

The Santa Fe County, New Mexico

CERRILLOS HILLS HISTORIC PARK

Board Members and Officers, Marianna Hatten, President; Bill Baxter, Vice President; Cliff Larsen, Treasurer; Patrick Mohn, Secretary; Kas Berget, Leslie Cohen, Claire Fulenwider, Charles Haecker, Norma McCallan, Homer Milford, Alan Ragins, Sig Silber, Doug Wesley

O-Piñon!

The Official Newsletter of The Cerrillos Hills Historic Park - Vol. 1 No. 2 Spring 2006

Welcome! to new Officers & Board Members Marianna Hatten, President; Charles Haecker & Doug Wesley, Board members

Cerrillos Hills State Park News

NM State Parks Director Dave Simon continues to work with Santa Fe County Open Space & Trails toward having NM State Parks assume management of the Santa Fe County CHHP. At the moment, Dave and his crew are finalizing the necessary feasibility report, and they are still looking for suitable land near Cerrillos for the proposed Heritage Visitor Center. The expectation is that the plan for the State Park will be presented to Santa Fe County Open Lands and Trails Planning & Advisory Committee (COLTPAC) in August or September, and then will go before the BCC in September or October.


Trail Repair and Restoration

The Chimayó Youth Conservation Corps trail repair and restoration project is scheduled to begin in the CHHP the last week of August or the first week of September, says CYCC director Suellen Strale. The CYCC crew should be in the Park, building water bars and improving trails, for about ten days. There are several areas along Elkins Canyon Trail that especially need attention, such as the steep segment just north of the canyon narrows. These YCC projects are beneficial to all of us. The Park gets some great trails, and some of the youth of New Mexico have a productive and fulfilling summer. If you see them out working on the trails, and if you like what they're doing, tell them!

Maintenance Report—Todd Brown, Park Manager

The Park is in good order. Many people are coming to visit. I stay on top of the work to keep it at a level for other to enjoy, and I enjoy taking care of it. I keep the kiosk stocked with brochures and the area picked up and clean. A small parking area was added at the Springs, some road repair work has been done, and the parking area further defined to keep cars on the road and not off of it. Benches have been repaired, downed trees have been cleared from the trails and a short area of fence south of the kiosk has been added to limit vehicle access. I hope you'll come and enjoy the Park!

Mine blasting and dirt bikes to compete for space in the Cerrillos Hills?

 Here's your chance to let BLM know what kinds of use you and your neighbors want for the lands in the Cerrillos Hills. Hiking? Camping? Vistas? Hunting? Mining? ATVs?

Let BLM know what you think! Read On...



BLM to Revise its Management Plan in Northern New Mexico

The federal government is the largest landholder in northern New Mexico. This ownership is split between the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”). The latter department controls most non-forested land. In the Cerrillos Hills, much of the northern portion of the hills is BLM land (“BLM zone”). The purposes for which the BLM intends to manage this land is described in its Taos District Resource Management Plan (“RMP”).

*The current RMP was issued in 1988 and had been developed in the early 1980's. Much has changed since then. The BLM has finally begun this much-needed update. It is now in what is called the “Scoping Process” – a series of public meetings and calls for public comment on the **issues** that should be considered in this update. The anticipated planning issues and concerns include:*

- *Land tenure – should some BLM land be conveyed to another governmental authority? Clearly the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park would like to expand its area to include the nearby BLM land*
- *Land Uses - Currently the BLM zone is classified as open, i.e., without restriction. The CHPC believes that many possible uses should be restricted, if not eliminated. These include the use of firearms, open fires, camping, cross-country ATV travel and expanded mining (beyond existing valid claims).*
- *Special Area Designations – The BLM recognizes the work that has been done in creating the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park and acknowledges the need to integrate BLM land into an overall “recreation theme”*
- *Visual Resource Management – The BLM contemplates creating Visual Resource Management (“VRM”) classes. There currently is no protection for the Cerrillos Hills. This must change and obtain an appropriate VRM is the path to that protection.*
- *Off-Highway Vehicles – this is a rapidly growing issue on all public lands. The Cerrillos Hills are fragile and much of the area should be closed to motorized vehicles. Any open road should be designated as such or it should be considered for closure.*
- *Mineral Materials – should unclaimed areas and lapsed claims be withdrawn from mineral entry?*

These are the major issues that both the BLM and the CHPC Board recognize. There are undoubtedly others that will arise. The public meetings concluded June 29. The comment period, however, will remain open for 30 days. Any issue that you would like to have considered should be addressed to:

Sharon Churchill
Bureau of Land Management
226 Cruz Alta Road
Taos, NM 87571

We are looking forward to both the **expansion and protection** of the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park.
--- Cliff Larsen, Treasurer

