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# FRIENDS OF BANDELIER

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## ANNUAL REPORT 1995


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### **Thank you, Friends**

I rarely talk to a ranger at Bandelier without hearing expressions of appreciation for the Friends' help. The thanks should rightly be directed to you, without whom there could be no help. Members of the Board of Trustees strive to be responsible stewards of the funds you entrust to us.

### **Eight Years of Service**

In the autumn of 1995, the Friends of Bandelier completed eight years of service to Bandelier National Monument. For the park these years have been difficult, a time of ever-shrinking budgets, significant reorganization, and serious reevaluation of the future direction of the National Park System. The Friends steadfastly provided help on projects of importance to park rangers and to visitors that often otherwise would not be funded. With our assistance, several rangers were able to pursue projects important to their professional development and of value to the park. Not the least of our contributions during these difficult years was demonstration to the rangers that many citizens care enough about our National Parks and about Bandelier to personally want to help.



### **Projects**

In 1995 the Friends continued support of on-going projects, several begun at our inception in 1987. In our eight years we have donated over \$91,000 directly to Bandelier. Some projects, such as the support of archaeological research, have lasting value to Bandelier. Many projects, such as handicapped upgrades, enhance service to visitors for years to come. Others, such as the pueblo crafts demonstrations and our Special Nightwalks, are certain to live in the memories of the many visitors whose lives were enriched.

**Coffee with a Ranger.** From 8 to 9 AM during the summer season, visitors can meet in the Bandelier amphitheater for informal chats with a ranger to discuss whatever subjects come to mind. The Friends have funded supplies for this program since 1988 except for two years when Bandelier's budget was so tight that rangers could not devote time to the program. Many visitors donate small sums to help the program.

**Pueblo crafts demonstrations.** The Bandelier Cultural Awareness Program features artisans from nearby pueblos who demonstrate their crafts on summer weekends. Since 1988, the Friends have helped this program in some degree with funds for transportation, and lodging when needed, for the artisans.

**Purchase of craft items.** As part of the continuing effort to document the pueblo crafts, we try to purchase items from the pueblo craftspeople who demonstrate at Bandelier. The items are destined for the Bandelier archives. This program has not been easy because the craftspeople participate in shows throughout the Southwest and few have time to make items for us. In addition, our liaison, Andrea Sharon recently transferred to Denali National Park in Alaska. We will try to continue the program; members of the board feel it is an important one.

**Handicapped access.** In 1995 we provided funds to buy improved doorknobs for the campground bathroom facilities. Our overall spending on handicapped access is not large because the labor is performed by Bandelier crews, but the impact is significant. New designs and devices for handicapped also benefit elderly people and young children.

**Pinyon-Juniper revegetation study.** For the second year we matched Brian Jacob's challenge grant from the NPS to develop practical ways to restore vegetation, primarily grasses, to deteriorating pinyon-juniper ecosystems. Brian's focus is on low tech methods suitable for wilderness areas like the Bandelier backcountry.

**Projects (continued)**

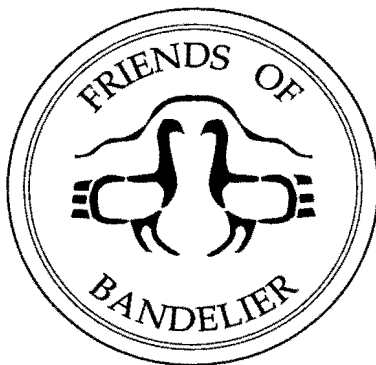
**Archaeological survey.** The National Park Service surveyed 43% of the Bandelier's 32,000 acres. The remaining 57% of the work must be done with in-house resources. This year we provided funds to house three archaeological graduate students. Elizabeth Mozzillo, the new archaeologist at Bandelier, stressed the importance of having professionals involved in the work and was very pleased with the quality of this years' survey, which covered 600 acres.

**Special Nightwalks.** For the fifth year, our hard-working Santa Fe board members coordinated this fund-raising event. Our nightwalk offers round-trip transportation from Santa Fe, interpretive talk about Bandelier by a ranger, dinner in Frijoles Canyon, and the walk through the ruins conducted by ranger Chris Judson. Many walks sell out, and we received warm comments about the evening from participants.

