



FRIENDS OF BANDELIER

ANNUAL REPORT

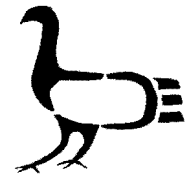
1996

Imagine a year beginning with the government closing all the national parks including your own, followed by a forest fire that made news around the world, followed by massive flooding in the most popular section of your Wilderness. That is Superintendent Weaver's year-at-a-glance review of 1996. Then, imagine a year in which you must face chronic underfunding, continued closure of the Wilderness to the public, the ever-growing problem of elk overpopulation, the pending introduction of bighorn sheep, a proposed housing development on your border, and educating a new congressman when Bill Richardson moves on to become UN ambassador. That is a partial preview of Superintendent Weaver's 1997 agenda. Among his assets are staff, volunteers, and Friends who love Bandelier and stand by faithfully to do what we can, and a broad public that expresses continuing support for the national parks despite Congressional budget cutting.



This year, the annual meeting of the Friends of Bandelier was devoted to discussing the Dome Fire and its aftermath. The devastation of Capulin Canyon was a central topic. With its perennial stream and towering old pines, Capulin was always the focus of Wilderness travel. Now the trees are dead and floods have scoured the canyon floor. We at the meeting questioned and watched the Bandelier staff agonize over closing all of the Bandelier Wilderness to hiking and camping because of the severe safety hazards in Capulin Canyon. Dealing with public access to public land is a difficult problem, but the safety issue is so serious that the Wilderness will remain closed until public safety can be assured.

Each year we ask the superintendent for a State of the Park review. For the benefit of Friends who can't attend our annual meeting, we enclose it in the annual report. Attached to the 1996 report was a yellow sticky note which read, *"Thank you and the Friends for all that you have done. Without your help, I'm just not sure what we'd do."*



In 1996, the Friends completed nine years of service to Bandelier. During that time we have donated \$110,042 in direct support to the monument. Looked at objectively, this amounts to only \$12,227 per year, well below the poverty level for a family of four. BUT, every cent of our grants goes directly to the targeted project. Salaries, overhead, benefits, utilities are all paid by someone else. Moreover, we have taken advantage of partnerships by teaming with the National Park Service, the State of New Mexico, Southwest Parks and Monuments, and Bandelier Trading Co., among others, to share the costs of projects of mutual interest. In several cases, such as pinyon-juniper restoration and some archaeological projects, our small grants led to larger grants. Perhaps our biggest asset is flexibility. Superintendent Weaver was quite relieved when we were able to quickly fund refreshments for an important meeting with Indian leaders. The Board of Trustees was happy to reallocate Coffee-with-a-Ranger funds toward purchase of Braille labels. Small items, but invaluable to an administration hampered by regulations and tight budgets. In retrospect, the Friends of Bandelier have been a remarkably effective support group over our nine years of existence.

Will you help us? Unfortunately, our membership has been declining for the past several years. I attach the names of current members of the Friends of Bandelier. Won't you glance through the list. If you know someone not on the list who OUGHT to be a Friend of Bandelier, please pass on our solicitation envelope, or send us the names and we will invite them to join. Many of you have been with us the whole nine years. It is always a pleasure to see the faithful support at renewal time and to know that you share our love for Bandelier.

From myself and the Board of Trustees, our very best wishes for a happy and prosperous 1997.

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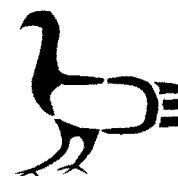
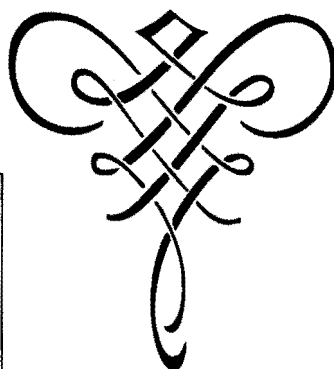
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 for nine long years!



IN MEMORIAM
1996

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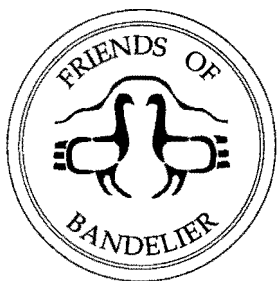
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ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

