabilized for visitation, is characteristic of hundreds of sites in a 165,000 acre area that lie under the surface in "an angle of repose."

Montezuma County had been working collaboratively with the federal agencies since the Montezuma County Federal Lands Program was formed in 1992. With strong support of the Montezuma County Commission, the Anasazi ACEC Working Group, made up of diverse interests, was set up as a subcommittee of the Southwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council (RAC) to gather local input. After six, very intense public meetings attended by over two hundred people, the working group issued a summary report in August 1999 to Secretary Babbitt, which included the following concerns and recommendations:

- While current laws and regulations to protect the ACEC are adequate, funding to the BLM for this purpose is "grossly inadequate."
- No actions should be taken that increase attention and visitation to the ACEC without careful planning and sustained budgetary commitments.
- Archaeological protection, continuation of multiple-use management under BLM jurisdiction and protection of the local economy and tax-base are compatible goals.
- Existing and potential volunteer community stewardship efforts should be central to ACEC planning staffing and budgeting, guided by a RAC or similar advisory structure.
- Vandalism and resource degradation should be identified and stopped, using the full range of federal and local resources.

While the Congressional delegation has stressed the importance of local public involvement and Secretary

See ACEC on page 7

Current market prices encourage forest restoration

Dennis Lynch

The June-July 1999 issue of *CPLP Stewardship Initiatives* discussed the economics of the Ponderosa Pine Forest Partnership at the time of our study. However, markets change with time and that has happened in this case.

Before I discuss that change, I want to emphasize that forest restoration

projects are driven by the need for ecological change in the forest. In southwest Colorado forests,

ecologist Dr. William Romme's research has shown that seven times more trees exist than at the turn of the century and the forest is too homogenous. There should be more diversity and restoration efforts attempt to move the forest towards that goal. Thus, the ecological prescription for the forest controls what we do.

The economic part of the project attempts to pay restoration costs with revenues from harvested small-diameter and excess larger-diameter material.

If we were doing the Ponderosa Pine Forest Partnership project study today, the economic picture would be quite different than it was at the time of the study. The price paid for waferwood has risen as the demand for oriented strand board has improved. The price also improved because our weight scaling information indicated to the manufacturing plant that they were receiving better value for pine than they had first thought. Therefore, they could pay more for small pine material.

I recalculated the profit margin using current market values and found

that a potential profit of more than seven percent would be possible if we were doing the pines project today. This is a substantial improvement that bodes well for continued forest restoration efforts southwest Colorado.

What this means is that under favorable market conditions, the revenue received for small-diameter

"Therefore, managers need to monitor markets carefully and relate valuations and sale offerings to them."

pine material will be equal to, or at times, exceed, the cost of removing it. Any larger diameter material

that is removed as a result of the ecological prescription contributes directly to profit and does not need to subsidize small-material removal costs.

Profit margins nearing 10 percent or more will make restoration projects more attractive to local family businesses doing this work. With profit margins above break even, these small firms could think about investing in equipment that will reduce harvesting costs and/or create new value-added products. The key, however, is a continuous supply of forest restoration material. In my mind, that challenge must be met in order to have a viable forest restoration program in the pine zone.

Again, let me emphasize that markets fluctuate. There will be times when revenues are low and cannot cover costs. There will be break even situations. There will be profitable situations (although those seem to be constrained by the inherent nature of the products removed and the level of technology). Therefore, managers need to monitor markets carefully and relate

NAU to host international forest restoration conference

The Grand Canyon Forests Partnership and the Ecological Restoration Program at Northern Arizona University are sponsoring an international conference on restoration in southwestern forest ecosystems on April 25 - 27, 2000 at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

A call for papers is being sent out and a sponsorship committee is being formed now for the conference entitled:

"Steps Towards Stewardship: A National Conference Joining Ecological Restoration and Conservation Sciences in Ponderosa Pine and Related Ecosystems."

The conference will include plenary sessions of leading scientists in many fields. It will be held in conjunction with Earth Day and Arbor Day celebrations at NAU.

Contact Gina Vance at (520) 523-7187 if you're interested in being a sponsor or in submitting papers.

valuations and sale offerings to them.