**Other Services.** Occasionally Superintendent Weaver asks the Friends for help with additional projects. We provided some invaluable last minute assistance for a conference of local pueblo leaders discussing provisions of the Indian Graves Repatriation Act. Bandelier is a lead park transferring Indian graves items back to the original pueblos.

**Next Year**

For 1996, the rangers have asked us to help with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Sculptor Kim Crowley, who recently moved to Santa Fe, is willing to give a sizable discount for life-like sculptures of human figures to be used in the exhibit at the Bandelier Visitor Center. Mr. Crowley's sculptures depicting ancient people in everyday poses are on exhibit in several national parks and similar areas. Both rangers and board members who have seen his sculptures agree that they provide an extra dimension of realism and educational value, and will be valuable addition to the Bandelier interpretive exhibit featuring prehistoric and historic pueblo rooms.



**IN MEMORIUM**

*In Memory of*

**Jim Lilienthal**

*from*

Nan and Jim McNally  
Dorothy Walker  
Dorothy Hoard

**Frijoles' Future**

The development concept plan for Frijoles Canyon and Tsankawi has been approved. The plan proposes moving all maintenance and administrative facilities from Frijoles Canyon to new buildings on the mesa top; building a parking lot with visitor contact facilities just inside the entrance station; devoting historic buildings in the canyon, built by the CCC in the 1930s, to visitor interpretive services; and putting a new picnic area on the mesa top. During the busy season, a shuttle bus would carry visitors to and from the canyon. No development will be done at Tsankawi. A new parking lot may be necessary if the state needs the present lot to upgrade State Road 4.

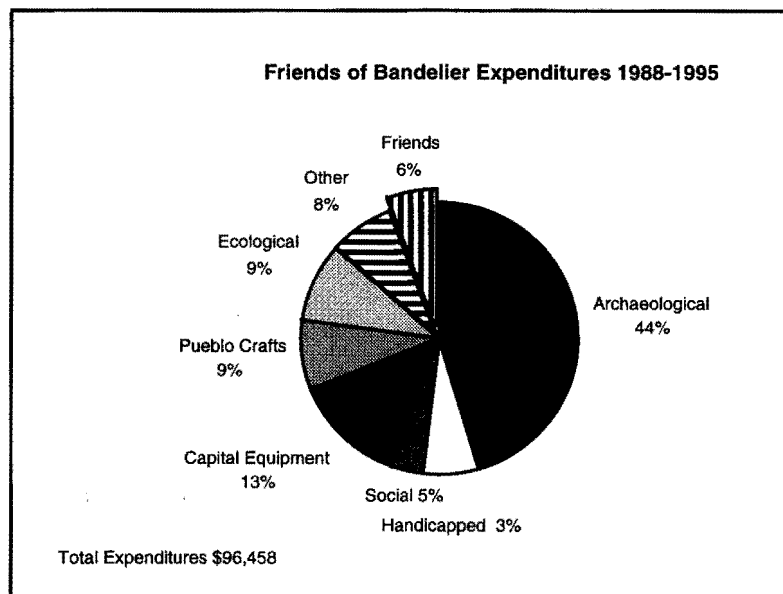
The plan will cost \$21 million. The National Park Service has a schedule for upgrading park units, but Bandelier's turn is several years away. Superintendent Weaver's highest priority is moving maintenance facilities out of the canyon, then building the parking lot and providing a shuttle. First of all, he must determine how many visitors Frijoles Canyon can hold without affecting the resources or visitor experience.

Frijoles Canyon parking has been inadequate for many years. Superintendent Weaver closes the park when the parking lot is full and cars back up on State Road 4. The solution is still many years away. These are trying times as the national parks scramble to meet the realities of the new century.