October 1, 1995 to September 30, 1996

Balance Forward as of September 30, 1995:		
General Fund		11,538.61
Major Purchase Fund		<u>7,173.19</u>
TOTAL BALANCE FORWARD		18,711.80
Income:		
Contributions		10,113.51
Proceeds from Pablita Velarde Poster Sales		625.00
Nightwalk Proceeds	7,167.00	
Less Nightwalk Expenses	<u>-4,550.82</u>	2,616.18
General Fund Interest		674.91
Major Purchase Fund Interest		<u>431.94</u>
TOTAL INCOME		14,461.54
Disbursements - Bandelier National Monument:		
Coffee with a Ranger Supplies		27.75
Cultural Awareness Program		500.00
Purchase of Crafts from Folk Artist Demonstrators		375.00
Braille Sign for the Visitor Center		106.50
Student Conservation Associate		7,200.00
Three Life-size Sculptures for the Visitor Center		<u>10,800.00</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		19,009.25
Expenses - Friends of Bandelier:		
Fuller Lodge Rental Fee for Annual Meetings		67.50
Bulk Mailing Permit Renewal		85.00
Non-profit Corporate Report Fee		10.00
Supplies		15.47
Post Office Box Renewal		40.00
Postage		<u>144.02</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES		361.99
Adjustments:		
Refund of Damage Deposit on House Rental for Archaeologists		1,014.00
Net Income:		
General Fund		6,210.97
Major Purchase Fund		<u>8,605.13</u>
TOTAL NET INCOME (Cash Balance as of September 30, 1996)		<u>\$ 14,816.10</u>



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ANNUAL REPORT





United States Department of the Interior NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Bandelier National Monument
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Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544-9701
(505) 672-3861 ext. 502

STATE OF THE PARK REPORT 1996

Every year is unique. Every year has its own special blend of problems, challenges and rewards. But 1996 has been the unique year yet. We have certainly had our share of challenges.

ADMINISTRATION: Our total budget from all sources for FY 1996 was \$2,987,247. Of that, \$1,820,600 funded regular operating programs and the remainder, \$1,166,647, funded special projects. Throughout the year we had 156 people working in the park, which included 39 permanent and 38 seasonal employees, 19 Student Conservation Assistants, and over 60 volunteers.

In spite of two park closures our new concessioner, Bandelier Trading Inc, completed a successful year. They completed the upgrade of the display facilities and introduced a new menu featuring southwest fare. Gross receipts totaled \$631,284.39 with a return to the government of \$90,640. Bandelier Trading Inc helped supported the park's cultural demonstration program with a donation of \$1,600.

Total visitation for FY 1996 was down 9.2%. During 1995 we had 362,799 visitors and in 1996, 329,423. Both are down from our all time high of over 420,000 in 1994. Likewise our entrance and campground fee totals are down by 10%. In 1995 we collected \$493,387 and in 1996 we collected \$444,129. This decrease is attributed to a general downward trend in southwest tourism, the Government shutdown (about 6 weeks) and the one-week park closure during the Dome fire.

INTERPRETATION: This was an exciting year for park Interpretation. We are finally seeing results in some of the projects that we have been working on for the past two to three years.

Our new modern full color park brochure is finally in circulation. It represents new artwork and a rewritten updated text. The "Museum People" sculptures, a major funding project from the FRIENDS, were installed in the museum in late September. They add life and vibrancy to the older static exhibits. There is an educational aspect as well. The costumes were carefully researched and help visitors visualize what these ancient people looked and dressed like.

Andrea Sharon, who was the visitor center supervisor, left Bandelier after 9 plus years for a position in Alaska. She was replaced by Sally King, who came to the park from Wupatki/Sunset Crater National Monument in Arizona. Our Fee Program supervisor, Sally Gauthier, was selected to fill a new Park Guide position to work out of the Visitor Center.

Chief of Interpretation Al Seidenkranz returned to work the first of October after a serious illness that kept him out of work for 9 months. First Chris Judson and then Sally King did an excellent job of continuing the Interpretive program as Acting Interpretive Chief during Al's extended absence while continuing their regular duties.

Total visitation at the Visitor Center was down 15% at a total of 235,650. Only about 72% of our visitors use the Visitor Center. Totals for this summer's programs include: 299 Ruins Walks with 11,210 attendees; 50 Campfire Programs with 1,661 attendees; 17 Night Walks with 656 attendees; 61 informal Bat Programs with 523 attendees; and 25 Patio Talks with 295 attendees.

Once again the FRIENDS joined Bandelier Trading Co. and Southwest Parks and Monuments Association to fund weekend demonstrations by local Pueblo crafts people and the "Visit with the Artist" program. This popular program demonstrates the skills needed to create fine native crafts. The "Visit with the Artist" Program was scheduled 20 times and 310 people attended.

