

FRIENDS OF BANDELIER

ANNUAL REPORT

1997

1987-1997

In 1997, the Friends completed 10 years of service to Bandelier, contributing over \$120,000 to the park. While \$12,000 per year seems insignificant to a park with an annual budget approaching \$2 million, we carefully targeted our donations and stretched our impact through partnering, sharing expenses with other organizations, and providing seed money.

Our success is due to a genuine partnership with the rangers. We have worked with three superintendents and each has involved his staff in Friends' projects. We've had direct contact with personnel in all sections at Bandelier. Our projects have advanced the careers of several rangers. All realize that the public cares about national parks and appreciates their efforts, despite severe budget cuts and twice closing the national parks as "nonessential services" during Congressional budget battles.

Superintendent Weaver's 1997 State of the Park Report indicates that budget problems have eased a bit at Bandelier. I asked Roy if we have outlived our purpose and if the park could manage better without us. He replied that without us, many things would still not get done for many years, if ever. Bandelier still needs us and Bandelier will be a better place through the continued efforts of the Friends.



TEN YEAR RECAP

Where have your donations gone? A summary of our funding for 10 years shows that we have given grants to every section at Bandelier except fire management. (They never had to ask.)

Archaeological Research \$52,350. We helped fund surface surveys; excavations; special graduate studies on pollen, pumice, pottery, and lithics; reports; and digitizing photographs. In 1988-1991, the National Park Service surveyed 41% of Bandelier for archeological sites. Staff archaeologist Elizabeth Mozillo reports that, using in-house resources and support from the Friends, 47% of the park is now surveyed.

Interpretation \$24,265. A diverse set of our projects helped enhance a visitor's trip to Bandelier: sculptures in the Visitor Center exhibits, pottery for the touch table, the Frey memorial wayside exhibit across the stream from Tyuonyi, the Visitor Center desk, parking lot attendants. Also included is a freezer for the Bandelier archives and postage for mailing trunks of interpretive items to schools around the county.

Resources \$17,072. Equipment we gave to the park includes a video camera, global positioning system units (surveying instruments), stereo microscope, and an emergency trauma kit for the Protection Section. For years, ecologist Craig Allen doggedly developed the Bandelier geographical information system (GIS). We provided storage tapes, memory upgrades, money for training, and a technician to integrate all the information collected over the years. Craig had a big smile when he told me that Bandelier has a fully functional GIS.

Pueblo Crafts \$9,560. For 10 years, we have helped keep the pueblo crafts demonstrations alive. Some years we carried the entire load; other years we were partners with Southwest Parks and Monuments, the concessionaire Bandelier Trading, Inc., or the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs. We gave \$590 to purchase crafts from the demonstrators. The crafts are archived, designed to provide a legacy of late 20th Century (and beyond) work for future generations.

Ecological Research \$8,800. We garnered a season of work by a field technician as well as the Pinyon-juniper Restoration pilot study that won \$180,000 for a trial demonstration in the Bandelier Wilderness.

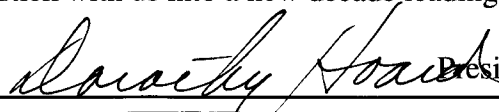
Handicapped Access \$6,415. This small amount represents a real partnership between Chief of Maintenance Steve Gastellum and the Friends. We provided gravel, lumber, and cement; Steve's crews provided the labor for campground upgrades and a wheelchair ramp. Included in this amount is an industrial strength wheelchair and handicapped-friendly doorknobs.

IN MEMORIAM
1997

Lenworth Ethridge
and the
Mother of
Jerry Weismann
from
Janet Risseuw

Refreshments \$2,285. By law, parks cannot spend federal money on refreshments, but the rangers occasionally wanted to host special events. The Friends paid for flowers and refreshments at receptions for the Velarde and Naumer art exhibits in the Visitor Center; lunch for an important conference with Indian leaders; cakes for the 50th anniversary of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) work at Bandelier, where a number of CCC workers from that era were honored. This amount also includes supplies for the Coffee-with-a-Ranger program.

