



FRIENDS OF BANDELIER

ANNUAL REPORT ■ 1993

For the sixth year the Friends of Bandelier completed a successful season. Superintendent Weaver tells us that many projects would not be done at all without our help. For others, years could pass before the project is funded under the park's squeezed budget. With our goods and grants of funds, we demonstrate support and commitment for the park. As a Friend of Bandelier, you have helped to make a difference.

Special Nightwalks

Our hard-working Santa Fe board members successfully coordinated the third season of Special Nightwalks. Visitors from around the country are enchanted by the walk amidst the ruins in the silent canyon. We get nice notes and donations from visitors who enjoyed the event. Ranger Chris Judson tells of a Florida couple who left home on an early morning flight and ended their day in Frijoles Canyon. "It was worth it," they said.

A nightwalk is held at Bandelier weekly during the summer season at no charge (reservations required). The Friends of Bandelier Special Nightwalk is a package tour providing transportation, supper, and special presentations by the rangers (reservations also required). Arrangements and coordination for the Special Nightwalks are the work of our Santa Fe people, especially Gloria Sawtell, Jack and Joan Konopak, Sherry Bishop, as well as rangers Chris Judson and Andrea Sharon. We are delighted to report that they have agreed to offer the event again for the summer of 1994. They now accept charge cards and offer gift certificates.

Farewell

Once again we are delighted with the good fortune of friends, but sad to see them leave. Fred and

Jerri French, concessionaires at the gift shop and snack bar at Bandelier, will leave in the spring for Mesa Verde, where they will manage a much larger concession at the campground there. Since the beginning of our Special Nightwalks, the Frenches provided the chuck wagon suppers, *Fred's Fabulous Feast*, that help make the Nightwalks even more special. All the Friends join in wishing them success and satisfaction in their new venture.

Annual Meeting— Fire Management

The purpose of our annual meeting is to hear from the rangers the triumphs, trials, plans, and aspirations for Bandelier. For the meeting Superintendent Weaver prepares his State of the Park report that we include in our annual report. Theme of the 1993 annual meeting was the function of fire in the Bandelier wilderness. We are all familiar with the horrible devastation that fires cause each year in the U.S., but a "good" fire at the proper time and place is nature's best means of house cleaning. Ranger John Lissoway recounted the history of fire management and the present use of fire as a tool to keep the forests and woodlands healthy. For almost 80 years fires were suppressed at Bandelier, causing excessive build-up of leaf litter and fallen tree branches (fuel load). High fuel loads feed devastating fires like the 1977 La Mesa Fire that burned much of Bandelier's ponderosa forest.

John discussed Bandelier's current fire management plan. It allows some natural fires to burn and permits others to be deliberately set when conditions of temperature, humidity, wind speed, and direction are favorable. The first objective is to prevent wilderness wildfires from endangering inhabited areas by reducing fuel loads near the

edges of the wilderness. The next goal is to reduce fuel loads within the wilderness to levels that are best for forest health and prevent intense fires that kill all vegetation. John's crews try to minimize the effects of smoke blowing into populated areas. (We in the Los Alamos-Santa Fe area saw lots of smoke rising from Bandelier in 1993.) John stresses that a big part of his job is still prevention of unplanned, human-caused fires.

Ecologist Craig Allen discussed fire management as it relates to ecology. He stressed the use of fires as a tool to clear ground areas to allow the growth of grasses and other small plants. Their extensive root systems stabilize soil and prevent erosion. Brian Jacobs gave a brief talk on his application for a challenge grant to the National Park Service to conduct studies on restoring pinyon-juniper woodland to optimal conditions. The Friends of Bandelier have pledged matching funds if Brian receives the award. Competition is ferocious for these Challenge Grants; we all have our fingers crossed.

1994 Projects Completed

\$2500—Access Ramp

Under the direction of Steve Gastellum, Bandelier's building and maintenance crews installed the access ramp from the parking lot to the gift shop patio. Money for materials was donated by the Friends. This project took over two years to complete because of permits required by the state, but at last it is finished. The ramp provides access to people in wheelchairs, but is also great for baby strollers and people with sore knees. The rangers are proud of the results and invite us all down to see the new ramp.

\$2000—The Pajarito Plateau: A Bibliography

STATE OF THE PARK REPORT
BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT

Fiscal Year 1993 was another busy year for Bandelier National Monument. Our Annual Operating budget, \$1,451,000, was an increase of \$48,400 over Fiscal Year 1992. Out of this small increase we absorbed 1/2 of the 3.7% across the board salary increase and other general operating increases which resulted in the equivalent of a small loss of purchasing power. We received a total of \$25,000 in the park's Donations Account. Because of these donations we were able to fund four Student Conservation Association (SCA) positions and purchase various supplies and materials and equipment for the Resources Management and Interpretive Sections. Our total peak workforce in FY93 consisted of 36 permanent and 20 seasonal positions. We had to leave 7 permanent positions vacant for budgetary reasons. We were fortunate to get, at no cost to us, twelve JTPA students to work for us. JTPA is the Jobs Training and Partnership Act and provides federal funding, through states and Indian Tribes to provide work experience for high school students. They assisted all park sections.