An example of black on black pottery by Florence Tafoya of Santa Clara Pueblo was purchased with funds provided by the FRIENDS. This is part of our continuing Cultural Awareness Program to purchase traditional native craft items from craft demonstration participants that will become a part of Bandelier's permanent collection representing work of the 1990s

SPECIAL PROJECTS: We received \$24,000 in special funds to perform rehab work on the ruins trail. The work included developing a formal visitor rest area at Stop #10. Our trail crew constructed a flagstone walkway, stairs and a log bench in the alcove which will prevent further damage to the resource in this area and provide a scenic pleasant shady spot for our visitors to rest. Further along the trail a flagstone landing was installed at the top of the first ladder, Stop 13, the popular photo-point over looking Tyuonyi. The handrails throughout the ruins area were painted a sandstone color to blend in with the cliff. The asphalt trail under the bat cave was eliminated and allowed to revert to a natural condition. We completely rehabilitated the interior of two historic residences and began rehabilitating the interior of a third. Exterior portals were re-stained and the portals of the Concession building were re-pointed and re-plastered.

In our continuing efforts to remove old debris and trash from the park, we removed over 600 cubic yards of old road material and dirt from the gravel yard on Highway 4 at no cost to the government. In addition we removed old material from two dump areas in the front country. In total we disposed of two old house trailers, over 100 truckloads of junk and trash, such as worn out furnishings and appliances, 50 old picnic tables, and mountains of scrap fence, culverts, old treated timbers, and construction debris.

Our maintenance crews installed three half-log benches along the ruins trail and made seating area accessible for wheelchairs. In addition to their regular duties, our Roads and Trails Foreman, Carlos Gonzales, and two employees assisted Los Alamos Paths and Walkways Association with trail rehab work on the rock wall of the historic Ranch School trail.

DOMESTIC FIRE: No sooner had the warm [and dry] winds of spring touched the southern Rockies, then many of the fire hazard severity indicators pointed to critical conditions in the forests of the Southwest. By March it was clear that the fire season was going to be severe. Then nature's "balloon payment" came due. On April 25 at approximately 2:30 pm, a smoke on Forest Road 289 was reported. The Dome Fire was born. By the time it was declared controlled, over 16,800 acres of National Forest and National Park lands were affected. The hardest hit area occurred on the National Forest in the park's upper Capulin and Sanchez watersheds. As a result, extreme flooding conditions persist causing the continued closure of the backcountry. We hope to re-open a portion of the backcountry this spring. However, because of the hazards to the public and employees related to the extreme flooding, Capulin Canyon will remain closed until the flooding is controlled or more predictable. The park has fielded crews to stabilize flood areas and resources no longer threatened. The National Forest had proposed a timber salvage sale for the Dome fire area but withdrew the proposal for environmental reasons. The park and the National Forest have formed a partnership to research, plan, and stabilize the fire damaged areas within the park's upper watersheds located on the National Forest.

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT: The Friends support of small scale pinyon-juniper restoration trials enabled the park to receive matching Challenge Cost Share grants for two consecutive years (1994 and 1995). Vegetation response to restoration treatments has been dramatic, resulting in a fourfold increase in herbaceous cover after only two years. The findings from the 1994-1995 trials were used

to prepare a three year paired-watershed level investigation proposal for \$180,000. The funding will be used to support a three year term biological technician, who will conduct the study in fulfillment of PhD dissertation requirements

GIS: Over the years the Friends have funded a number of projects related to the development of Bandelier's Geographic Information System. This year you funded Student Conservation Associate Miki Promislow to consolidate our entire database into the GIS format. Thanks to Miki's work and your generosity, we have a fully functioning and well documented GIS. As part of the project she developed a GIS atlas of maps. Our GIS proved critical in developing the Dome Fire Rehabilitation Plan and provided valuable assistance in our various fire rehabilitation efforts.

WATER: Park staff met with WASO Water Resources staff on April 25 (the day the Dome Fire was discovered) to outline the objectives and focus for a major revision of the Bandelier Water Resources Management Plan. The Dome fire created an excellent and perhaps unprecedented opportunity to document fire effects on aquatic systems in New Mexico by providing a control (Frijoles Canyon) and high intensity burned watershed (Capulin Canyon) for comparison. Two years of pre-fire baseline data are available for both canyons. Documentation of post-fire changes in aquatic invertebrate populations and related water chemistry parameters in Capulin versus Frijoles Canyon, will provide a well based case study of how aquatic systems respond to wildfire.

The Risk Assessment for DDT contamination in Frijoles Canyon found no significant risk to the environment or public health and safety. An environmental assessment proposing no action will be released for public comment.

