

The Land Grant Forum

Quarterly Newsletter of the
New Mexico Land Grant-
Merced Movement

Issue 003

November 2019



Congresswoman Deb Haaland and NM State Rep. Matthew McQueen with heirs of the Manzano Land Grant

L to R, Arturo Archuleta, Anna Marie Nuñez, Congresswoman Deb Haaland, State Rep. Matthew McQueen, Jason Quintana, Sofia Sanchez

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Land Grant Spotlight

Congresswoman Deb Haaland Tours Congressional District 1 Land Grants

On August 28th Congresswoman Deb Haaland toured the East Mountain land grant communities of Chililí, Tajique and Manzano. This collaborative event was organized by the three land grants, the New Mexico Land Grant Council and Congresswoman Haaland's staff, including Sofia Sánchez, a Manzano Land Grant and Atrisco Land Grant heir. *(continued)*

Questions? Comments? Ideas for the December 2019 issue?
Contact Cheyenne Trujillo at ctrujillo23@unm.edu or
Jacobobaca at jacobobaca@unm.edu.



Congresswoman Deb Haaland Tours District 1 Land Grants

Congresswoman Haaland started her day in Manzano, visiting their community center, church and Manzano's Lake before breaking bread and discussing community concerns with heirs at the Tajique Land Grant Community Center. After the meal, Congresswoman Haaland toured the Chilili community center and gym and toured Chilili's common lands, including the Dog Head Fire Burn Area and the western boundary where the land grant and Cibola National Forest meet and Ojo de Los Casos.

We would like to Thank Congresswoman Deb Haaland for her time and for sharing in these important discussions about land grant communities past, present and future.

Farm Bill Celebration

On September 3rd, land grant heirs joined acequia parciantes at the Los Luceros Historic Site to celebrate the signing of the



Tierra Amarilla LG President Steve Polaco speaking with Rep. Ben Ray Luján

the Farm Bill and the signing of the Forest Service's acequia guidance document. U.S. Congressman Ben R. Lujan, U.S. Senator Tom Udall, and Victor Reyes, Governor Michelle Luján Grisham's policy advisor, discussed the land grant-mercedes and acequias and the 2018 Farm Bill, which created new funding opportunities for our communities after years of fighting for their inclusion. Land grant communities will now be eligible for federal programs to support grazing, farming and watershed projects. The New Mexico Land Grant Council is working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to determine program eligibility for land grants.



Senator Tom Udall with Juan Sanchez (Chilili), Rita Padilla-Gutiérrez (Tomé) and Cheyenne Trujillo (NMLGC staff)

Court Injunction halting fuelwood permits on Forest Service Land modified; timber projects still on hold

On September 26, 2019, U.S. District Court Judge Raner Collins issued an Injunction on all forest management activity on all five New Mexico forests, including the collection of fuelwood. Judge Collins ruling held that the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Wildlife and Fish were not properly monitoring or maintaining critical habitat for the Mexican Spotted Owl. The injunction, filed by the WildEarth Guardians, remained in place for three weeks in the middle of firewood season, creating unnecessary anxiety in land grant communities across New Mexico. On October 2nd, the WildEarth Guardian and the U.S. Forest Service requested that personal cutting and collection of fuelwood be excluded from the injunction. Judge Collins approved this request and personal use permit sales resumed and will be available until December 14th. Timber production and projects, including stewardship contracts, thinning, and prescribed burns remain un in the air.



New Mexico Land Grant Council

Thank you!

For 10 years of service as Council members, we would like to thank **Macario Griego** from the Cañón de Carnué Land Grant and **Rita Padilla Gutierrez** from the Town of Tomé Land Grant for being inspiring council members and community leaders.



At the August, 2019 Council meeting.
Left to right: Macario Griego, Rita Padilla-Gutierrez, Juan Sanchez, Arturo Archuleta, Venessa Chavez and Jacobo Baca.

Welcome New Council Members

On August 19, Governor Michelle Luján Grisham appointed five members to the New Mexico Land Grant Council. Juan Sánchez (Chililí) and Leonard Martínez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama) were re-appointed to the Council; Andrea Padilla (Town of Tomé), Rebecca Correa Skartwed (San Antonio de las Huertas) and Steve Polaco (Tierra Amarilla) were appointed to new terms.



Left to Right: Rebecca Skartwed (Vice-Chair), Juan Sanchez (Chair), Andrea Padilla, Leonard Martinez and Steve Polaco.

Chairman **Juan Sanchez** is President of the Chililí Land Grant and former executive board member of the New Mexico Land Grant-Merced Consejo. Juan also serves on the New Mexico Acequia Commission and has been active in land grants since the 1960s and 1970s.

Vice Chairwoman **Rebecca Correa Skartwed** is President of the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant. She is following in the footsteps of her great grandfather David T. Trujillo, grandfather David B. Trujillo and uncle Rumaldo Montoya, all former Presidents of the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant. Rebecca has served on the San Antonio de las Huertas Board of Trustees since 2013.

Leonard Martínez is the current President of the San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant. He is also the current Vice President of the New Mexico Land Grant-Merced Consejo and former president of the Consejo.

Andrea Padilla is currently President of Town of Tomé Land Grant and President of New Mexico Land Grant-Merced Consejo. She was an academic advisor and college manager at the University of New Mexico and a bilingual education teacher with Belen Schools. She holds degrees in Spanish, cultural studies, counseling and accounting from UNM and attended New Mexico Highlands University and Santa Fe Community College.

