

The Land Grant Forum

Monthly Newsletter of the
New Mexico Land Grant-Merced
Movement

Taos County Land Grants tour Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández's staff



Bonifacio Vásquez and Jose Arnaldo López explain acequias to congressional staff using a model created by Vásquez's grandson

Washington DC office joined staffer A.J. Pacheco on tours of the Trampas and Santa Bárbara Land Grants, including a cemetery and acequia headgates on former common lands now managed by the U.S. Forest Service. New Mexico Land Grant Council assisted in the visit, which demonstrated the importance of H.R. 5493, the Land Grants-Mercedes Traditional Use Recognition and Consultation Act, which will provide require federal agencies to consult with land grants when undertaking projects on their former common land.



The Santo Tomás Apóstol del Río de las Trampas Land Grant, Merced de Santa Bárbara and the Arroyo Hondo Land Grant hosted members of Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández's staff on April 13th. Land grant presidents Alex López (Trampas), Bonifacio Vásquez (Merced de Santa Bárbara) and Joaquín Argüello (Arroyo Hondo Arriba) discussed the history of their land grants and their relationship with the federal government, and past difficulties of working with federal agencies when accessing firewood, herbs and acequia infrastructure that are all on their former land grant common land. Nathan Schelble, Elizabeth Arevalo, and Nairka Trevino of Congresswoman Leger Fernández's



Alex López of the Trampas Grant discusses a cemetery on USFS managed land with land grant heirs, Rep. Leger Fernández's congressional staff, NMLGC staff and U.S. Forest Service Camino Real RD staff.

Summer 2022 Outdoor Recreation Project



Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps staff around the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant's Campo del Oso campsite.

The NMLGC staff met with the Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps earlier this month to discuss the upcoming Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project. The land grants involved in this project include: La Merced del Cañón de Carnué, Merced de Pueblo de Chililí, Tajique Land Grant, La Merced del Manzano, La Merced del Pueblo de Torreón, Merced de Comunidad de San Antonio de Las Huertas and Town of Tomé Land Grant. The scope of work for this project includes expanding a camping area, creating walking trails, upgrading a playground, creating water diversions, and more. If you know of someone who may be interested in working on the youth crew, please contact Anissa Baca at nissa17@unm.edu for more information.

Thank you, Venessa!



Venessa Chavez left the UNM LGSP & NMLGC office in early March. She worked for the NMLGC and LGSP since 2017, building the Land Grant Studies Program's youth outreach program by organizing events for land grant youth, contributing to our intergenerational oral history archive through implementing regional grant awards, and so much more. Venessa also assisted land grants with capital outlay processes and was a key member of the Council's outreach to local, state and federal government. Her involvement with land grants will continue through her leadership in her own communities of Tajique, Chililí, and the greater Manzano and Sandía Mountain region. Thank you, Venessa, for your years of hard work and service to New Mexico's land grant-merced communities!



Andrea Padilla, President of the Town of Tomé Land Grant discusses Tomé's summer project with Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps staff.

Save the date:

The NMLGC will host a financial training for all land grant Board of Trustees on **Wednesday, May 11th** beginning at 9:00 am. This will be a virtual training held **via Zoom** and will include presentations from the New Mexico State Auditor's Office, General Services Department, and Department of Finance & Administration. Please contact the Council for more details.

The next Land Grant Council meeting will be held on **May 17, 2022** in Albuquerque. Visit lgc.unm.edu for location information and how to participate virtually or in person.