

New Mexico FFLA Chapter Report

2017

January 12, 2018

Membership: 12 (loss of 1 from 2017)

Carry forward: \$462.61

2017:

The Forest Service Region 3 cabin rental program called "Rooms with a View," first established in Arizona has now set up a board in New Mexico and is moving forward in the process to make numerous rentals available. I don't have a full list, but there are approximately 10 in the process just on the Lincoln National Forest. I have also talked up the "Artists in Residence" program that I learned about during the 2017 Western Conference. There is great interest on the Lincoln because the Smokey Bear Ranger District is administered out of Ruidoso, NM which is a resort town and art colony.

The process has moved forward for the restoration of the Santa Fe National Forest's Glorieta Baldy Lookout. I asked Bill Zunkel, President of Friends of the Santa Fe National Forest (FSFNF) to give me an status update on the project and the following is his fine response:

Hi Mark,

I'm writing the summary of the activities of the Friends of the Santa Fe National Forest with reference to our first project, renovation to [the] 1999 standard which was the time of last usage as a fire lookout. FSFNF was incorporated as a new Friends organization March 14, 2013. We received our 501 c 3 tax status February 24, 2015. At that time the staff at Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF) agreed that the first project should be the renovation of the Glorieta Baldy Lookout. We received a grant from McCune Charitable Foundation to have a safety and stability survey of the tower performed by a Forest Service engineer, and we received an additional grant from REI to install up to date lightning protection.

While waiting to perform the work, we have had three high school volunteers groups do trail maintenance on the trail from the west side of the tower. Incidentally, we have three teenagers on our board as Advisory Board members from the ATC Charter High School, Santa Fe High School and Highlands University. It is from these schools that we have gotten trails work volunteers and they receive credit for community service from their schools.

We believe that all construction will occur in 2018 and have lodged work requests with SFNF so that we can put the intended work out to bid.

That's basically where we are. We have great support from SFNF staff and management throughout our experience. The tower pictures were taken by drone photography by TV station KRQE; the student's pictured are of the ATC school group volunteers taken October 1, 2016.

Best regards, Bill Zunkel, President FSFNF





There has also been talk of doing restoration on the Gila National Forest's Black Mesa Lookout.

Attended the FFLA Western Conference on the Lassen National Forest. This was a great event on a beautiful forest, and National Park lands. The hike up to Mt. Harkness was awesome.

Goals for 2018:

I will be designing patches for all the lookouts on the Lincoln National Forest starting with Monjeau. I hope to have this first patch on the market during the first quarter. Hopefully this will start bring in revenue to the New Mexico Chapter, and spread the word on the FFLA.

Keith Argow mentioned a "Lookout Tour Driving Guide" during the Western Conference. I plan on putting one together for the Lincoln National Forest.

Continue to assist with New Mexico lookout restorations by providing information to project leaders as needed.

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