

BCHNM Public Lands Chair Report: 4/10/21

This last month we've had some meetings and issues come up as follows:

NM State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

It's a five year plan, and they have a questionnaire online which they will use to plan out future outdoor recreation projects throughout the state. This includes all outdoor recreation resources such as National, State, Tribal, Private, and etc ... The survey was sent out to Board for distribution to the members. The link is www.getoutsidenm.org and will be up until mid-April.

Some projects will have access to LWCF Act funds providing matching grants. There is 1.5 M for 2021 for acquiring land, developing existing land or forever projects. Proposals are forthcoming.

Trends: Most outdoor recreation happens within 10 miles of your home. The Community survey at that time had 3,000 results and will be open to mid-April. They plan on townhall meetings this summer in each region. The region is the same as laid out by the state.

New information: The New Mexico Economic Development Department (NMEDD) announced the launch of an innovative New Mexico MainStreet (NMMS) and Outdoor Recreation Division (ORD) collaboration to connect communities' downtowns with their natural resources. NMMS and ORD will create the "Outdoor Recreation Asset Atlas" to study five counties; the end result will identify up to five trail creation or improvement projects connected to MainStreet districts. Outdoor recreation development, when connected to MainStreet community downtowns, has great potential to support local, asset-based economic development. Five counties are being considered (McKinley, Sierra, San Juan, Colfax, and Lincoln)

Rob Jaggard Campground at Ft. Stanton

The campground is now closed until at least June with the addition of more sites. There will be 27 campsites with electricity and potable water, and the existing panels for horses will stay in place for rental. The sites will be available by online reservations only thru Rec.gov.

1) Here are some of my questions directed to the BLM planner: Are the horse sites going to be together or is it an open plan? Right now, it's an open plan. However, after our conversation they are going to re-evaluate. I asked if we could have at least 5 sites dedicated to horses together and if not reserved day of they would repopulate into the general sites if the others had sold out.

2) On trails: Would they stay motorized and non-motorized? He said they only have designated non-motorized trails and public road access. For non-motorized trails, e-bikes came

up. BCHNM expressed the e-bikes are a motorized vehicle and should be added to other motorized trails. For more information: Check into the Hale Lake Conservation Area in Lincoln NF. Ft Stanton is planning more trails and will take this into consideration into breaking the two up.

3) Will there still be unlimited dry camping in non-hookup sites? Only for designated groups. (Such as BCH) This is the area around the campground, not on the other BLM sites within Ft. Stanton. BLM is worried it would become too congested otherwise.

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