



Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area

encompassing Santa Fe, Taos, Rio Arriba Counties
Volume 1, Number 2

OUR VISION: Sustain the histories, languages, and cultures of the people of El Norte, and conserve and protect an exquisite environment.

Community Workshops A Success!

In March, Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area, Inc sponsored six public workshops in Santa Fe, Taos and Rio Arriba Counties. The goal of the meetings was to gather input from residents on their vision for local communities and for the region as a whole. The workshops are part of a broader outreach strategy in support of the Heritage Area's comprehensive planning process.



A banner welcomes community members to a NRGNHA, Inc workshop held in Tierra Amarilla on March 17th.

Over a hundred residents participated in the workshops, which focused on four key areas: Land Use & Agriculture, Heritage, Recreation, and Tourism. Attendees offered ideas on conservation, economic development and potential future projects. Glenna Dean, Associate Director of the Heritage Area stated, "These workshops gave people a chance to let us know what they are thinking and feeling. We heard what folks had to say and we will include these concerns in the plan.

All National Heritage Areas must complete a management plan, which describes goals, strategies, and recommendations for telling the story of the region. **It's an agreement** between the key parties – NRGNHA Inc, the public, elected officials, donors, and other agencies, including the National Park Service – on what is going to be achieved over the life of the plan.

Open Houses Scheduled for Follow-Up

As a follow-up to the March community workshops, NRGNHA, Inc will be holding three Open Houses in May. The Open Houses are an opportunity to report back to communities on what was learned during the workshops and a chance to share news on the management planning process more generally. Attendees will have a chance to learn what their neighbors had to say about local heritage resources as well as to offer their own ideas on possible projects and priorities. The format will be informal; come and go at anytime during the afternoon and evening.

The Open Houses will be held in the following locations:

May 18th – Taos, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative Building, 118 Cruz Alta Road, 2:00-6:00 pm

May 19th – Santa Fe, El Museo Cultural, 1615 Paseo de Peralta in the Railyard, 2:00-8:00 pm

May 20th – Española, Northern NM College Admin Bldg., 921 Paseo de Onate, 2:00-8:00 pm

Check our website, www.nps.gov/norg/ for more information.



San Francisco de Asis, in Ranchos de Taos

New Heritage Area Website Now Live!

Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area now has a vibrant presence on the world wide web – www.nps.gov/norg/. Visit the site to learn general information about the region as well as more specifics on upcoming meetings and the management planning process. Also, if you are interested in offering ideas for future projects, please fill out our questionnaires at <http://www.nps.gov/norg/how-can-i-help.htm>.



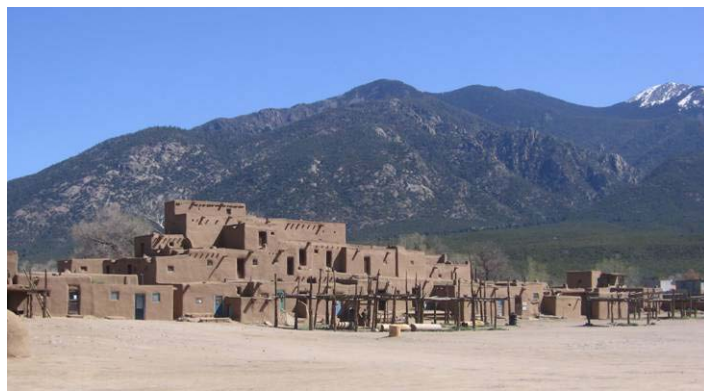
The Rio Grande nourishes communities of all sizes in the region

What is a National Heritage Area?

A National Heritage Area is a place where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity. Heritage conservation efforts are grounded in a community's pride and interest in its history and traditions. Preserving the integrity of the cultural landscape and local stories means that future generations will be able to understand and define who they are, where they come from, and what ties them to their home. Through the designation of the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area, people are better able to conserve their rich and complex heritage as well as share it with the many visitors to northern New Mexico.

Documentary Film in the Works

The Rio Grande, together with wind and time, shaped a landscape that has determined from the beginning where and how life happens in El Norte. We have contracted with Water in Motion, a film company in El Rancho with experience in New York, Los Angeles, and New Mexico to produce a documentary exploring the ties that bind generations of living people to the land. Interviews with Tribal elders, Hispanic viejitos, newcomers of diverse backgrounds, and young people will illuminate the history that lives in the Heritage Area today. The film will be shown at community meetings, in classrooms and as part of presentations to service organizations such as the Rotary. The final work will hopefully broadcast on Public Television to stimulate community pride and interest in recording local stories.



Taos Pueblo, World Heritage Site, is within the heritage area

Heritage Area Tourism Map

NHA Inc. is partnering with the Española Valley Chamber of Commerce to print large-format maps showcasing tourist destinations. One side of the map will feature the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area and cultural and historical locations of interest to visitors. Sidebar text will point out relationships between culture and landscape to help visitors gain insight on the continuity of the past into the present.

**For More Information or to GET INVOLVED in Heritage Area projects contact Mr. Jose Villa or Ms. Glenna Dean at (505) 753-0937
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