From myself and the Board of Trustees, our very best wishes for a happy and prosperous 1998 and our sincere thanks for your past support. **PLEASE** stick with us into a new decade leading to a new millennium.

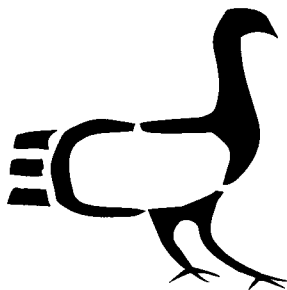


President, Board of Trustees

FRIENDS OF BANDELIER ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

October 1, 1996 to September 30, 1997

Balance Forward as of September 30, 1996:	
General Fund	\$ 6,210.97
Major Purchase Fund	<u>8,605.13</u>
TOTAL BALANCE FORWARD	14,816.10
Income:	
General Fund Contributions	11,524.69
General Fund Proceeds	0.00
General Fund Interest	378.01
Nightwalk Proceeds	10,440.00
Less Nightwalk Expenses	<u>-6,110.96</u>
Major Purchase Fund Interest	<u>414.63</u>
TOTAL INCOME	16,646.37
Disbursements - Bandelier National Monument:	
Refreshments for Reception	43.83
Postage for Educational Outreach Traveling Trunk	500.00
Coffee with a Ranger	191.90
Replica Pots	80.00
Cultural Awareness Program	500.00
Field Archeologist Technician to Survey Sites	5,000.00
Develop and Digitize Archeology Photos	3,505.00
Upgrade GPS Units	<u>950.00</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	10,770.73
Expenses - Friends of Bandelier:	
Post Office Box Renewal	40.00
Postage	193.16
Bulk Mailing Permit Renewal	85.00
Corporate Report Filing Fee	10.00
Advertising	<u>111.74</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	439.90
Net Income:	
General Fund	10,232.08
Major Purchase Fund	<u>10,019.76</u>
TOTAL NET INCOME (Cash Balance as of September 30, 1997)	<u>\$ 20,251.84</u>



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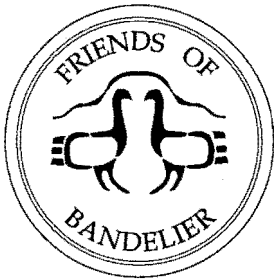
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**recently deceased*

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ANNUAL REPORT 1997



"I SUPPORT BANDELIER"

Logo Patch

Park Service brown, forest green, white, blue
3-inch circle

For a \$5.00 contribution to the donation box
at the Visitor Center

or we can mail you a patch for \$5.50

Friends of Bandelier patch

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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544-9701
(505) 672-3861 ext 502

Parks and People; Our Mission, Their Future

1977

My report to you last year began with this statement, "each year is unique but this year has been the uniquest yet." Well I believe we have set a new record. This year has brought even more and different challenges and opportunities -- changes in personnel, the Lummis Prescribed Natural Fire, continued Dome Fire rehabilitation, various research projects, and boundary legislation.

Visits to Bandelier have increased 12.6% this past season. The increase seems more dramatic because of the closures last year due to the Dome fire and the government shut down. Annual visitation for 1997 was 410,143 compared to 364,287 for 1996 -- a numerical increase of 45,856. The base budget for FY 98 increased by 2.8%. FY 97 base was \$ 1,884,100 and FY 98 is \$1,936,700. Our total budget, including special projects will be about \$ 3.4 million.

Portions of the backcountry remained closed due to effects from the 1996 Dome Fire. Rangers enforced a partial backcountry closure to enhance recovery efforts, provide for visitor safety, and protect fragile exposed cultural resources. We plan to reopen the entire backcountry during the spring of 1998.