I am quite encouraged by the prospect of restoring southwestern Colorado pine forest ecological processes without much input of tax dollars. If a consistent program based on reasonable valuations and market monitoring continues, I believe local businesses will provide the means to accomplish the needed work.

What is really needed in my opinion are further demonstrations that involve landscape-scale restoration. Then both ecological monitoring and economic analysis can assess more accurately what it takes to put these forests back into balance and what benefits flow from restoration.

Dennis Lynch led the cost and benefit study of PFPF restoration demonstration projects from 1996-1998.

Co-op effort plans to preserve a Colorado historic district

A small group of private, public and academic interests have teamed up to develop a plan to preserve historic mining and railroad structures and build educational and interpretive sites near Colorado's Red Mountain Pass. State historical fund grants, amounting to \$97,000, have been secured to stabilize six high-priority structures, prepare historic surveys and a structural assessment at five additional sites in southwest Colorado, and prepare a comprehensive survey and mapping of the entire Red Mountain historical district.

Key partners include Ouray and San Juan County Board of Commissioners and county historical societies.

Uncompahgre and San Juan national forests, the Office of Community Services at Fort Lewis College, the Colorado Historical Society, the Colorado Scenic Byway Commission, and the Trust for Public Land.

The Red Mountain Historic Preservation project is located within an 18-square-mile area in Ouray and San Juan counties, and the Uncompahgre and San Juan national



Structures like this one at Red Mountain Pass between Ouray and Silverton, Colorado are being identified and inventoried in a multi-party effort to preserve not only individual buildings, but the whole heritage area, for education and interpretation.

forests. The San Juan Skyway, an All-American Scenic Byway, winds through the area.

Consortium forms to research community-based collaboratives

Whether or not you support community-based collaboratives as a means of affecting ecosystem health and community stewardship, they are now on the radar screens of many interest groups, communities, and public land managers. So much so, that about 35 representatives of these constituencies and about a dozen researchers met Oct. 7-9 in Tucson to set a research agenda. They call themselves the Consortium for Research and Assessment of Community-Based Collaboratives.

The workshop was sponsored by the Institute for Environmental Negotiation at the University of Virginia and the Udall Center at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Discussion focused on discovering some of the important research questions that need to be answered. For example:

- What are the characteristics of a successful CBC?
- To what extent do CBCs enhance conservation, increase social capital, broaden community participation, and promote social equity?
- What contexts and conditions are needed to allow CBC to work effectively?
- What does an effective system of democratic accountability look like in CBCs?

There was considerable agreement that qualitative, rather

than quantitative, research would be more beneficial. Qualitative research would address the actual on-the-ground work and challenges of CBCs, presenting the ecological, economic, cultural, and institutional challenges confronting ecosystems and communities. Such research would be organized around comparative case studies, guided by local CBC participation. Many CBC representatives felt they needed to receive practical problem-solving assistance in return for allotting the time needed to "be researched."

A steering group was selected to pull together the following items:

- a summary of the ideas for a research agenda;
- a description of the audience;
- potential implementation and funding strategies.

Follow up discussions and meetings are anticipated, but no firm commitments were made concerning times or places. For more information, contact E. Franklin Dukes, Institute for Environmental Negotiation, University of Virginia, 804/924-2041, ed7k@virginia.edu, or Ann Moote, Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, University of Arizona, 520/621-7189, moote@ag.arizona.edu.

Study team is discussing options for sustainable tourism projects in Four Corners

The Office of Community Services at Fort Lewis College and Four Corners Heritage Council are almost finished interviewing community leaders, tourism business owners, and public land agency staff for their views on social, economic, environmental capacity for sustainable tourism, and have begun to analyze the results.

OCS, with the Heritage Council's assistance in Utah and Arizona, has been conducting the Four Corners Tourism Assessment since last June to determine community and public-land capacity for sustainable tourism development, project ideas and opportunities, and how communities, tourism businesses, and public land agencies in the region can work more closely to provide greater tourism benefits to small towns and make tourism truly sustainable in the Four Corners.

