



FRIENDS OF BANDELIER

ANNUAL REPORT for FY2022

State of the Park Message from the Superintendent

Greetings Friends of Bandelier!

As I move into my second year, I want to again express my thanks to all of you who have contributed, with your time, your donations, and your support for the Friends of Bandelier! Friends groups such as yours are a key component in managing such significant and critical public lands such as Bandelier for all Americans, and for all the generations to come. It has long been recognized that Federal funds don't fully cover all the complicated and nuanced needs that parks face in today's world. The fundraising and volunteer force that a Friends group provides a park is critical in helping us meet our short and long term goals. Thank you for being a critical part of the Bandelier team!

With your comments and support, we completed our five-year strategic plan last year. If you have not seen our final strategic plan, I invite you to view it on our web page, or at this link: [BAND-Strategic-Action-Plan-2022-to-2027.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/BAND-Strategic-Action-Plan-2022-to-2027.pdf) (nps.gov). Our strategic plan envisions a cooperative alliance between agencies and jurisdictions across the Pajarito Plateau and Jemez Mountains. Science and discovery, ancestral and traditional connections and visitor experiences are coordinated across partners with the idea that experiences in one area might suggest a visit to another. To achieve that, we have identified focus areas that will inform our work plan over the coming years. Those areas include tribal collaboration and engagement, visitor management and experience, adaptive management, partnerships, and staffing. It is my hope that all of our staff, cooperators and our Friends group will be able to see themselves and their critical role in fulfilling these exciting goals.

To that end, in the past year, we have worked to emphasize the voices of our tribal partners and have sought to ensure that their perspective is incorporated into every key decision. After the tragic vandalism of Cave Kiva, both Cochiti Pueblo and San Ildefonso Pueblo came to the park to view the damage, and to advise us on how to move forward. Santa Clara Pueblo provided comments, and The All Pueblo's Council of Governors asked the park to brief the group on the status of the damage. The park is working on a treatment plan for the damage, and we are considering options on how to change visitor use of the site to further ensure the site is protected. Our tribal partner's advice was key in creating these options, and we hope to share our range of solutions with them in the coming months.

A lot of very exciting projects were accomplished over the last year as well. The first phase of the stabilization of Alcove House was completed. In this phase, a large stone retaining wall was constructed in front of the Kiva. The wall will hopefully help retain more of the sediment in the site that has been eroding at an alarming rate. The next phase of the project will involve creating some sort of durable surface to further stabilize the fragile site. In the meantime, we will continue to limit the number of people permitted in the site during busy summer hours. Last year, we staffed Alcove House between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., limiting the number of people in the site to 15. Though the effort was labor intensive, it created some meaningful interpretive moments with park visitors who learned about traditional and ancestral tribes with ties to the area, and about how to respectfully visit sites that have great importance to our tribal partners.

Visitor parking was limited this fall due to the ongoing roofing project in the historic district. Roofs were replaced on the Administration Building, the Park Store and several housing units among others, with durable PVC roofs that should help preserve the historic buildings for years. Also, the historic patio behind the park store has been re-opened, as it was in the 1930s. It will be open to the public this coming summer. The bridges that were washed away with the floods that followed the Cerro Grande Fire are currently being replaced. Within the next month or so, seven new bridges will allow visitors to cross between the picnic area, Nature Trail and the Pueblo Loop Trail without impacting park resources.

The large utility replacement project that was slated to begin this year has been moved to 2024 due to competing national priorities. The project will replace the water, gas, and electric supply to the historic district, and will lay out the infrastructure for better connectivity. Though the project is very important to the park, it will severely impact visitors to the Monument while the main road is torn up to replace existing lines.

The project to improve the Frey Trail Parking Area and the Tsankawi Parking area is slated to begin late this spring. We don't anticipate impacts to visitors at the Frey Trail. The park's Tsankawi Unit will need to be closed for the duration of the project as there will be no safe access to the site. The closure of the site will allow the park an opportunity to re-route the main trail out of the middle of the pueblo to reduce impacts to the site; a mitigation that the park promised to the members of San Ildefonso during discussions of the Tsankawi Management Plan.

FRIENDS OF BANDELIER ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

Current Assets - Balance Forward as of January 1, 2022:

Cash in General Fund	\$61,520.42
Cash in Major Purchase Fund	17,586.62
NET ASSETS TOTAL BALANCE FORWARD	79,107.04

Revenue and Other Support:

Contributions 1	6,516.11
Memorial Contribution for Jose Cisneros, former Bandelier Superintendent	100.00
Royalties from the School of American Research's The Peopling of Bandelier	26.42
Interest - General Fund	22.60
Interest - Major Purchase Fund	52.82
TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT	16,717.95

Disbursements:

Bird Banding Leader	10,000.00
Bird Banding Supplies	2,000.00
Cultural Demonstrators	3,523.00
Firewood for Park Campground	3,225.00
Naturalization Ceremony: Cultural Demonstrator, Flags and Refreshments	780.88
Refreshments for Rocky Mountain Youth Crew	192.03
Projector, Equipment and Installation for Park Amphitheater	5,915.00
Resources Diversity Intern	4,350.00
SCA Intern	6,250.00
Volunteer Banquet	725.99
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	36,961.90

Expenses - Friends of Bandelier:

Brochure Printing	98.00
Corporate Report Filing Fee	10.00
Newsletter Printing	93.40
Postage	116.00
PO Box Renewal	166.00
Website and Domain Hosting	291.55
TOTAL EXPENSES	774.95

Net Assets, End of Period:

General Fund	40,448.70
Major Purchase Fund	17,639.44
TOTAL NET ASSETS (Balance as of December 31, 2022)	\$58,088.14

We continue to look for ways to better serve our visitors. The park has been looking at ways to improve the camping experience in the park. We now believe that the opportunity for families to reserve campsites will greatly improve their ability to plan vacations moving forward. We are considering utilizing the national campground reservation system, Recreation.gov, for campground and backcountry reservations, possibly by early summer. We will be seeking public comments on this proposal within the next few weeks. We would love to hear your opinions on the subject, so please watch for the invitation for public comments.