While we have not received official word yet, it appears fairly certain that we will receive a modest operating increase which will actually provide us some badly needed breathing room.

Through full park staff involvement, we develop the park Mission and Vision statements and 10 goals to address the Mission and Vision. We are still developing the goal tasks which will help us fulfill our Mission and Vision. Our Mission, as we see it is: PROVIDE THE MEANS FOR STAFF AND THE PUBLIC TO PRESERVE, PROTECT, UNDERSTAND AND ENJOY THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF BANDELIER NM THROUGH AN INTEGRATED PROGRAM WHERE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES SUPPORT NATURALLY FUNCTIONING ECOSYSTEMS CONSISTENT WITH CULTURAL RESOURCE PRESERVATION NEEDS.

Our Vision: AN EXEMPLARY, INTEGRATED PROGRAM OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, FOCUSING ON BOTH CURRENT AND LONG-TERM NEEDS, ACHIEVED IN AN INNOVATIVE, SENSITIVE AND BALANCED MANNER BY AN EMPOWERED PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE DEDICATED TO QUALITY SERVICES, PRODUCTS AND INFORMATION.

The park completed a draft 300+ page Resource Management Plan. This Plan describes, documents, and prioritizes resource management issues, problems, and actions needed to protect cultural and natural park resources. The RMP summarizes the purpose and values of the park and provides the basis for making budget requests and for measuring accomplishments against specific, goals and commitments.

We finally received all needed hardware to run an in-house computerized Geographic Information System. Kay Beeley and Craig Allen have attend GIS training thanks to you. Several new maps were digitized in the GIS, including a map of historic fire occurrences (1931-1991) and all known locations of Jemez Mts. salamanders and wood lilies in the Jemez Mts.

One potential source of contamination of Frijoles Creek has been eliminated by reducing the size of the horse corral and removing it from a side drainage. Restoration of the old corral area is in progress and will

continue for the next couple of years. Bandelier has been included as a site in the USGS National Water Quality Assessment Program. This three year intensive assessment of the water quality in Frijoles Creek at Headquarters will provide the park with an high quality baseline of information against which to measure future changes.

One and one-half miles of the three mile long Burnt Mesa Road were reclaimed last fall; about two-thirds of the work area responded very well and exhibits good vegetative cover. The remaining third will receive additional treatment this fall. We set up an experimental watershed plot in cooperation with LANL and the Univ. of Colorado to document and improve our understanding of climate, runoff, erosion, and vegetation interactions in local PJ woodlands. In addition, we have established a Cooperative ecological research project with UNM to assess the ecological effects of the La Mesa Fire in the ponderosa pine zones. We are also continuing the rate of erosion and revegetation research project with the goal of re-establishing native vegetation to control erosion in PJ woodlands.

Craig Allen coordinated a comprehensive interagency report on biological issues related to the management of Cochiti Reservoir. The document summarizes all available biological information and recommends improvements to operations.

A variety of La Mesa Fire projects are continuing or were completed. The results of all of these studies, plus a couple others, will be presented at the Second La Mesa Fire Symposium which will be held at the LANL library meeting room March 29-31, 1994. The Friends are invited to attend the Symposium.

Park wildfires broke all previous records for occurrence, with a total of 25 in-park fires. Two prescribed burns were conducted in the park; in May, 95 acres were treated near Lummis Canyon along the Mid-Alamo Trail. In October, 291 acres were burned in the same area. Both prescribed burns were in the ponderosa-PJ transition forest type. The May burn escaped into the area planned for burning on October (we got a little headstart!).

A climate controlled museum collections storage facility was erected. We will store organic materials in the new facility after it is secure. We received regional year-end monies to purchase a security system and hope to have the building secured this fall. With your financial assistance we acquired a freezer for storage of delicate artifacts.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) requires all Federal entities (except the Smithsonian) to submit a summary list of all objects to Native American tribal groups by November 15, 1993. To comply with NAGRPA, the park has established a consultation committee of Native American tribal groups and NPS staff. This committee is responsible for identifying the park's sensitive (NAGPRA) materials. We have spent the past year researching and documenting all potential human remains, associated and unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects and object of cultural patrimony, held at the park. We have also been consulting with other agencies and institutions throughout the United States that hold or potentially hold Bandelier collections.

