

Date: April 17, 2023

To: Archaeological Society of New Mexico

From: Torrance County Archaeological Society

Re: 2022-2023 Annual Report

It has been quite a year for the Torrance County Archaeological Society. As we emerged from the COVID lockdowns and restrictions, TCAS has changed leadership, due to the relocation and retirement of long time president Bob Berglund and is actively planning for the future under the presidency of Steven Rospopo and a revitalized management team. We hope that this team's efforts will lead to a bright future.

We continue as most of your member organizations with recruiting new members and retaining our membership. We experienced as did other societies, a decrease in in-person attendance and field trips as we all held out first post-COVID meetings. We are trying with our programs to elevate interest and enthusiasm for public archaeology programming. Our society like many in New Mexico is getting older and losing core members to retirement from leadership roles. Our planning must address the aging out of archaeology societies and recruit younger members, especially students from the state's many academic organizations.

TCAS has both short-term and long-term goals: recruitment of members for site steward opportunities, establishing new strategic relationships for collaboration and developing new public education field trips in in the greater Estancia Basin.

TCAS has a membership of about 50 individuals. A core of 8 to 10 dedicated volunteers provide the working group for day-to-day operations. We have moved our public outreach meetings monthly to Mountainair at the Mnazano Mountain Arts Council Building and worked with Superintendent Lisa Baldwin to use the National Park Service facilities for our board/committee meetings. We are developing long-term relationships to offer multiple organization sponsored lectures, field trips, a multiple regional base speaker bureau, and to solicit areas where our membership can contribute to new research, survey, and monitoring projects. We have relationships with The Albuquerque Archeological Society, East Mountain Historical Society, Friends of Tijeras, Manzano Mountains Arts Council, Jornada Research Institute and National Park Service organizations.

Many TCAS members have served as NM Site Stewards in the past years. Sandra Arazi Coombs of the NFS, is working with TCAS to reinvigorate those activities post-COVID and to establish new sites and areas that TCAS members may participate as stewards in the region. TCAS is committed to assisting all of the governmental agencies in this regard.

The membership of TCAS really like to engage in educational in publicity archaeology, by visiting and learning about sites in the region. We are planning expert led visits, usually accompanied by a public lecture to area sites, which require permits and permissions from land owners. We will be offering these limited attendance opportunities to learn about and visit these

sites to TCAS, AAS, FOTP, and EMHS members in order to provide excellence in public education for cultural resources. For example, we will be offering a guided tour to the Salinas Lakes region, which will be used to educate National Forest Service personnel about the region and its features, as well as TCAS members. Other area visits in concert with the Forest Service, the staff at the Mountainair Office of the Park Service, BLM, and Archeological Conservancy partners are being planned for the late spring and summer of 2023. We also hope to complete our inventory survey and documentation project at Abo Ruins site which has been conducted in concert with John Hayden and the Park Service.

We have recently acquired the capability of conducting zoom meetings but are committed to holding monthly public meetings with a guest speaker, from March to November of each year. David Bustos presented a spectacular lecture on ongoing research into the White Sands footprints in the Fall of 2022. Recent speakers included UNM OCA PI Alex Kurota, graduate student Steven Rospopo, and ASNM president Thatcher Seltzer-Rogers. We are trying to attract lecturers who, can educate our membership about the region's pre-contact, contact and historical histories. The establishment of a ASNM wide speaker's resource bureau is a necessity to develop education programs for all of New Mexico's societies.

We look forward to seeing all of our friends at the May 5-7, 2023 annual meeting at Ruidoso. Finally, stay tuned, TCAS is redeveloping our website to meet the needs of a post-COVID world: <https://www.tcasnm.org>. We will be applying for grant monies for education our constituency as well as funding educational programs for the region.