The BLM scoping meeting last Thursday evening had I would guess over two hundred attendees, a large portion of them brought there by the turmoil over the San Pedro gravel pits. It was gratifying to see that on the BLM list of front burner considerations for the rewrite of their Regional Management Plan, at the top of that list is the CHHP and the joint use of adjacent land! They know it's there and are very aware that things need to be done. The meeting was intended for input only. This is part of a very long process that will lead to a revised scheme for the use of all BLM lands in northern NM for the next 20 years. BLM requests all interests, concerns and questions be submitted to them between now and the end of July. You'll be able to comment (and make changes) after this July, but it's easier and more effective to have your impact before things get to written form.

Speak up by the end of July. *It's easier to sway policies before they're put on paper. So send in your druthers and comments now! The full RMP revision process will take about 3 years to complete; an EIS being produced late 2008 or early 2009. Everyone from the Coalition should send at least one message to BLM. It doesn't have to be long, but along with whatever you want to say, it should mention the importance of the BLM lands adjacent (north) of the CHHP, and how important they are, and the activities they should or should not allow on them. PLEASE SEND YOUR MESSAGE TO BLM IN THIS WEEK. Given them your name, etc. and be sure to give them permission to identify you as the sender. (They will also accept anonymous input, but you must ask for this. If you claim to represent an organization your message cannot be anonymous.) Pass this email on to a friend. Of the thousand or so letters and messages they will get, we need a significant number to relate to the Cerrillos Hills and the Galisteo Basin (there's a big chunk of BLM adjacent to the SFCo Petroglyph Hill open space).*
--- Bill Baxter, Vice President

Mail to
BLM-Taos
Attn: RMPR
226 Cruz Alta Road
Taos, NM 87571

Call Sher Churchill at 505 758-8851 and leave a message.
or see www.nm.blm.gov for the General RMP Revision.

In an earlier communication, we outlined some of our concerns. ATVs, hunting/firearms, new mining. Other concerns might be water, rights of way & traffic impacts, degradation of adjacent properties, impairment of view sheds.

Who's Who at the Park

Todd Brown is the manager of the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park and he is also the owner and operator of the Casa Grande Trading Post & Turquoise Mining Museum in Cerrillos Village.

Contact Todd concerning all non-emergency matters relating to the operation and maintenance of the Park **at 438-3008**, or simply stop in at the Trading Post. Please report any problems, complaints or just let him know what a good job you think he's doing.

Please call 911 for emergencies.

Flora and Fauna Sightings in the Park

What have you seen in the park lately that has feathers or fur? We'd like to know what creatures are stirring this summer. Email us-- tell us what you've seen!

Did You Know That...

- The Park has **5.2** miles of improved trails?
- There are **8** Fantastic Featured Mines?
- The Park has **8** benches?
- The Park has **13** historical informational signs?

Our List Of Supporters Of The Park

Please email us and tell your friends to do so if they would like to receive the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park newsletter, ***O-Piñon!*** which will be published and distributed four times yearly, primarily by email. Call Chase Morrison **at 660-3187** or email her at celtcello@yahoo.com to sign up to receive CHHP news. Please leave a message stating your name, phone number, email address or, if you prefer, a snail mail address.

Why You Should Become a Member

You may once have been a member of CHHP but let your membership lapse, or you may wish to join as a first-timer. Either way, we're glad to hear from you. If you like what we are doing and would like to join us in support of the Park, you are invited to become a member of the CERRILLOS HILLS PARK COALITION.

As a member you will receive regular updates, news, and invitations to participate in Coalition events, and you will have an opportunity to contribute directly to the evolution and development of the Park. As a Coalition member you will have advance notice and special invitations for selected Park activities and events.

Most of all you will be helping us conserve this unique public open space.

Annual Renewal

We, as always, need your support. Send in your membership renewal today. Deadline for renewal is October 1st BUT there's nothing like getting a jumpstart...



Please print this page, fill out and mail it with your check to the address below.

Thank you!

NAME _____
E-MAIL _____
MAILING ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
INTERESTS & OTHER _____
COMMENTS _____

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student/Senior (65) individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sustainer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Individual membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Organization membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Household (two or more) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Benefactor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Contributor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Life Member (individual or couple) |

Send this completed form and your check to:

All contributions (and membership dues) are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The CHPC is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization, and all of your contributions go toward educational efforts in the Park and to the betterment and maintenance of the Park.

All contributions will be acknowledged.



C.H.P.C.

PO Box 191

Cerrillos, NM 87010

Our website is www.cerrilloshills.org

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