The archeological survey along Highway 4 and Burnt Mesa is now almost completed. Volunteer Steve Bracker took charge of the project and is responsible for its success. He recruited several volunteers who have provided invaluable assistance. All of the land inside the survey boundaries has been transected, and all of the sites and isolated occurrences found have been located on the topo maps using the GPS (Global Positioning System) that you donated to us in 1992. 474 acres were transected, 61 sites were located and recorded. Over twenty people have participated in the 1993 survey. We now have a core group of serious volunteers who are able to make real contributions to site finding and recording. The logistical requirements this year were minimal because we could hike each day to the survey area. However, equipment provided by you (the Friends of Bandelier) this year and in previous years was indispensable to the project. We now rely totally on our GPS receivers for locating site positions, and we are using packs, pinflags, etc. provided by the you this year.

The Visitor Center has a new roof. The Regional Preservation Crew removed the old foam roof, which was leaking and infested with ant and packrat nests and installed a new built-up roof. The Picnic Shelter at Ponderosa was completed this year and is ready for use. It is completely handicapped accessible, with picnic tables and grills, a water fountain and a hard packed path. In addition, the comfort station at Juniper Campground was rehabilitated to accommodate our handicapped visitors. The wheelchair ramp for the gift shop has been constructed. Two new sewage lagoons cells were constructed this fall to accommodate the increased sewage being generated in the canyon facilities. The existing lagoons were inadequate because of increased visitation and staff size and had experienced minor spills last winter. None of the spills left the site.

Our tight FY '93 budget impacted the Protection Section and led to additional employee layoffs and two permanent positions being lapsed into 1993. One SCA position performed backcountry patrols, the first dedicated backcountry "ranger" position since 1989. Fees collected for 1993 increased, with a total of about \$415,000. Of that, the entrance station collections totalled over \$385,000, up over last year. In general, emergency operation incidents were fewer in number to date. There were only 13 EMS-only cases that were reported within the park, with no fatalities, to date. Seven search and rescue missions were recorded, most involving minor injuries.

Like other operations, the Interpretation Section too was hard hit again by a lack of funding and staff. Two permanent positions out of five remain vacant and the operation continues to depend heavily on volunteers to keep the Visitor Center open. Visitation at the Visitor Center during FY 1993 showed an overall decrease of 1%. We feel that the decrease in visits was caused by the Hantavirus scare rather than a decrease in popularity. October 1993 figures are up 27% so we seem to be back in our increased visitation trend. Despite our small Interpretive staff and because of their dedication, we were able to continue basic visitor services. We managed to provide 157 formal interpretive programs to 4,821 people. Volunteers conducted 52 of these programs. 812 roving patrols were made with 13,330 contacts. Volunteers made 68% of these patrols.

Volunteers continue to provide valuable assistance to all park operations. In fiscal 1993, 97 Volunteers contributed 16,289 hours to Bandelier. They are keeping our doors open. The Friends of Bandelier again served as the fiscal agent for the 1993 Cultural Awareness Program. This was the third and final year for our grant with the New Mexico Arts Division. Ten days of demonstrations were scheduled for visiting school groups and 28 days were scheduled during the Memorial Day through Labor Day visitor season. We hope to continue the program next summer with funding from the Friends and Southwest Parks and Monuments Association. The heritage/Outreach program started late again this year because of funding delays. We were still able to present 168 programs to 39 schools making contacts with 9,455 students. We continued our day camp program with three day camps conducted in the park. 45 children participated and 80 family members attended on family day.

This was another tight year. With your help, and the help of our 97 volunteers and other donations, we were able to continue essential visitor services, strive to protect and preserve the park's natural and cultural resources and maintain the facilities. A special thank you for the \$2,500 in material for our handicapped access ramp to the gift shop. The \$600 for the freezer will be a big help in protecting delicate prehistoric materials. The \$2,000 grant to publish the Bandelier Bibliography will provide a great research tool for archeologists and anthropologists. Thank you too for the \$1,000 to date archeological wood fragments. The GIS training you provided Craig and Kay will pay long term dividends as our GIS program becomes a 21st Century tool for park management and resources preservation. And thank you for the \$2,000 heavy-duty 8mm video camera. It will help us document, conduct research, and learn.

I congratulate and thank you on your successful Night Walk fundraising program. Your energy and dedication has a lot to do with its success. We receive double benefits through your efforts. You of course raise funds to assist us in our operations. That is the most obvious benefit. But also, you are exposing additional visitors to the greatness of Bandelier in a very special way.

Thank you, all of you. You are truly FRIENDS. Even though we are encouraged with the prospects of our FY 94 budget, we still need your help, concern and encouragement. Good friends are still good friends, even during good times.

Thanks again.


Roy W. Weaver
Superintendent