

## Summary of SFNF Site Steward Educational Meeting January 11, 2006

An evening educational meeting was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2006, at Dominic's in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Thirty seven site stewards and their guests attended.

Mike Bremer asked stewards to sign a congratulatory card for Curt Hawley, who has officially retired as ATL of the Pecos Team and as an At Large Member from the Council. Curt has served as a Site Steward for many years, and continues to visit sites in the Pecos area.

Mike introduced Judy Propper, FS regional archaeologist in Albuquerque. Judy announced a Forest Service *Windows on the Past* national award to the SFNF Site Stewards for 2004. This award acknowledges significant contributions to the Forest Service and represents the 16<sup>th</sup> recipient of the award. Mike nominated the SFNF Site Stewards for this award. A letter from the Forest Service Washington office will be framed and placed in Mike's office.

The educational program featured the Archaeology of the Gallina Province, one of the six areas monitored by site stewards. Mike and Tony Largaespada were the featured speakers.

The Gallina District of the SFNF lies in north-north central New Mexico, with its general boundaries south of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation, north of Highway 96 between Regina and Coyote east of Lindrith and west of the Chama River Canyon Wilderness. The focus of site steward efforts is in the Llaves Valley and its uplands, on sites occupied in the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century (AD 1050-1250), near State Road 112 north of the settlement of Llaves.

Inhabitants of sites in this time frame may have emigrated from farther north. In spite of unpredictable climate in the 7000-9000' uplands with an average of 15" yearly precipitation, there is evidence of substantial agricultural yields and a settlement pattern that featured large villages on north-south trending hogbacks.

Archaeological investigations have continued since H.P. Mera, one of the founders of the Museum of Santa Fe, worked in the area in the 1930s. Frank Hibben from UNM was also actively engaged in survey and excavation of sites in the 1930s. Dwight Fieselman is now reviewing these old field notes and records. The SFNF has been performing surveys in the area since 1995

Similarities of cultural remains with those in the Navajo Reservoir district suggest origins of Gallina District to the northwest; named cultural periods begin ca. AD1 through 1275, when large sites were abandoned. Evidence of violence suggests invasion from people moving across the Gallina from Colorado to the Rio Grande. The general cultural affiliation of population groups is Puebloan.

Typical Gallina large sites feature square structures with large stone walls, slab floors, floor cists, deflectors, and interior firepits. Ninety percent of these structures have been heavily burned. At the Fiero site, there are towers, pithouses, a unit house, adobe storage pits of wattle and daub, and a tunnel from the pithouse to the tower. The site is on top of a hogback. Nogales cliff house

has the same architecture with rectangular houses with bins. Nogales is housed in a large, natural cavern; pictographs are nearby. Eighteen clusters of architecture have been reported on Rattlesnake Ridge, consisting of 15 unit houses, three pithouses, three towers, and a reservoir. Excavation photos dating to the 1940s, 1970s, and 1980s make for revealing comparisons.

Tony Largaespada discussed his retrieval and subsequent analysis of human bones that had eroded out of a cutbank near State Road 112 in the Gallina area. The position of the skeletons and condition of the bones suggest a violent end for several individuals. No date has been attributed to their deaths, but subsequent analyses of excavations materials should yield information about diet, DNA, and other aspects of the human remains. Tony described the difficulty of returning these bones (and others stored in a box in his office dating to 1992 but accompanied by no notes) to neighboring Native American groups. Present-day Native Americans lay no ancestral claim to the Gallina District population.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cella