ELK IMPACT STUDIES: High elk usage of grasslands at Bandelier may limit or even prevent restoration of piñon-juniper woodlands to prehistoric grassland savannas. The unnaturally high elk population may be contributing to accelerated erosion, which in turn is adversely affecting cultural resources. To test this idea, 2m x 2m exclosures have been added to the restoration plots established along Highway 4. If our hypothesis is correct, we should see restoration occur more quickly in the exclosures, than in areas of high elk usage. 30 1-m² plots were established in grassland areas near highway 4 to assess the degree to which elk trampling increases soil erosion from rainfall. Data collected suggests that trampling by large ungulates clearly increases erosion. Investigations of a controlled trampling effects on erosion rates will continue into the spring.

A study has begun near the Apache Spring trailhead to measure elk browsing effects on aspen trees. Near Apache Spring's trailhead, elk appear to be killing most aspens by debarking trees during the winter and by eating all new growth during the summer. A portion of the study areas will be fenced during the winter or spring of 1997 to see what happens to aspen in the absence of elk. Interpretive signs will be erected to point-out the damage elk are causing to aspen, and what the forests look like without heavy elk use.

A study plan for monitoring elk impacts on vegetation in the park is currently being developed. When completed, the park will begin to receive \$480,000, over 4 years, to determine whether and how elk are affecting park resources, particularly soils, vegetation, and cultural resources. An Environmental Assessment will be developed and issued for public comment once alternative research activities have been developed and reviewed for feasibility and potential effectiveness.

Bandelier successfully competed for additional elk research dollars through the Biological Resource Division of the USGS. In 1997, the park will purchase a minimum of 30 radio collars for elk. These telemetry devices will allow us to monitor elk population dynamics and movement so that effective management strategies to control the elk population can be developed. We will be working with LANL and the State to augment the funding we have received and to obtain the labor needed to capture elk for collaring.

SENSITIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT: During the Spring of 1996, Miki Promislow mapped the distribution of willow along Bandelier's portion of the Rio Grande and added the information to the park's Geographic Information System (GIS). The purpose of this mapping effort is to quantify changes since 1988 and evaluate where willows (habitat for the endangered Southwestern willow flycatcher) are potentially at risk from high waters in the Cochiti Reservoir. Miki's results show that there are approximately 30 acres of willow in Bandelier's portion of White Rock Canyon.

In spite of the Dome Fire, we managed to install 12 new Fire Effects Monitoring forest plots and to reread 23 forest plots in 1996. Bandelier was asked to develop a fire effects module proposal for Southwestern parks for funding in FY'97. Pending approval, Bandelier will host a permanent ecologist and 3 term fire monitors. We will also serve the fire monitoring program planning and oversight needs of Carlsbad, El Malpais, Guadalupe Mountains, Lake Meredith, and Big Bend national parks beginning in FY'97.

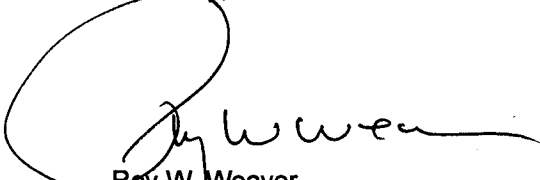
CULTURAL RESOURCES: In 1995, inspection was made of historic benches located in the snack bar patio area. The benches were found to be damaged by water and heavy public use. The park decided to transfer the four historic benches along with 39 other historic furnishings to the Western Archeological Conservation Center (WACC) for permanent storage and preservation.

During the summer, archeological surveys were conducted on nearly six hundred acres. 79 new historic and prehistoric sites were recorded. Our survey crew worked intermittently with the Dome Fire Cultural Resource damage assessment crew locating and recording 80 sites in the fire area.

In pursuing our Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) responsibilities, the park sent six Tribal consultants, along with park Curator Gary Roybal, to WACC in Tucson to evaluate approximately 700,000 park museum objects. The six viewed and selected all potential NAGPRA related objects--unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony. Of the approximately 700,000 Bandelier objects, a total of 265 objects were identified by the Tribal Consultants as potential NAGPRA related objects. The second phase of consultation occurred July 30-31, in Santa Fe. Twenty-one pueblo groups were invited to Santa Fe to view the 265 objects selected by the NAGPRA consultation team and determine, through consensus of all 21 tribal groups, which items met the NAGPRA criteria and of those items which should be returned to specific tribes. Fourteen pueblo groups were represented. Of the 265 items identified by the consultation team as potentially meeting NAGPRA criteria, the 14 tribal groups agreed that 115 objects should be repatriated to three tribal groups. (Laguna, Picris, and Cochiti)

In spite of the ups and downs, this has been a good year. The continued financial and moral support provided by you, The Friends of Bandelier National Monument, has been a positive and important factor. Thank you very much. You do make a difference, a big difference.

Sincerely,



Roy W. Weaver
Superintendent