Without question, one of our greatest opportunities involves the initiation of the National Fee Demonstration program at Bandelier. This experimental policy passed by Congress in 1996 permits selected Park Service Units to collect new fees, charge for new services, and increase entrance fees. The program permits participating park areas to retain 80% of the fees collected over and above the amount of fees collected in FY 1994, less the Golden Eagle fees collected. The other 20% will remain with the National Park Service for use in other park areas not collecting fees. The primary focus of the project is to target the immense backlog of maintenance needs in park areas. The Monument was selected as one of 93 units to participate and began the program in late April. Bandelier posted more than a \$200,000 increase, with a grand total of about \$682,000 collected. What this means is a direct retention of about \$160,000 from the 1997 year. The management staff chose several critical projects to apply the funds toward including significant resource work at Tsankawi, rehabilitation and repair of historic structures, replacement of vault toilets at Ceremonial Cave and Ponderosa campground, and stabilization of prehistoric structures. Future projects include a new heating/cooling system for the Visitor Center and Museum, improvements in security and storage of collections, new Wayside exhibits and trailhead kiosks for the park, and a strengthening of the interpretive program. The additional funds generated at Bandelier by Monument visitors will stay here benefiting the park.

Thanks to the Friends we were able to continue the "Coffee with a Ranger" program. We were also able to continue our traveling trunk program (part of our education outreach efforts) with funds donated by the FRIENDS. About a third of the cost of our cultural demonstrators program is funded through the Friends and with funds donated by the FRIENDS we were able to purchase two replica pots for visitors to handle and see up close and personal.

One of the new exhibits installed in the rotating exhibit room called "Partners" includes mention of the Friends along with the three other partners that help support the park. Other new exhibits include subjects on elk exclosures, prescribed fires, visitor impacts on the park, flash flooding, piñon-juniper erosion studies, wildfires and archeology.

We were blessed with the help of 53 volunteers and 28 volunteer Student Conservation Associates during FY97 who contributed a total of 15,624 hours of support to the park. Volunteers and volunteer SCAs provide assistance to the park in the following ways: Campground Hosts - 756 hours, Curatorial Services

We are the Keepers of the past, Caretakers of the present, and the Promise of the future.

- 56 hrs, Archeology - 152 hrs, Interpretation - 7,944 hrs, Protection - 24 hrs, Maintenance - 80 hrs, and Resource Mgmt. - 6,662 hrs.

With special project funding we have been able to complete a number of maintenance projects this past year. We replaced the old deteriorated foam roofs on three buildings, including the Concession Gift Shop/Snack Bar, and 2 residences. We performed a fireplace study in the historic buildings to determine the cause of extensive plaster and stone cracking that occurs when they are used. The interior of 2 historic residences were completely rehabilitated. We also rehabilitated the interior of the historic Entrance Station, and 2 offices and returned the walls to their historic color scheme.

The Base Camp Cabin was rehabilitated, cleaned and rodent proofed. A new stove and refrigerator were installed. We also relocated Base Camp corral and hay storage to the opposite side of Capulin creek in order to mitigate the polluting affects of the stable operation on Capulin creek and move it out of the flood plane. We continued with the helispot dump cleanup by removing old construction debris and manure piles and by scarifying the old road bed.

Bandelier received a special grant of \$10,000 from the National Park Foundation to address park priority needs. Together with a similar grant from the park concessioner, Bandelier Trading, Inc., we plan to make the concession operated gift shop and the park VC fully accessible to our mobility impaired visitors. Earlier this year we developed 3 handicapped accessible camp sites in B-Loop of Juniper Campground.

On March 20, 1997, the Sandoval County Commission approved Elk Meadows, a 90 acre subdivision adjacent to the park in the Alamo Headwaters area. In response, the National Parks and Conservation Association solicited boundary change legislation and the Trust for Public Lands purchased an option to buy the land from the private landowner. Sensitive to the threats to the Monument's Alamo Canyon headwaters, Senator Bingaman introduced into legislation S. 1132, a bill to expand the park boundaries to include all of the upper Alamo watershed. A Senate subcommittee hearing was held on October 23, in which the bill was favorably received.

