

JEREMY ELLIOT



DEANN SALAZAR



JONATHON STALLS



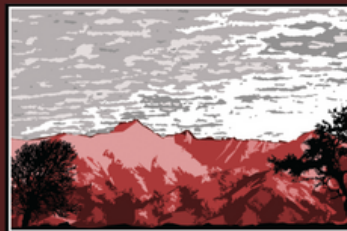
JON QUINTANA



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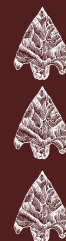
LA GENTE DE LOS SAUCES



SANGRE ♦ DE ♦ CRISTO
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

www.sangreheritage.org

2022 Annual Report



Promote

Preserve

Protect

Mission

The mission of the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area ("SdCNHA") is to promote, preserve, protect, and interpret its profound historic, religious, environmental, geographic, geologic, cultural, and linguistic resources. These efforts will contribute to the overall national story, and engender a spirit of pride and self-reliance 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, historic, and cultural traditions—including a reverence for land and water—assemble an extraordinary legacy to impart on current and future generations. Our communities are united in promoting the pristine landscape and the living history of rural, southern Colorado as a national and international travel destination, while simultaneously enhancing the quality of life for our residents by sharing our stories and traditions with each other.

Introduction

The SdCNHA tells the stories of the people, culture, and environment of more than 3,000 square miles of land in Colorado's San Luis Valley, which encompasses the headwaters of the Rio Grande. 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 Heritage Area, which are united by the Rio Grande and its intricate network of tributaries that have quenched the landscapes, communities, and farms of this dry, alpine Valley for centuries.

By the Numbers



3 Grants Awarded

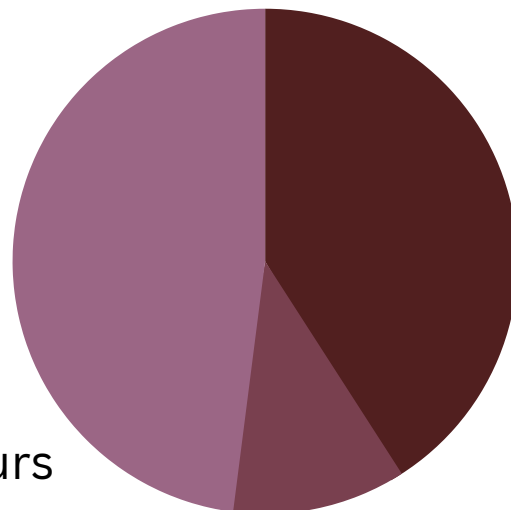


13 Signature Projects



999 Volunteer Hours
Correlates to
\$37,485.53

Operations
48%



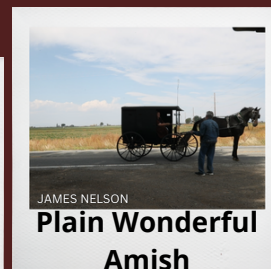
Grants & Projects
40.9%

Marketing & Outreach
11.1%



Documentaries

SdCNHA and Discovery Road are proud to share three brand new settlement documentaries. Using historic images, interviews, and original research they created three half-hour documentary episodes, "Legends and Lore", "Plain Wonderful Amish", and "Dutch Way."



Grants & Projects Completed

MAESTAS BRONZE STATUE



KATIE DOKSON



JULIE CHACON

Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area provided funds toward interpretation and education of the Maestas Desegregation Case. A traveling exhibit was housed at the State Capitol in Denver. The life size Maestas Bronze Statue is permanently housed at the Alamosa County Justice Center.

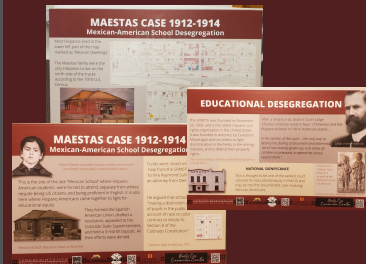
2022 CONGRESO DE ACEQUIAS



JOEL NYSTROM

Congreso de Acequias is a unique event which brings together the acequia 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 Congreso de Acequias was held on May 21, 2022, and approximately 100 community members attended the event. Participants heard from a variety of speakers.

MAESTAS CASE INTERPRETIVE SIGNS



SdCNHA worked with the Maestas Commemoration Committee to develop signs to bring awareness to the 1914 Francisco Maestas et al. vs George H. Shone et al Educational Desegregation case. This case is one of the country's first successful legal battles against discrimination in schools.

UPPER CULEBRA WATERSHED ASSESSMENT



The Upper Culebra Watershed Assessment is a comprehensive stakeholder process that will assess the ecologic condition of the Upper Culebra Watershed. The goal of the highly leveraged project will be to identify the extent of ecologic damage and create a project list that will ensure the safety of the Hispano citizens, their historic infrastructure, and the rich history of the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant.

