



FRIENDS OF BANDELIER

ANNUAL REPORT for FY2021

STATE OF THE PARK, MARCH 2022

Greetings Friends of Bandelier!

First, I want to introduce myself to those of you I have not yet met. I am Patrick Suddath, the relatively new Superintendent of Bandelier National Monument. I want to thank everyone in the community and our many partners for the warm reception I have received. Bandelier NM is a very special place and I know it is very important to the community and to those of you that have supported us through the Friends of Bandelier. Your support is critical in helping us achieve our goals to preserve and protect this special place. I also want to acknowledge that Bandelier NM is comprised of the ancestral and traditional lands of at least 23 tribal nations. We collectively acknowledge these nations, the elders who lived here before, the Indigenous today, and future generations as the traditional stewards of the lands on which Bandelier is now present. We recognize the long history of this land and honor the connections and enduring relationship that people of these nations have to it today. We take our stewardship responsibilities very seriously and strive to ensure that all our actions respect the history and connections of this land, both past and present, to the nations that hold this place sacred.

I come to Bandelier most recently from Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, where I served as the Deputy Superintendent, and the Chief Park Ranger before that. Prior to that I held leadership roles in Glacier National Park, Joshua Tree National Park and Grand Canyon National Park. I began my career as a wildland firefighter in Mesa Verde National Park. I was born and raised in New Mexico and attended New Mexico State University. This position at Bandelier NM is truly a homecoming for me, and I could not be more honored to have been selected for this position.

I am excited to explore the many opportunities, and ready to face the challenges that the coming year will bring. To help us prepare for our future, in October the park embarked on a Strategic Planning effort that we anticipate will conclude in April of this year. It is unusual for a park to jump into a strategic planning process so quickly after the arrival of a new superintendent, however, there were efficiencies to be gained by the timing. By embarking on this effort in October, Bandelier was able to join a cohort of other parks in New Mexico, that were also beginning the strategic planning process.

We join the Valles Caldera National Preserve and Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument in their cohort and have been enjoying the support and feedback from these partner parks since this effort began. I also felt like this process would give both staff and our partners and stakeholders an opportunity to articulate to me what expectations, goals, and priorities that I should pursue in the next few years.

We are roughly at the halfway point of this process. We have received lots of feedback so far from the community and from some of our affiliated Tribal Nations. It is my hope that at the end of this process, we will be able to share a strategic vision for the park that reflects the values of our partners and stakeholders. This vision will guide our management decisions over the next 5 years. My thanks to everyone that provided input to our Strategic Action Team so far.

In 2022 we anticipate completing the Agoyo Road utility improvement project currently in progress. This project will improve utility infrastructure to the lower historic district, returning housing units and trailer sites to full use, to help us address our issues with housing park staff. We will be replacing all the remaining roofs in the historic district that have not yet been replaced, and we continue to plan for the \$37 million utility replacement project that was funded by the Great American Outdoors Act. This project will address aging gas, water, sewer, electrical and IT infrastructure throughout the main developed areas in the monument. Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2023.

This year, in conjunction with the utility and traffic improvement project by Los Alamos National Lab and the Department of Transportation, the park will begin construction of a new parking lot at the Tsankawi Unit that should greatly improve access and safety for visitors.

Continuing this year, because of your generous donation through the Dorothy Hoard memorial fund, we will be able to hire a Wilderness Ranger. This position has proved critical in providing information to visitors that use our backcountry, in maintaining trails and backcountry facilities, and in monitoring and protecting the many significant cultural resources in the remote areas of the monument. Your continued support helps us bring cultural demonstrations to the park, improves our science and research through your funding of interns, and helps us with day-to-day operations in the park. I am grateful for the support of the Friends of Bandelier! (continued next page)

FRIENDS OF BANDELIER ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

Current Assets - Balance Forward as of January 1, 2021:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Cash in General Fund | \$46,712.99 |
| Cash in Major Purchase Fund | 17,382.94 |
| NET ASSETS TOTAL BALANCE FORWARD | 64,095.93 |

Revenue and Other Support:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Contributions | 23,786.14 |
| Interest - General Fund | 14.22 |
| Interest - Major Purchase Fund | 203.68 |
| TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT | 24,004.04 |

Disbursements:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Cultural Demonstrations | 800.00 |
| Firewood for Park Campground | 5,762.00 |
| Refreshments for Rocky Mountain Youth Crew | 224.93 |
| Volunteer Banquet | 873.54 |
| TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS | 7,660.47 |

Expenses - Friends of Bandelier:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Corporate Report Filing Fee | 10.00 |
| Envelopes | 248.00 |
| Honorary Award Presentation | 139.75 |
| Newsletter Printing | 187.50 |
| PO Box Renewal | 134.00 |
| Postage | 111.85 |
| Website and Domain Hosting | 501.36 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 1,332.46 |

Net Assets, End of Period:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| General Fund | 61,520.42 |
| Major Purchase Fund | 17,586.62 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS (Balance as of December 31, 2021) | \$79,107.04 |

Want more timely information on upcoming Friends of Bandelier projects and activities? Follow us on Facebook.