Monument headwaters is located on the Jemez District of the Santa Fe NF, the center of the Dome Fire. As downstream neighbors, we feel that we have a legitimate interest in what is done in the Dome area and have more to lose or gain by their activities in that area than they do. We have been meeting with the Santa Fe NF and Jemez District staffs. As a result of those meetings, the USFS agreed to and did in fact complete additional post-fire related soil stabilization work in the Dome area. In addition, the Forest Supervisor and Jemez District Ranger both agree that eventually our headwaters (the upper watersheds of Alamo, Capulin, and Sanchez canyons) should be transferred from the USFS to the Monument so that the entire watershed can be managed as one ecological unit. That transfer is included in a piece of legislation, S.1210, introduced by Senator Bingaman, that would authorize the acquisition of the Baca by the USFS and transfer the park headwaters to the park.

In FY97, \$5,000 was provided by the Friends to hire a seasonal archeologist to work with a base-funded seasonal archeologist. Together they conducted historic preservation act surveys on park lands. In addition, they completed archeological sites condition assessments and located previously unknown archeological sites in 6 prescribed fire burn units scheduled for prescribed burn treatments in 1998--and surveyed and documented sites identified for research and facilities construction and maintenance. The archeologists covered about 600 acres and revisited more than 100 sites.

This past year the Friends provided \$3,505 to digitize photographic images. These funds were sufficient to transfer negatives of approximately 2,900 images to CD-ROM format, including all of the images of sites that were newly discovered and recorded in a portion of the Dome Fire, sites assessed and treated for damage resulting from the Dome Fire, and some negatives of sites that were recorded during the Bandelier Survey from 1987-1991. Park archeological staff can use the digitized images to quickly produce inexpensive, laser-printed images of park cultural sites. These images, in turn, make it easy to relocate previously recorded sites, and to assess the conditions of recorded sites.

In the wake of the Dome Fire, funding was provided for assessment, monitoring, and treatment of cultural sites damaged by the fire. Two hundred-sixteen sites were assessed for damage in 1997. Four of those sites were stabilized. Six were identified in 1996 as being at risk of imminent loss and thus were excavated in

1997 in order to recover the cultural information before being lost. A total of 514 sites were assessed for damage or threat during 1996 and 1997.

Bandelier completed several important steps toward evaluating potential impacts of the current elk population. Last spring, we completed a study plan for evaluation of potential impacts using fenced exclosures in pinyon-juniper woodlands, La Mesa Fire Grasslands, and mixed conifer forests. During the life of this four year research project, Texas Tech University will provide independent research oversight through its faculty and three graduate students. The Southwest Parks and Monuments Association (SPMA) funded a research project to determine what affect, if any, elk browsing on shrub oak habitats has on bird and butterfly communities in the park. Preliminary results suggest that bird species richness declines significantly with increased browse intensity in pinyon-juniper-oak habitats but not in ponderosa-pine-oak habitats. For butterflies, a preliminary analysis suggests that browsing may be decreasing diversity. Master's students at New Mexico Highlands University collected a second year of data on elk impacts on erosion within the La Mesa Fire grasslands and trends in aspen mortality within mixed conifer forests. Two exclosures were built along the Apache Springs Trail to allow visitors a chance to personally evaluate ongoing changes in forest structure and composition due to the presence of elk.

Promising results from small scale pinon-juniper restoration studies initiated in 1994 have encouraged us to test our restoration treatment on an eroding 100 acre watershed along the Burro Trail. The NPCA strongly supported the project and commended the park for taking a science-based resource management approach. This project was undertaken to protect cultural resources from accelerated erosion in degraded woodland areas. Overstory thinning and slash mulching treatments were applied in late winter and early spring, 1997. After only one growing season, there has been a significant positive response to treatment. An interpretive site bulletin is available at the visitor center for those who wish to hike through the study area and compare treated and control watersheds.

A small greenhouse is being constructed in the Mesa Housing Area to support vegetation studies and landscaping projects in the park. We are seeking volunteers who would like to help us either finish building the greenhouse or assist with plant propagation and greenhouse maintenance activities.

