



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Dirt



Official Volunteer & Partner Newsletter of the Santa Fe National Forest

Winter 2021 | Issue 1

Welcome to our brand new newsletter!

Your source for volunteer and partner news, events, ways to get involved, and resources on the forest.

In this issue...

- 2021 Season Wrapped
- Volunteer and Partner Highlights
- Gearing up for 2022



The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

THANK YOU

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS & PARTNERS!

Thanks to your efforts, the 2021 season was a great success! You went out on the forest, got your feet (and hooves) dirty, and helped us:

- improve trails
- manage campgrounds
- rebuild fences and bridges
- revive riparian habitats
- monitor Wilderness areas
- manage natural resources
- educate the public
- monitor heritage sites
- survey vegetation
- remove trash

556 individuals contributed 31,455 hours of service in 2021



We couldn't have done it without you!



A TOAST TO TRAIL WORK

This year, volunteers and partners helped us maintain 230 miles of trail across the forest. Work included clearing and brushing trails, reestablishing tread, widening trail corridors, installing drainage structures, and more. Here are some 2021 highlights.



(above) New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors put their crosscut saws to good use this season in the wilderness.



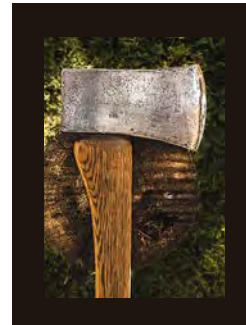
Volunteers and crews repaired and installed stream crossings and signs throughout the forest.



(left) Backcountry Horsemen packed in supplies for many projects and hit the trail to clear downfall and brush.



(left) Scout troops helped with projects across the forest and some even chose to complete their Eagle Scout projects in the wilderness.



Here's to You...

...the toilet cleaners, the trash baggers,
the reservation takers, the smile givers...



...you are stars.

**Santa Fe National Forest
Campground Hosts**

RESTORING THE CANYON ONE WILLOW AT A TIME



In late October, a group of 11 volunteers with New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors convened at the Dalton Canyon Recreation Site to plant native willows and spread native seeds on disturbed areas. The work was part of the Dalton Canyon Restoration Project, which aims to restore this riparian area that has been damaged by post-fire flooding and concentrated recreation.

In six hours, the group planted 300 new willow sticks and reseeded an area of 16,000 square feet where the ground had undergone heavy erosion. Part of this work included rehabilitating an old camping area and a two-track road. The effort was supervised by Keystone Contracting and this project is made possible by the efforts of the Upper Pecos Watershed Association. Thanks for your dedication to restoring the forest's riparian areas!



Goals of the Dalton Canyon Restoration Project

- Improve water quality in the creek
- Protect the road from erosion
- Improve riparian habitat
- Restore hydrological function
- Improve fish habitat
- Minimize potential damage from fire



CONGRATULATIONS

TO NEW MEXICO WILD

Winners of the 2021 Bob
Marshall Award for
Group Champion of
Wilderness Stewardship



New Mexico Wild was presented with the 2021 award at the National Wilderness Stewardship Workshop for having “demonstrated dedication and active involvement in wilderness stewardship” as a partner of the Santa Fe National Forest. Thanks for your commitment and service!

Did your organization receive an honor or award?

Let us know so we can send congratulations in our next newsletter!



Future Managers in Action: Youth Conservation Corps



This year, the Coyote and Las Vegas Ranger Districts received project help from local youth crews in their range, watershed, and forestry programs. The crews completed projects including fixing range infrastructure, treating noxious weeds, marking timber, and assisting with heritage programming. The Coyote crew also installed interpretive signage within the Rio Chama Wild and Scenic River corridor and along the Continental Divide Trail.

The Santa Fe National Forest recognizes the importance of the contributions these young adults make to their public lands and all that they learn along the way. These individuals represent a strong and positive outlook for future managers of the lands we proudly serve today.





Are You Ready for Next Season?

Be thinking of what types of projects you would like to be involved with next year.

Have a project idea or proposal?
Let us know! We love hearing your ideas.

Get in touch early about projects...
we may need updated paperwork.

For more opportunities check out



and use search keyword "Santa Fe National Forest"



Your Santa Fe National Forest Volunteer Coordinators



Here to ensure you're equipped with everything you need for fun and successful projects on the forest.



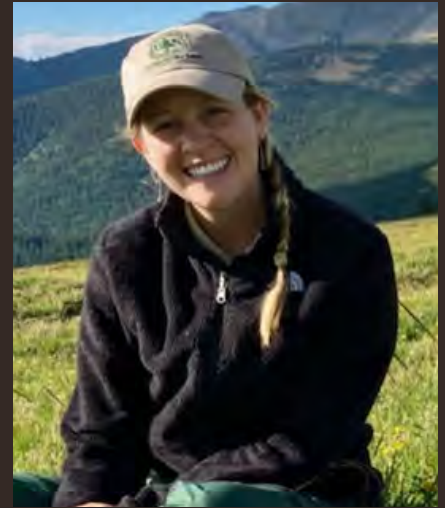
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Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have questions.



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SAVE THE DATE

Annual Wilderness Volunteers Planning Meeting

Friday March 11th, 2022 4-7pm

Virtual meeting link to follow



Happy Holidays



We look forward to seeing you in the New Year and gearing up for another season of great volunteer work and partner projects.

Keep an eye out for more information about a Spring 2022 volunteer celebration on the forest.

We wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season filled with good health, happiness, and adventure!

-Your friends at the Santa Fe National Forest