

PROMOTE  PRESERVE  PROTECT

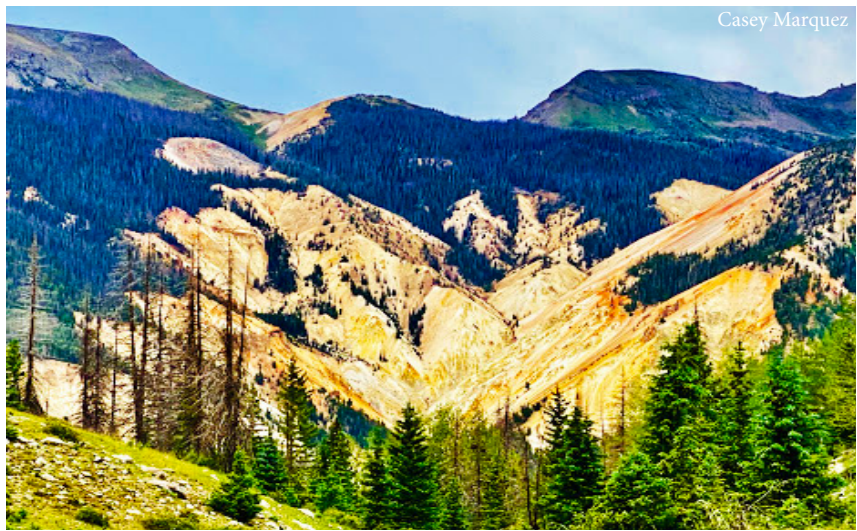
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Sangre de Cristo Heritage Center



SANGRE ♦ DE ♦ CRISTO

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

sangreheritage.org

Mission

The mission of the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area is to promote, preserve, protect, and interpret its profound historical, religious, environmental, geographic, geologic, cultural, and linguistic resources. These efforts will contribute to the overall national story, engender a spirit of pride and self-reliance, and create a legacy in the Colorado counties of Alamosa, Conejos and Costilla.

Vision

Nuestra Voz, Our Voice- The SdCNHA captures the essence of who we are, allowing us to impart our stories and preserve our *heritage* through our collective vision and creativity. Our spiritual, historical and cultural traditions, include reverence for land and water; assemble an extraordinary legacy to impart with current and future generations. Our communities are united in promoting the pristine landscape and the living history of the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area as a sustainable, national and international destination while enhancing the quality of life for our residents.

Introduction

The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (SdCNHA) tells stories of the people, culture, and environment of more than 3,000 square miles of the upper headwaters of the Rio Grande in Colorado's San Luis Valley. It is among the most unique and well-preserved cultural landscapes in the nation, with stunning, beautiful natural resources and a rich mixture of historic and diverse settlements. The three southern counties of the San Luis Valley: Alamosa, Conejos, and Costilla form the core of the heritage area all knit together by the Rio Grande. The Rio Grande's and its intricate network of tributary creeks, lakes, wetlands, artesian springs, and acequias.

National Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated by Congress as places where natural, cultural, and historical resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscapes. President Ronald Reagan supported the concept of National Heritage Areas as a cost-effective way to tell America's story and conserve the nation's natural and historic resources. Former Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar, former Congressman John Salazar, and Senator Michael Bennet played a critical role in establishing Colorado's three National Heritage Areas in 2009. Historic Preservation through the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area has created jobs, stabilized historic districts, assisted in heritage tourism, and contributed to rural economic development plans.

Grants & Signature Projects

10 Grants



4 Grants Completed

13 Signature Projects

Impacts



18 Vignettes

4 Documentaries



\$1,500 Scholarships & Awards

38 Volunteers



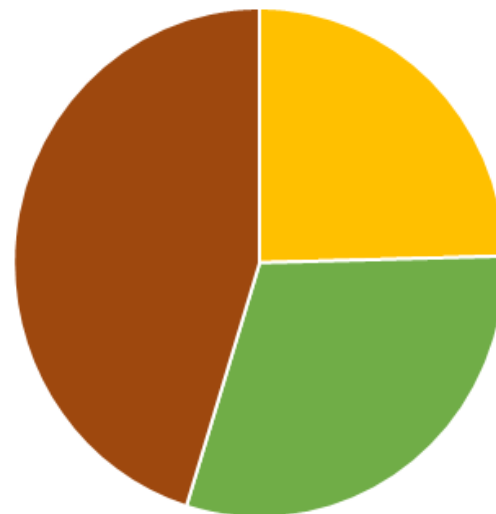
653 Volunteer Hours



45,000 Brochures distributed

By the Numbers

2021



■ Marketing ■ Operations ■ Grants & Projects



\$99.4 Million

Generated in local economy



\$8.7 Million

Generated in taxes



1,418

Jobs Created

Grants & Projects Completed

Saving History



SdCNHA and Discovery Road are proud to share accounts of the contributions made by Japanese communities in the San Luis Valley of Southern Colorado. Using historic images, interviews, and original research they are proud to present the half-hour documentary episode “Saving History”.

Congreso de Acequias



The Congreso de Acequias is a unique event which brings together the acequia (earthen ditches) community each year to celebrate and strengthen Colorado’s oldest farming communities. Acequias are a critical piece of the Heritage Area’s living history, supporting the ancestors of those who settled under the Mexican land grants. The 2021 Congreso gave community members an opportunity to participate in the living history of the Acequia Community. It also provided critical water rights information to irrigators, as well as the opportunity to learn cropping types, estate planning, and the protection of an individual acequia through by-laws.

Rio Grande Natural Area Portal Sign



SdCNHA collaborated with the Salazar Rio Grande Del Norte Center, SLV GO!, and the Bureau of Land Management working together to produce interpretive signage for the Rio Grande Natural Area. This general area is where Don Diego de Vargas, the Spanish Governor of colonial New Mexico, made the earliest documented entrance into present day Colorado in 1694. The Rio Grande Natural Area possesses many other significant histories, vast landscapes, and rich culture.

Caminos del Valle



The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area assisted in supporting, Caminos del Valle, a local youth-lead walking program. The project recruited, trained, and developed a cohort of youth leaders from Alamosa, Costilla, and Conejos County. With these acquired skills, the youth hosted tours that focused on cultural heritage, history, public lands, local traditions and more.

Education

Local Curricula



SdCNHA has partnered with Adams State University and University of Colorado at Boulder to assist local educators in creating curricula in line with Colorado State standards that focus on the local culture, history, and heritage within the SdCNHA.

Scholarships



SdCNHA is proud to provide annual scholarships to students who participate in the District History Fair. Eligible student projects must be based on a theme involving local history, culture, or traditions within SdCNHA.

Fieldtrip Grants



SdCNHA offers fieldtrip grants to encourage excursions that foster the study of land and water; local history, heritage, and culture; archaeology; an understanding of where they're from; and the shared natural and human resources.

Vignettes

 Heritage Area	 Emperius Building	 Eppie Archuleta: Remembering a Woven Treasure Eppie Archuleta	 Espinosa Brothers	 Antonito Depot
 Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center	 Sangre de Cristo Heritage Center	 Jack Dempsey Museum	 Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway	 The Maestas Case Maestas Case
 McIntire Ranch	 Old Spanish Trail	 Platoro	 Sanford Museum	 ST. JOSEPH PARISH CARBUN, CO St. Joseph Parish

Partners

THANK YOU
Thank you to all of our partners, grantees, board members, community groups, and visitors!