Analysis of the resulting data is revealing potential projects for communities, businesses and agencies to coordinate on implementing. OCS is now identifying which ones show the most promise. A final report is being drafted that provides an overview and more detailed descriptions of community situations and needs, and a summary of the trends, challenges and opportunities confronting the region as a whole.

Next steps include meeting with interviewees and other interested people in each of the Four Corners states to review survey results and outline strategies to initiate projects or support on-going projects.

If you are on the mailing list of interviewees and interested individuals you will receive news of when and where researchers will begin to share their findings. If you would like to be on the mailing list, contact OCS at (970) 247-7333, 1000 Rim Drive, Durango, CO 81301, e-mail: manfredi_s@fortlewis.edu, or fax (970) 247-7032.

Panel of leading scientists to consider pine forest restoration strategies next spring

In an effort to begin clarifying critical issues surrounding ponderosa pine forest restoration, the Society for Ecological Restoration has been asked to convene a panel of leading scientists that will represent a broad cross section of the disciplines associated with restoration.

Including conservation biology, forest ecology, wildlife ecology, forestry, landscape ecology and others. Panel members will meet in early spring of 2000 and develop a white paper outlining the key issues, identify criteria for evaluating current experiments in restoration, and prioritizing areas for future research.

If you would like to nominate a scientist with expertise in these fields for this panel, please contact Brett KenCairn at the Grand Canyon Forests Partnership, (520) 774-7488.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Rural Development and Community-Based Forest Planning and Management: A New, Collaborative Paradigm

(1999). Irene Frenzt, Sam Burns, Donald E. Voth, & Charles Sperry. *Executive Summary*. Fayetteville, AR: Human Environmental Sciences, University of Arkansas Experiment Station.

Recently published results and recommendations of a two-year national study, funded by the USDA National Research Institute, of 22 local, community-based development projects showing potential for linking with national forest planning and management.

Forest Fragmentation in the Southern Rocky Mountains

(1999). Richard L. Knight, Frederick W. Smith, Steven W. Buskirk, William H. Romme, & William L. Baker, Editors. Boulder, CO: University of Colorado Press.

This book from noted researchers, educators and authors provides educational information about "how we can manage forests in the decades to come . . . while still using [them] for recreation, solitude, and natural resources."

Community and Ecosystem Stewardship of America's Forests: Linking Community-Based Partnerships to Building Institutional Capacity

(1999). Durango, CO: Office of Community Services, Fort Lewis College.

This brief paper is an overview of lessons learned from a "learning-reflection-action" project based on several community and ecosystem efforts in southwest Colorado. The project was funded by the Ford Foundation to gather best practices from the efforts, share accumulated knowledge, methods, and techniques to support them.

TAOS — Continued from page 1

industries and processing innovations were discussed, and the hopeful conclusion made that “manufacturing is really embracing advanced technologies and sophisticated information systems to get more products from fewer and smaller logs...”

Comments about the assessment focused on the need for more watershed, wildlife and other resource data, along with socio-economic conditions within the region’s communities. Further work on the assessment will be completed around April 2000. Contact Ryan Temple at the Forest Trust (Santa Fe) for more information about the assessment’s status.

During the two-day roundtable, about a dozen breakout groups identified primary needs and barriers for the partnership’s restoration goals. These concerns led to forming thematic working groups that will create action plans to be reviewed by the partnership’s steering committee. Themes being discussed include establishing a protocol for monitoring restoration projects, planning a spring 2000 science symposium, educating the public about the need for forest restoration and changes in forest resources management, improving technical assistance to community-based partnerships, and advancing demonstration projects being initiated by the partnership.

Another large area for future action is being advanced by a Policy Working Group. This 21-member group is developing an action agenda to address administrative barriers to stewardship contracting and to build legislative support for sustainable forests and ecosystems. A major policy being discussed is utilizing “acres treated” instead of timber production volumes as a financial measure by the Forest Service to more appropriately fund ecosystem restoration. Those who see this as a way of reducing timber production may oppose this change. The group will also work on advances in public involvement, locally driven processes and projects, and restoration incentives.

