

Date: April 6, 2024

To: Archaeological Society of New Mexico

From: Torrance County Archaeological Society

Re: 2023-2024 Annual Report

It has been quite a year for the Torrance County Archaeological Society. Our BOD remains constant in its makeup, although we have lost dedicated members in the last year to relocation and retirement. We hope that this management 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 navigate the post-COVID organizational environment. We endeavor to provide programs and activities that will elevate interest and enthusiasm for public archaeology programming. Our society like many in New Mexico is getting older and losing core members to retirement/relocation from leadership roles. Our planning must address the aging-out of archaeology societies, develop appropriate alternate activities that address mobility and participant age, and recruit younger members, especially students from the state's many academic organizations and secondary schools.

TCAS has both short-term and long-term goals which include recruitment of members for site steward opportunities and to expand the societies programs, especially through research and activity grants. We continue to strive to establishing new strategic relationships for collaboration and developing new public education field trips in in the greater East Mountains and Estancia Basin region.

TCAS has a membership of about 60 individuals and a core of 8 to 10 hard-working dedicated volunteers provides the working group for day-to-day operations. We continue to use the National Park Service Regional Office and the Manzano Mountain Arts Council Building in Mountainair. We continue to have collaborative agreements with The National Forest Service (Cibola NF) and the National Park Services (Salinas Missions Region) to provide selected site tours of Archaeological resources for staff members and worked with Superintendent Lisa Baldwin to use the National Park Service facilities for our board/committee meetings. We are developing long-term relationships with affiliated societies of the Archeological Society of New Mexico to offer multiple organization sponsored lectures, field trips and an regional base speaker bureau, and to solicit areas where our membership can contribute to new research, survey, and monitoring projects in the region. TCAS and the NFS have recently completed the . We have relationships with, the Albuquerque Archeological Society, the East Mountain Historical Society, the Friends of Tijeras, the Manzano Mountains Arts Council, the Jornada Research Institute, the Historic Schaffer Hotel in Mountainair and National Park Service organizations.

The core of the TCAS BOD are members of the NM Site Stewards and have been active for many years. Rick Koll serves as the chapter leader of the Torrance County SiteWatch chapter and with NFS archaeologist, Sandra Arazi-Coombs, is working with TCAS to reinvigorate those activities post-COVID. There has been some interest in establishing new sites and areas to

monitor. Torrance County SiteWatch is a standalone group (all of whom also are TCAS BOD Members) that monitors twelve sites in the Eastern Salinas region and is committed to assisting all of the participating governmental agencies.

The membership of TCAS really like to engage in activities that focus on cultural resource protection based public 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 the greater central New Mexico Archaeological community which includes ASNM affiliates, such as TCAS, AAS, FOTP, and EMHS. For example, we will soon again offer a guided tour to the Salinas Lakes region for Native American elders and have visited other area sites, especially in the Eastern Salinas region, which are designed to educate National Forest Service and National Park Service personnel about the region and features that required CRM activities, as well as our core of TCAS members. Recently, we have entered into an informal agreement with the Archeological Conservancy to do site evaluation at a new site in the Mountainair area. We also hope to complete our Rock Art inventory survey and documentation project at the Abo Monument site, which has been conducted in concert with John Hayden and the Park Service.

We continue to maintain the capability of conducting Zoom meetings but are committed to holding monthly in-person public meetings with guest speakers, from March to November of each year. Recent speakers have included archaeologist and author Paul Secord, Coronado Historians Richard and Shirley Flint, Genizaro Scholar and Filmmaker Moises Gonzales, Rock Art scholars James Krehbiel and Natalie Cunningham, JRI researchers Jeffrey Hanson, Joan Price and David Greenwald, and Crow Canyon educator Jon Ghahate, We are committed to attract lecturers who, can provide a variety of disparate perspectives in order to educate our membership about the region's pre-contact, contact and historical histories. As in 2023, 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 3-5, 2024 annual meeting in Las Vegas, NM. Finally, stay tuned, TCAS continues in the process of infrastructure upgrades such as redeveloping our website, starting a Facebook platform presence, and developing the recording/editing/publishing technology for presentations and lectures intended for an YouTube channel for TCAS. We are actively seeking grants for a series of traditional skills, educational activities and hosting an Eastern Salinas Ceramics Conference in our Mountainair Facility for the Salinas Lakes Region. Our website is <https://www.tcasnm.org> and our primary email address is tcasnm@outlook.com).