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**  
 October 1, 1994 to September 30, 1995

Balance forward		
Cash as of September 1994		\$13,860.15
Major Purchase Fund		7,117.19
	<b>TOTAL BALANCE FORWARD</b>	<b>20,977.34</b>
Income		
Contributions		7,485.00
Pablita Velarde poster sales		1,250.00
Nightwalk proceeds	7,289.00	
Less Nightwalk expenses	-4,124.42	3,164.58
Interest		742.66
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>12,642.24</b>
Disbursements - Bandelier National Monument		
Coffee with a Ranger		255.02
Cultural Awareness Program - Pueblo Demonstrators		538.06
Crafts purchase from Pueblo Demonstrators		185.00
Parking lot attendant		1,099.80
Doorknobs for handicapped Access		1,500.08
Pinyon Juniper restoration study		4,800.00
Archaeological support - housing expenses		6,002.00
	<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>14,379.96</b>
Expenses - Friends of Bandelier		
Advertising		100.76
Non-profit Corporate Report fee		10.00
Postage		310.70
Supplies		106.36
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>527.82</b>
Balance Forward as of September 30, 1995		\$18,711.80

The graph shows the Friends' total expenditures in eight years of service. We strive to keep our own expenses to a minimum. Most of the 6% spent on ourselves was for paper and postage. We received a generous discount on our recycled paper from our supplier, *Bandelier Designs* of Santa Fe. Since our inception, Los Alamos National Bank has generously reproduced our mailings at no cost to us.





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# ANNUAL REPORT

Thank you once again

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for reproducing our  
newsletters for  
*EIGHT YEARS*

**Sincere  
THANKS  
to all of you who  
RENEWED**

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## ANNUAL STATE OF THE PARK REPORT

Our base operating program for this past year was \$1,800,000. One-year operational programs, such as our educational outreach and Volunteer in the Parks programs, and other thrusts have increased last year's operational budget to approximately \$2,000,000. We also received \$162,000 for 12 special projects. We had 39 permanent, 31 temporary, and 11 Student Conservation Association employees for a total park staff of 81.

We added a new position - wildlife biologist - to the staff in 1995. Our new Wildlife Biologist, Steve Fetting, was a cooperative Education Masters Degree candidate with a specialty in elk management. Steve has since received his master's degree and is now a Bandelier staff member.

INTERPRETATION: Visitor Center Supervisor Andrea Sharon has transferred to Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska as a District Interpreter. Although one permanent positions remained vacant in the Interpretive Section, we able to hire enough seasonal rangers and Student Conservation Assistants (SCAs) to once again offer a full schedule of programs at the Visitor Center. Visitor Center visitation approached 238,000; an increase of 13 percent over 1994.

Totals for the summer's programs include: 362 formal programs presented to about 11,000 visitors. There were 604 groups visiting the area totaling 18,200 people and 101,000 visitors viewed 8,900 AV programs. A total of 775 backcountry permits were issued to 1,857 campers. Once again the Friends sponsored the "Coffee with a Ranger" program that is so popular with our visitors. All supplies for the program were funded through the Friends of Bandelier. 94 "Coffee with the Ranger" programs were given. Again this year we hired a sign language interpreter to sign at several of our programs during the course of the summer.

The Friends contributed \$500 towards this year's Cultural Awareness program. Thirteen artists demonstrated their crafts for 39 days from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The related "Visit with the Artist" program continues to be popular. A ceramic pot was purchased from Florence Naranjo of San Ildefonso Pueblo. This was the second Friends purchase of traditional craft items from the Cultural Awareness Program participants. These Pueblo craft items will become a part of Bandelier's permanent collection representing work of the 1990s. The Tim Kohler exhibit on recent archeology research sponsored by the Friends was installed.

Work on the first two of four sculptures to be installed in the visitor center is underway. These sculptures are being funded over a two year period by the Friends. They will add dramatically to the impact of our exhibits.

Valuable assistance in all park operations continues to be given by our Volunteers. In FY 1995, 79 active volunteers contributed over 16,300 hours of their time to Bandelier, many of these people are local residents who are also members of the Friends of Bandelier.