A grant from SPMA is funding a study by Dr. Craig Allen, USGS to reconstruct historic landscape changes in the pinon-juniper woodlands at Bandelier. Another SPMA grant is funding an assessment of fire effects on aquatic resources in Capulin Canyon by Dr. William Clements and students from Colorado State University.

A cooperative effort between the Santa Fe National Forest and Bandelier to monitor vegetation recovery in the Dome Fire area has resulted in the establishment of 49 50-meter transects. These transects will be revisited in 1998 before a final report is prepared. Angela Dahlby of the University of Arizona is conducting the work. In addition, we requested and received special NPS science funds to conduct terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem recovery studies in FY97 and FY98.

This past summer, the USGS documented significant recovery of the Capulin watershed by correlating rain intensity on the upper watershed with runoff in the Capulin Canyon. Rain events comparable to last year are generating much smaller flash floods. Based in part on this information, the park has decided to reopen Capulin Canyon to public access early next Spring.

Ample winter snows and spring rains resulted in the 1997 fire season being far less severe than 1996. Fire activity within the park consisted of 5 wildfires for 27.5 acres, 1 management ignited prescribed fire for 350 acres and 1 prescribed natural fire for 1,660 acres. Park personnel also provided mutual aid to interagency cooperators on 6 wildfires and 1 prescribed burn.

A significant event was the 1,660 acre Lummis prescribed natural fire (PNF) which started on June 27th and was declared out on August 12th. The majority of the Lummis PNF was located within areas burned by the La Mesa Fire in 1977. Fire behavior was characterized as slow to moderate spreading ground fire that resulted in no adverse effects on park resources. Instead, a natural fire was allowed to function in a fire dependent ecosystem, within the range of natural variability. The Lummis fire provided a number of "firsts" for the park. It was the first PNF to be managed under Bandelier's revised Fire Management Plan which was approved in June, 1997. It was the largest PNF in the history of the park and the first since the mid-1980s. The Lummis Fire was also one of the first PNFs to be managed under new Federal Wildland

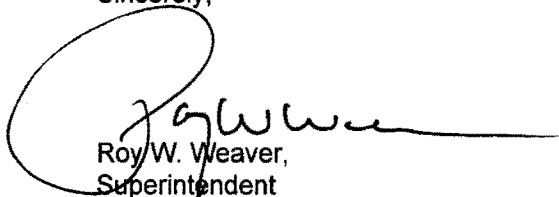
Fire Management policy that was approved on June 12, 1997. This policy eliminated the often arbitrary distinction between naturally occurring fires and prescribed fires. Under the new policy, the Lummis fire would be referred to as a "wildland fire" and managed to accomplish resource benefits.

The National Park Service Prescribed Fire Support Module stationed at Bandelier traveled to 10 National Park units, 1 National Forest and 1 National Wildlife Refuge and provided assistance with 7,595 acres of management ignited prescribed fire and over 20,000 acres of prescribed natural fire.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to a new book just published about the NPS's resource management history. The book, Preserving Nature in the National Parks, was written by NPS historian Richard West Sellers and pulls no punches. He provides a broad, often critical view of NPS philosophy, policy, and significant natural resource management endeavors, warts and all, over the history of the service. I found the book interesting, enlightening, and a fantastic case study to guide us as we continue to plot our resource management course. I am pleased to say that we are doing many of the right things though the decisions have been painful at times. Our book store in the park carries a number of copies if you are interested.

Bandelier National Monument is indebted in so many ways to so many caring people, our volunteers, and especially our friends -- the FRIENDS of Bandelier National Monument. I have stated it so often that it has now become a cliché. Without you we could not keep our doors open 7 days a week, and we could not do many of the good things we do. Thank you all very much. Thank you for your time and effort, for your funding assistance, but mostly for caring enough to make the commitments you have. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Roy W. Weaver,
Superintendent