LOS CAMINOS ANTIGUOS SIGN REHABILITATION



Alcon Construction Inc. worked to rehabilitate the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area's interpretive signs along the Los Caminos Scenic and Historic Byway. They proceeded to remove the existing wood posts and frames, replace them with all new lumber to match the existing wooden frames, stain the new wood, clean and repaint the metal interior frames, and lastly install new posts in concrete.

CONEJOS RIVER PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

The purpose of the project is to meet aquatic habitat and agricultural needs on the Conejos River through the enhancement of these aquatic habitat, restoration of riparian and wetland habitats, and replacement of aging irrigation infrastructure. Project outcomes include improved aquatic habitat complexity and connectivity, reestablishment of native riparian vegetation, reconnected floodplains, increased alluvial aquifer storage, enhanced natural sediment transport regimes, improved function and efficiency of agricultural diversion structures. As a result, the Conejos River will be better able to meet the needs of the diverse human, agricultural, and ecological communities that depend on it.



ROOF & PORCH STABILIZATION OF THE WARSHAUER MANSION

This project was to complete roof stabilization by installing flashing at the chimneys, replacing damaged and missing roofing tiles, installing new gutters and downspouts where they are damaged, and painting the historic fascia, soffits, and rafter tails their original color. Other work to be completed includes rehabilitating the two porches on the east elevation by stabilizing the foundation, repointing the masonry, stabilizing the concrete



KATE MCCOY

FOX CREEK CONSERVATION EASEMENT

RIGHT worked with the owners of the beautiful 790-acre Fox Creek Ranch in Conejos County to protect it with a permanent conservation easement. This unique property was homesteaded by the Ruybal Family over 57 years ago and is held by this same family today. All due diligence has been completed and approved by NRCS along with the closing of the conservation easement on August 4, 2022. Upon closing, 821.33 acres of habitat will be protected along the upper reaches of Fox Creek in Conejos County.



KEEP IT COLORADO

RIO GRANDE FARM PARK AGRICULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND CULTURAL EDUCATION



The San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition ("LFC") received an SdCNHA Heritage Grant to add a variety of culturally and historically significant elements to the Rio Grande Farm Park's ("RGFP") new education center. These elements will include an horno, which is an outdoor cooking stove traditionally used by the indigenous people of the region, Spanish settlers, and Anglo settlers. Traditional landscaping will also be added, including an adobe wall such as those constructed by Indigenous peoples and Spanish settlers.

Youth Programs

HISTORY FAIR SCHOLARSHIPS



The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area presented one student with a History Fair Scholarship. Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area provides annual scholarships to students who participate and compete in the Regional History Fair, with projects based on the year's theme.

YOUTH LED WALKING TOURS



DANIELLA VANDERHORCK

In 2022 Caminos del Valle-Youth Walking Tours had acquired four local students from across the San Luis Valley ages 15-18. The students chose areas/topics around the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area that they wanted to lead their tour on. While preparing to give their tours, the kids completed training for public speaking, CPR, and self-defense. With research and trainings completed the students ran three tours around the heritage area.

YOUTH HERITAGE CAMP



DANIELLA VANDERHORCK

Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area's Heritage Camp was held the summer of 2022 during the week of June 6th - June 9th. This camp includes tours in Alamosa, Costilla, and Conejos County, and on the final day they participated in a Scavenger Hunt while traveling the Los Caminos Scenic and Historic Byway.

FIELDTRIP GRANTS



AUBREY TAMIETTI

Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area 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.

Southwest Conservation Corps Youth Crews based in Costilla, Conejos, and Alamosa counties completed 10 fieldtrips along with the Sangre de Cristo Heritage Area driving tour during their summer programming. 32 youth total from the 3 counties in addition to 9 supporting staff visited the Baca, Rio Grande Farm Park, SLV Museum, Fort Garland Museum, and Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve.

Events

2022 ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA FALL CONFERENCE



JULIE CHACON

The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area hosted the Alliance of National Heritage Area's Fall Conference where attendees were exposed to the unique blend of Native American, Hispano and Anglo settlements that are reflected in the diversity of the people, art and traditions. The area's fertile cultural landscape is complemented by remarkable natural resources, including the mighty Rio Grande, majestic Rocky Mountain peaks, Great Sand Dunes National Park, National Wildlife Refuges, and the high mountain desert, all of which lend the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area an unparalleled beauty that offered a sense of retreat and a powerful source of inspiration for the visitors.

ANNUAL CINCO DE MAYO BLOCK PARTY



JULIE NUANES GOMEZ



JULIE NUANES GOMEZ

The block of San Juan Avenue and Main Street in Alamosa was abundant with individuals, colorful decorations, lively music, and cultural dancing on May 6, 2022 for the 4th Annual Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area Cinco de Mayo Block Party. An estimated 1,500 in attendance throughout the evening!

Partners

Thank you!

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

Follow us on social media!



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