Overall, we are looking forward to another exciting year in the Monument. Our visitation has returned to our 10 year average, after spiking in 2021. The mandatory shuttle will be operating as normal again this year, and the restaurant should be open daily beginning in March. We are looking forward to many great special events this year with the support of the Friends of Bandelier. We hope to again host a Naturalization Ceremony this Constitution Day: a terrific event that was supported by your donations last year. We will host several cultural demonstrators and hopefully some traditional dancers. We are considering hosting a luminaria/farolito event in early December similar to what Pecos National Monument has held in the past. This community event, if it happens, would rely heavily on the support of the Friends of Bandelier. I hope you are as excited about this as we are!

As we look forward to this exciting year, I hope you will join me in supporting the Friends of Bandelier. We could not achieve any of these exciting goals without your help and support. Thanks again for your dedication and support!
--Patrick Suddath, Superintendent

Fire Ecology Internship

For the past several years, and again in 2023, the Friends have funded a position for a Fire Ecology intern with Bandelier's Pueblo and Four Winds Parks Fire Ecology Program. The Fire Ecology Interns had a busy summer. They collected data related to trees, shrubs, herbaceous vegetation, and surface fuels in Bandelier, El Malpais National Monument, the Valles Caldera National Preserve, and on US Forest Service lands. The data will be used to assess the effects of thinning and prescribed fire on forest structure and composition and to determine if treatment objectives are met. Of special interest to the Friends, the crew revisited Fire Ecology plots in Bandelier to collect survival data on seedling trees that were planted in 2020. This multi-agency reforestation project involved planting over 500 seedlings. Data collected include seedling survival, height, and the presence or absence of cover objects. The data will be analyzed and used to help understand factors affecting seedling survival and to guide future planting projects. Interns also assisted with beaver re-introductions, invasive species monitoring and control, bird banding, pika surveys, and wildlife monitoring with wildlife cameras. —from Trader, Laura L., 2022. Fire Ecology and Beyond: 2022 Activities, Collaborations, Projects, and Training. Fire Ecology Program Newsletter. National Park Service.

Cultural Resource Diversity Internship

In addition to the Fire Ecology Program, in 2022 the Friends funded a Cultural Resource Diversity Intern. This is an experiential learning program designed to introduce undergraduate and graduate students from under-represented communities to career opportunities with the National Park Service and other institutions focused on cultural resources and historic preservation. The intern served in a 10-week program tailored to various career tracks within the field of Cultural Resources and helped staff with planning exhibits, cataloging museum collections, archaeological investigations, and community outreach.

Bird Banding

For nearly 20 years, Bandelier has been collecting data on bird migrations at its bird banding site near the Alamo Boundary Trailhead. This long-term data set is valuable in assessing changes in bird populations due to wildfires and climate change. The park provides opportunities for the public and youth groups to visit the banding site. In 2022 and again in 2023, the Friends provide funding for the lead bird bander to supervise the program, and other program funding comes from Fish and Feathers and the Pajarito Environmental Education Center. If you've never taken advantage of this unique opportunity to learn about local birds and to see them closeup, you should plan on a visit to the site this summer. Watch the Bandelier website for dates.

Amphitheater Improvements and More

In 2022, the Friends partnered with the Western National Parks Association to replace the outdated audio-visual equipment in both the theater in the Visitor Center and at the amphitheater near Juniper Campground. The Friends also helped sponsor the Volunteer-in-the-Parks recognition banquet, the park's popular naturalization ceremony, and an end-of-season picnic for the trail-building Rocky Mountain Youth Corps.

For more details and photos of our 2022 projects, head to the Friends of Bandelier website at:

www.bandelierfriends.org

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





2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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2023 Dorothy Hoard Stewardship Award

The Friends of Bandelier have selected Richard “Mouser” Williams as the recipient of the 2023 Dorothy Hoard Stewardship Award. Mouser was chosen for his passion for birdwatching and citizen science. In 2015, he single-handedly revived the Los Alamos Christmas Bird Count and has continued to organize and report on the event ever since. He has long promoted citizen science data collection on birds in the County through his involvement with eBird. Along with Los Alamos resident Michael Smith, Mouser has facilitated birdwatchers in a five-year-long effort to revise the Los Alamos Breeding Bird Atlas. For more information on the award and on this year’s recipient, visit the Dorothy Hoard Stewardship Award page at bandelierfriends.org.

Campground Firewood

Campers at Juniper Campground, like all campers, love to spend the evening in front of a warming campfire. The question is, where to find wood for the fire? As damage to the campground’s juniper and piñon trees became severe, the park instituted a rule prohibiting cutting live trees and removing dead and down wood. Because there is no concessionaire to sell wood in the park, staff approached the Friends to see if they would be willing to supply firewood at the campground as a resource protection measure. The firewood is available to campers who are asked to donate \$1 per stick of wood to the Friends. With this honor system, the Friends barely break even, but the protection the woodpile provides for the vegetation surrounding the campground is invaluable.

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