PROTECTION: Ironically, even though visitation to the visitor center increased this year by about 13%, total visits to Bandelier actually **decreased** this past year, reflecting the visitation patterns of New Mexico in general. Annual visitation through September was down 10%, with significant decreases in August (16.7%) and September (21.7%).

Once again this year, parking assistants provided traffic control duties in the parking lot in lieu of patrol rangers so that permanent patrol rangers could devote their entire time to protection duties. We continued our monitoring program of the backcountry archeological sites that were recorded either during the recent five year survey or in previous surveys. Most of the work this year was performed by the two backcountry SCA staff due to the lack of paid backcountry patrol Rangers.

The feral cattle trespass situation "stabilized" this year. One cow that was tagged entered the Monument in Capulin Canyon but left the park voluntarily. A second year of unusual numbers of wildlife incidents were recorded. Trapping and relocation of raccoons was initiated and over twenty animals were moved. Earlier in the year we believe someone was releasing trapped animals from the local communities very close to our boundary. These animals found their way into the campground and Mesa housing areas creating problems for visitors, employees and park residents. Squirrel bites and interactions were down significantly. Work is underway to purchase and install newer animal proof trash containers, especially in the Frijoles Canyon area, to further reduce raccoon and squirrel problems.

The Bandelier Search and Rescue cache was burglarized in September with over \$4,000 worth of equipment taken. A tie-in with the thefts from the Los Alamos Auxiliary Fire Department was discovered that led to the arrest of two suspects in that break-in. About 90% of the items have been recovered. Despite reduced visitation, fees collected for 1995 increased, for a total of about \$490,000. Four fee collection positions were filled for the majority of the season.

**MAINTENANCE:** We received \$68,000 in Trail Rehabilitation funds to work on backcountry trails. For wildlife protection purposes the crew removed fence along Highway #4 and the Dome Road. \$28,000 in special funding allowed us to replace 90 old wooden picnic tables in Juniper Campground with vinyl coated aluminum tables to help reduce table maintenance costs. In addition, we received funds to replace the pit toilets at Ceremonial Cave with two vault toilets and place two vault toilets at Ponderosa Campground. With the \$1,411 donated by the Friends of Bandelier, we replaced round door knobs with handicapped accessible types for the public use buildings throughout the park.

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:** The park Resource Management Plan was approved in January, 1995 after three years of focused redevelopment. We continued to work cooperatively with Los Alamos National Laboratory and the University of Colorado to collect data at the Frijolito experimental watershed site. Cooperative long-term ecological inventory/monitoring/research work with University of New Mexico's Sevilletta Refuge continues. Thanks again to the Friends for their support of SCAs which allowed the park to receive a second year Challenge Cost Share grant for revegetation trials. Significant progress was made in the development of methods to revegetate and stabilize degraded pinyon-juniper areas. Two study sites were experimentally treated in the spring and had year 1 post-treatment data collected this fall. Treated areas generally looked better than non-treated areas after only one growing season.

Burnt Mesa Road was successfully converted into a primitive trail thanks to the help of numerous boy scout troops. The old road corridor has been stabilized and is revegetating nicely. Four dumps along Highway 4

associated with historic Los Alamos National Lab operations were cleaned up under a contract managed by the DOE.

Bandelier is assisting the National Biological Service to determine if there have been any measurable changes in the park's bat abundance's. In the summer of 1995, several species were re-recorded. Of special note was the trapping of spotted bats for the first time in the park. Numerous spotted bats were also heard in several of the higher elevation trapping sites. The project is scheduled to continue next summer with additional attempts to locate bat roosts, both in cliffs and in trees. Locating bat tree roosts is important for Bandelier's fire management program.

Elk impact to vegetation, particularly to aspens in the middle and high elevations, continues to be dramatic. These impacts consist of bark stripping in the taller trees during the winter when snow covers the ground, and complete leaf removal from sprouts during summer months. We have drafted several research proposals to measure and document elk-caused impacts and their long-term consequences for Bandelier.