Don't forget to check out our website at:
www.bandelierfriends.org

FRIENDS OF BANDELIER *Highlights 2021 into 2022*

Thank you all for your participation and support of the Friends of Bandelier. This partnership is an outstanding example of how public-private partnership can work together to support, preserve, and protect one of the nation's most special places, Bandelier National Monument. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together! --Sincerely, Patrick Suddath, Superintendent

2022 DOROTHY HOARD STEWARDSHIP AWARD

Sarah Milligan is passionate about the environment and volunteers! She presently is the Natural Resources Program Manager at Bandelier National Monument. She is also the winner of the 2022 Dorothy Hoard Stewardship Award given every March in honor of Dorothy who facilitated the development of the Friends of Bandelier. Dorothy died in March 2014 and the award is given in her name every March by the Friends of Bandelier. The award is \$1000 to be used to support a volunteer program of the choosing of the winner.

Sarah gained her passion for the out-of-doors at an early age when she accompanied her parents to New Hampshire's or Maine's mountains to backpack. They lived in southeastern Michigan while her father worked at the Ford corporate office. Michigan was flat, no mountains, so their go to area was the eastern Appalachian Mountains where they found solitude and fun.

Sarah began her journey to becoming passionate about Wildlife Management at the University of Idaho and then Oregon State where she got her MS, Wildlife Management. Throughout her journey she worked at various national parks and monuments trying to decide what she really wanted to do, what was her passion. One of her first jobs after receiving her advanced degree was at Lassen Volcanic National Park on a Type Two fire crew. Then she worked at Acadia National Park in Maine in the fee program. By 2013, she decided to go back to school to get more information about Resource Management. She then came to Bandelier National Monument in 2015, seven years ago. Her job at Bandelier National Monument has fulfilled her passion for large mammals such as deer and elk and working with the State of New Mexico to monitor reintroduced Bighorn Sheep (2016). But it is the projects that are volunteer projects that have given her new challenges and opportunities. Among the volunteer projects are bird banding, hummingbird banding, introduction of native fish species, and tree planting.

One of the successful programs has been the tree planting. Much of Bandelier was denuded of trees in the 2011 Las Conchas fire. The fire denuded not only ponderosa pine but also aspens, pinons, one-seed junipers and other species. To plant trees they had to wait until the environment began to heal. After over eight years, during the 2019 season, volunteers were mobilized and have planted thousands of trees in the past few years. Another program that is a passion for Sarah is the bird banding program which was started in 2004 by Steve Fettig, over 18 years ago. This program has had a two-fold purpose 1) to get

long-term data on bird migration 2) to get school children out to experience, close and personal, the bird banding process. The Nature Center has been very helpful in providing volunteers for the school programs. "The look on a child's face as the recently banded bird flies from their hand is priceless," Sarah said.

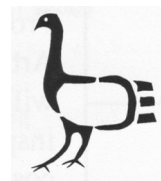
Long-term data is often hard to get. This program has helped the Park in many ways, most especially seeing the ups and downs of migrations as related to the climate. Sarah has been successful getting an intern from Mexico and hopes to get one from Venezuela soon. This provides needed information for migrations to areas in South America.

Another program that is close to Sarah's heart is the re-introduction of native fish species into Frijoles Creek. The aftermath of the Las Conchas fire was destruction of all the fish species that lived in Frijoles Creek. Only native species are introduced because the stream has been cleared of all the non-native species. As a result, there will be no crossbreeding. Fish are introduced near Apache Springs crossing because of water temperature and pools.

Sarah is always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in any of these projects, you can contact Sarah at Bandelier National Monument or the Visitor Center at Bandelier. For Bird Banding programs one can contact the Visitor Center at Bandelier or the Los Alamos Nature Center.

The year 2021 was a challenging one at Bandelier due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the search for a new superintendent. Projects funded by the Friends in 2021 were limited, but the Friends continued to support youth crews and volunteers at the park. The Friends also sold firewood at the park campground to help prevent campers from using live or dead junipers near the campground for their campfires.

With the arrival of a new superintendent and renewed energy at the park, in 2022 the Friends will sponsor a fire ecology internship, help support a cultural resources internship, provide funding for a return of weekend cultural demonstrations at the visitor center, provide continued support for the Bandelier long-term bird banding project, and contribute funding to upgrade the audio-visual system at the Bandelier Amphitheater. Membership in the Friends of Bandelier helps support these initiatives and more!





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