



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# The Dirt



**Official Volunteer & Partner Newsletter of the Santa Fe National Forest**  
Spring 2022 | Issue 2

## Welcome to our newsletter!

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

## In this issue...

- Pre-season Information
- Upcoming Opportunities
- Breaking Ground on New Trails
- NEW Trail Basics Training
- Volunteer Coordinator Changes



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

# RECRUITMENT CORNER

Upcoming Opportunities for Volunteer Work



## **Wilderness Rangers Needed**

Española and Coyote Districts are seeking volunteer Wilderness Rangers. Contact Lynn Bjorklund ([lynn.bjorklund@usda.gov](mailto:lynn.bjorklund@usda.gov)) for more information.

## **May 7: Trail Work Basics Training**

See page 6 for more info about our new training for trail volunteers.

## **June 4: National Trails Day**

Volunteer for a project on Borrego-Bear Wallow Trail. For more information click here:

<https://nmvfo.org/projects/borrego-bear-wallow-santa-fe-nf/>

Keep an eye on our social media pages for other upcoming National Trails Day events!

## **Summer Season Camp Hosts Needed**

Visit [Volunteer.gov](http://Volunteer.gov) and search "Santa Fe National Forest" for openings or click here:

<https://www.volunteer.gov/s/global-search/santa%20fe%20national%20forest>

## **Organize a Clean-Up on the Forest**

We could always use more help with trash pickup around the forest! If interested please contact a Volunteer Coordinator. We may be able to provide trash grabbers, trash bags, and safety vests!



# Breaking Ground: Arroyo Hondo Trail System

*Building the Santa Fe biking community one trail at a time.*

The Santa Fe National Forest's newest trails are under construction thanks to a partnership between the Forest and Santa Fe Fat Tire Society (SFFTS). The new Arroyo Hondo trail system includes the first and only mountain bike-specific downhill trails in the Santa Fe National Forest. The first phase of the project will incorporate 7.6 miles of trails (5 miles of which are multi-use trails that are open to hikers, runners, equestrians, and mountain bikers) into the system. In fall 2021, after nearly two years of collaboration between SFFTS and Forest Service staff, the Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District issued a decision memo allowing SFFTS to begin a project to construct 4.4 miles of new trail, adopt 0.4 miles of existing trail, and convert 2.8 miles of Forest Service roads into the new official trail network. SFFTS volunteers completed construction of 2 miles of trail in the fall and will continue working on the trail system this Spring.

Founded in 2010, SFFTS was created to help unite the growing mountain bike community. Their mission is to promote, advocate, educate, and enjoy what mountain biking has to offer. From August through October 2021, SFFTS organized workdays during which 65 different individuals volunteered 600 hours on the Arroyo Hondo trails project. Another 155 hours were put in on other projects on the Santa Fe National Forest, including SFFTS sawyer crews clearing 80 downed trees from various Santa Fe area trails. (Continued on next page.)



## Breaking Ground: Arroyo Hondo Trail System (continued)

SFFTS is looking forward to continuing to collaborate with the Forest and volunteers to maintain existing trails and build new trails. Some of their 2022 projects will include:

- Finishing Phase 1 of the Arroyo Hondo trail building and starting planning for trail rehab in Apache Canyon and Glorieta Baldy.
- Clearing and re-opening the Rio Nambé trail and conducting maintenance on the Borrego connector and Rio Capulin triangle.
- Helping with flood prevention, clearing, and restoration of Rio en Medio trail and the trail's re-opening for public use.
- Continuing trail development at Glorieta Camps.
- Catching up on deferred maintenance on the 40 miles of trail at Galisteo Basin Preserve.

Anyone interested in signing up for the SFFTS mailing list to stay informed about trail work volunteer opportunities can provide contact information to SFFTS by clicking here:

<https://forms.gle/qpcYst6pRm4nrqWV6>.

Visit the SFFTS website by clicking here: <https://santafefattiresociety.org/>





# Volunteer Agreement Reminders

All volunteers must have a current group or individual agreement on file.

## *Agreement Checklist:*

- My organization or I have filled out an updated 2022 agreement.
- The agreement was submitted BEFORE any project work began.
- After the project, I reported hours + work accomplished and returned sign-in sheets.



Make sure you read the Risk Assessment document(s) associated with your project work and go over it with all volunteers involved.



Please notify your Volunteer Coordinator as soon as possible if any incidents occur on your project and be ready to provide details and contact information for those affected.

# Join us for the 2022 Santa Fe National Forest **TRAIL WORK BASICS TRAINING**

In partnership with Hyde Memorial State Park, New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors, Santa Fe Fat Tire Society, and the Santa Fe NF Termites



**Saturday, May 7, 9am-4pm**  
**Hyde Memorial State Park Visitor Center**

Open to anyone interested in volunteering to improve local trails.

Training will consist of a classroom learning portion paired with on-the-ground physical work to put your knowledge to use.



## **Learn about trail work basics including:**

- sustainable trail design
- how to use common trail tools safely
- putting your skills to use as a volunteer

*Lunch provided!*

Sign up online at  
<https://forms.gle/cbAXAtcBukjwfkGQ6>  
or call 505-469-8681 or email [sarah.smith3@usda.gov](mailto:sarah.smith3@usda.gov)  
*space limited; sign up today to secure your spot!*

## NEW ORGANIZATION ALERT!

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# BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN HERMIT'S PEAK CHAPTER



### *As a member of this chapter you can:*

- Attend meetings to hear from speakers on topics of current interest to horsemen.
- Receive the National Back Country Horsemen of America newsletter.
- Inform the chapter of issues of concern and be informed of issues that have been brought to BCHNM's attention for consideration and/or action.
- Be involved in service projects on the east side of the Pecos Wilderness that will improve areas used by backcountry riders and assist agencies in managing public lands.
- Participate in educating public land users in low-impact methods to preserve wilderness areas.
- Work to maintain heritage of pack and saddle stock use of public lands.
- Participate in scheduled work projects and recreational activities.

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If you're interested in joining, please contact  
[bchnmhermitpeak@gmail.com](mailto:bchnmhermitpeak@gmail.com)

# Volunteer Coordinator Updates



## JEMEZ DISTRICT

### New Volunteer Coordinator!

**Liam Covey-Shannon**  
[liam.covey-shannon@usda.gov](mailto:liam.covey-shannon@usda.gov)  
575-829-3535

## HAPPY TRAILS, DAWN!

**Our Coyote District Coordinator, Dawnylee Smith, has accepted a position on the Kaibab National Forest at the Grand Canyon. We will miss her and wish her luck! Stay tuned for an update on her replacement but for now any questions can be directed to:**  
**Lynn Bjorklund**  
[lynn.bjorklund@usda.gov](mailto:lynn.bjorklund@usda.gov)



### TEMPORARY CHANGE:

**Jennifer Sublett will be helping out on the Carson National Forest March-June. Questions for the Española district can be directed to Lynn Bjorklund ([lynn.bjorklund@usda.gov](mailto:lynn.bjorklund@usda.gov)) during this time.**





Send us your project photos to be featured in the Summer Issue!



Disclaimer: by sending photos to Volunteer Coordinators you are giving the Santa Fe National Forest permission to reuse and publish these photos to our newsletter and website.

# HERE'S TO THE 2022 SEASON



GO FORTH AND DO GREAT WORK!