As a component of the partially completed Wilderness Stewardship Plan, Bandelier established a new Wilderness/backcountry management system that changed the Wilderness use permitting process and group size limits. The major changes are: (1) new group or party size limits for both overnight and day use, (2) stock use is no longer permitted in the primitive zones where it has been permitted, and (3) the limit on number of nights in any one location is now three, except in Zone E (Frijoles Canyon just above Ceremonial Cave), where the limit is one night. Detailed documentation will be provided in the park Wilderness Stewardship Plan which will be completed in 1996. Public input will be sought. **We look forward to hearing from members of the "Friends of Bandelier."**

Although this year was relatively average for fire severity, Bandelier fire staff responded to 18 park wildfires, eight higher than the average for the past 10 fire seasons. Bandelier accomplished four management-ignited prescribed fires for a yearly total of 473 acres. Worthy of mention is Bandelier's involvement in a national initiative to create four, five-person prescribed fire support teams. The park hosted one such team, dedicated solely to prescribed fire assignments. A total of just over 12,000 acres were credited to this team, who operated in nine National Park Service units (including Bandelier) and in support of Santa Fe National Forest prescribed fire operations.

The new Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) requires changes in archeological excavations, research and collection management. Respecting our NAGPRA Act responsibilities, park staff prepared for and consulted with Pueblo Indian groups concerning repatriation of 242 artifacts excavated from the Rainbow House site. Nine members from eight pueblos met with us to discuss repatriation of NAGPRA related materials from Rainbow House. This was a historic meeting. Bandelier is the first National Park Service unit to consult with Ancestral Puebloans concerning repatriation of human remains, unassociated and associated funerary object, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. In order to reduce the cost of stabilization and maintenance, Rainbow House was backfilled.

The summer of 1995 was marked by the return of archaeologists to the field to continue the archeological site surveys. Throughout most of the summer, a core crew surveyed lands in the park's backcountry. The

participation of additional volunteers with professional-level training and experience in archeology was facilitated by funding from the Friends of Bandelier. All of these individuals hold Masters in anthropology.

The summer field crew surveyed almost 600 acres using the research design developed for the 1987-1991 survey with a few modifications. The 1995 crew recorded 30 new historic or prehistoric sites and re-recorded four sites that had been poorly or incompletely documented. In order to satisfy National Historic Site Act compliance, nearly 1000 acres were surveyed this season for planned prescribed burns.

The Development Concept Plan and Environmental Assessment for Frijoles Canyon and Mesa and Tsankawi were completed in draft form. Open Houses and Public Meetings were held in Santa Fe and Los Alamos. Based on the DCP/EA and public comments, a Finding of No Significant Impact was drafted and is presently awaiting the Field Director's review and signature. My recommendations in the draft FONSI reflect public comment.

It is over one year now since the National Park Service began its reorganization. The former Regional Office was moved from Santa Fe to Denver and now serves a much larger Region, now called the Intermountain Field Area. Former Southwest Regional Director John Cook was appointed the new Field Director and oversees approximately 79 National Park Units and 6 historic trails located in the Rocky Mountain chain from Canada to Mexico.

The Santa Fe office remained, though a shadow of its former self, as the Southwest Cluster System Support Office and provides technical assistance to park units in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and southern Arizona. The Southwest System Support Office also provides some technical assistance to the Colorado Plateau Cluster units in northern Arizona, northwest New Mexico, western Colorado, and southern Utah.

Many decisions and responsibilities previously vested in the old Regional Office and Regional Director have been delegated to the park Superintendents. The National Park Service is still developing methods to handle such joint superintendent responsibilities as budget and special project allocations, mutual assistance, development of guidelines and SOPs that affect many areas, and other procedures. It is becoming more and more management by consensus in which the Superintendents of each cluster function as a board of directors for the Field Director.

Bandelier National Monument and its visitors have benefited greatly from the direct assistance of the Friends of Bandelier National Monument. I can't over emphasize the value of your assistance and encouragement. Thank you very much. **Budgetarily, FY 1996 is going to be tight and FY 1997 will be grim.** I hope and trust that we can continue to count on your help. Thank you and have a healthy, happy and prosperous 1996.



Roy W. Weaver  
Superintendent