Steve Polaco is president of the Merced de los Pueblos de Tierra Amarilla. He graduated from Del Norte High in Albuquerque before attending UNM. In 1979 he moved to Ensenada where he raised a family and worked as a small rancher farmer and as a barber. Steve was the liaison for Acequias Norteñas from 1996 until 2013 for the ongoing water rights adjudication.

New Mexico Land Grant-Merced Consejo

The New Mexico Land Grant-Merced Consejo voted to revise its bylaws to change how the executive board is elected and organized. Candidates for the board no longer run for positions and instead run for seven positions, after which they organize and select officers. These changes align with typical land grant practices.

The Consejo held its bi-annual elections for the Executive Board at the June 2019 Annual meeting in Abiquiú. Leonard Martínez (SJRC), Juan Sánchez (Chilili), Andrea Padilla (Town of Tomé), Nancy López (Chihene Nde Nation), and Joaquín Argüello (Arroyo Hondo Arriba) were re-elected to two-year terms. Andrew Gutiérrez (Tajique), and Bonifacio Vásquez (Santa Bárbara). Mr. Sánchez resigned his position and was replaced by Jason Quintana (Manzano). They held an executive board meeting following the Annual Meeting and selected the following officers.

Reorganization of the board is now the following:

President: Andrea Padilla

Vice President: Leonard Martínez

Secretary: Joaquín Argüello

Treasurer: Andrew Gutierrez

Parliamentarian: Jason Quintana

Member at Large: Bonifacio Vásquez

Member at Large: Nancy López

Contact the Consejo.

Email: nmlgconsejo@gmail.com

Website: nmlandgrantconsejo.org

Name Change

The Consejo Membership voted to officially change the name of the Consejo to the "New Mexico Land Grant-Merced Consejo"



Newly elected executive Board at Abiquiu Meeting



Youth at the Morada in Abiquiu.

Upcoming Events

- Legislative Luncheon: November 15th at the State Capital
- Consejo Quarterly Meeting, December 7th in Town of Tome at the Community Center
- Treaty Day at the State Roundhouse on Sunday, February 2nd
- Lifetime Achievement Award Due January 5th to Consejo Email

Request for Treaty Day Posters for your Land Grant are Due to the LGSP by November 29th

Interim Land Grant Committee

The Interim Land Grant Committee will complete another busy and productive interim session on November 15 when they meet in Santa Fe to endorse legislation. The Committee met in Santa Fe in June, in Anton Chico in July, in Taos in September, and at Ghost Ranch in October. Chair for the 2019 session is Rep. Miguel P. García; Senator Liz Stefanics is the Vice-Chair.



Interim committee on the Sangre de Cristo Grant with longtime Land Rights Council activist Shirley Romero Otero.

In memoriam:



Senator Carlos Cisneros
1948-2019

(Image: nmlegis.state.nm.us).

Senator Carlos Cisneros was a longtime member of the Interim Land Grant Committee. He championed acequia and land grant issues throughout his career, representing the 6th District since 1985. *En Paz Descanse, Senador.*

UNM Land Grant Studies Program



The University of New Mexico Land Grant Studies Program has been working hard to complete the oral history project that was funded by the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Association. The studies program has done Oral Histories with students/ youth in the surround northern communities on elders and gente within the northern land grants.

Land Grant-Merced Youth Program

Under the direction of our Youth Coordinator, Venessa Chavez, the UNM Land Grant Studies Program has been working on providing youth activities throughout land grant communities. This initiative was created from a December 2016 leadership retreat, where land grant leaders expressed a disconnect between their youth and land grant history and foundations. It is important that these values and traditions be continued through the youth of each land grant community through New Mexico. Be sure to engage your local youth and invite them to the future programming we have in store.



Venessa is the former President of the Tajique Land Grant. She is a local businesswoman in Tajique and has been running youth programming for Tajique for the past few years at their local community

Upcoming Event

Luminaria/Farolitos Making
at the Tome Land Grant
on December 7th from
10am to 12pm.



Past Youth Projects July 2019- September 2019

July: Workshop with the Cañón de Carnué Land Grant on Matachines Dancing and Traditions. Made Palmas and Awaha.

August: Made salve from tree sap and made cheese from cow milk with the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant. Presentation on Acequias and their history.



September: Youth programming at the Quarterly Consejo meeting in San Miguel del Vado and did Trash pickup with the Town of Tome Land Grant.

If you would like to do some youth programming in your community. You can contact Venessa Chavez at vchavez78@unm.edu





SAN ANTONIO DE LAS HUERTAS

LAND GRANT– Background

January 13, 1768 – A grant was given to 21 families. It was call the San Antonio de Las Huertas Grant (Saint Anthony of the Gardens). Its boundaries were described as “On the north, by the brow or edge of the Casa Colorado Mountain; on the east, by the brow of the mountain on the San Pedro Road; on the south, by some red hills; and on the west, by some high hills; near Las Huertas.” The SADLHLG graces the northern slope of the Sandia Mountains and is known as “Placitas.”

Our Mission Statement is:

To protect a group of people consisting of the descendants of the original 21 families who originally settled here in Placitas.

To protect the land and water of which we have been given stewardship.

Board of Trustees:

President: Rebecca Correa-Skartwed

Vice President: Paul Delara

Treasurer: Geraldine Escarcida

Secretary: Erlinda Wiggins

Member at Large: Cathy Nieto

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