The Taos Roundtable was an opportunity for many voices to be heard. While substantially different perspectives remain about the economic feasibility of restoration, conservation versus restoration, sustainable supply, and administrative commitment, there was a feeling that participants more than just scratched the surface. Restoration projects were being demonstrated, changes in attitudes and technology were occurring, and there was a momentum towards working together.

The Steering Committee of the Four Corners Sustainable Forests Partnership met Nov. 2-3 in Moab, Utah. There is optimism that the partnership will continue to receive federal funding for the coming year to advance its various initiatives. For further information, contact members of the Steering Committee, or Judy Kowalski, New Mexico State Division of Forestry, at 505/827-7474.

This report on the Taos Roundtable was provided by Sam Burns, Director of Research at the Office of Community Services at Fort Lewis College.

ACEC—Continued from page 3

Babbitt told the Working Group that he was impressed with the thoroughness and thoughtfulness of their report, implementation has bogged down in the larger issue of National Monument designation. While the local community and Colorado’s congressional delegation oppose a national monument, Secretary Babbitt indicated that he may request presidential designation to assure future protection.

The Montezuma County Commission responded by proposing an appropriations plan to address needs and avoid contention surrounding monument designation. It includes:

- Core BLM staffing in the ACEC including: a volunteer/recreation coordinator, a ranger/law enforcement position, an archaeologist, and an education/interpretive specialist.
- A resource management plan and NEPA analysis including extensive public involvement and careful analysis of a range of management alternatives and consequences.
- Community stewardship including: a volunteer site-stewardship program, gateway tourism management, local government cooperation and costs and a community advisory group.
- Site preservation activities including: inventories, prioritization of significant and highly visited sites, interpretive signs, stabilization and maintenance.

Efforts to find a workable approach to protecting the Anasazi ACEC have engaged a variety of community stewardship elements:

- Willingness to seek community input prior to formal action was in part a reflection of pre-existing collaborative community-agency relationships.
- Appointment of a diverse local Working Group as a subcommittee of the Southwest RAC drew on collaborative principles and an institution which was created on such principles.

Despite the contentiousness and political sensitivity, local leaders have a local approach, grounded in local input, for addressing needs which respects the prerogatives of the Congressional delegation and the Secretary of Interior. It will be interesting to see how this stewardship initiative plays out.

This overview was provided by Mike Preston who served on the ACEC working group.

CPLP Stewardship Initiatives

reaches 1,000 readers in community development, federal, state and local public-land agencies, academic institutions, the timber and range industries, and community activist organizations three times a year. If you would like to include information about your organization in the Jan-Feb 2000 issue, please contact us by December 15 at the Office of Community Services, Fort Lewis College, 1000 Rim Drive, Durango, CO 81301. (970) 247-7066, fax: (970) 247-7032, e-mail: richard_t@fortlewis.edu.

CALENDAR

November 13-14, 1999

Four Corners Wealth & Sustainability Workshop

Echo Basin Ranch, Mancos, Colorado

Contact: Cindy Divergsten (970/882-4222)

Keynote Speaker, Allan Savory, will speak about his new book *Holistic Management: A New Framework for Decision Making*, which is also the topic of the workshop. Cost of the three-day workshop is \$250.

Nov. 29 - Dec. 2, 1999

Congress on Recreation and Resource Capacity

Snowmass Village at Aspen, Colorado

www.colostate.edu/NRRT/capacity

Susan Scott Lundquist

(970) 491-4865

Nov. 30, 1999

Presentation of New Forest Planning Regulations

6-9 p.m.

Montrose, Colorado

The public is invited to hear a presentation by the national team that developed the regulations.

April 25-27, 2000

"Steps Towards Stewardship: A National Conference Joining Ecological Restoration and Conservation Sciences in Ponderosa Pine and Related Ecosystems"

Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff

Gina Vance, Ecological Restoration Program (520) 523-7187

COMMUNITY-PUBLIC LANDS STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVES is a periodic newsletter providing news, progress updates, and information about issues and initiatives related to communities and ecosystems in the Four Corners region of Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona.

We welcome submissions of news, upcoming events, and essay ideas. Contact:

Tim Richard, Research and Communication Development
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