



# NMVFO NEWS

The Voice of the New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors

May 2009

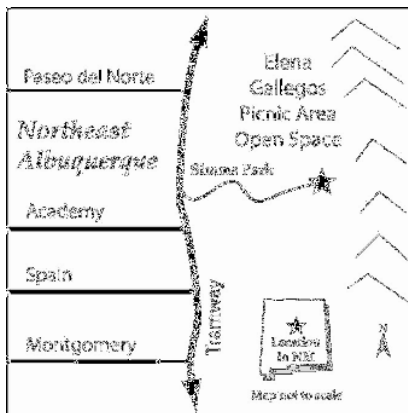
Volume 27, No. 3

*New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors, (505) 884-1991 or (888) 836-5553  
Visit our website at [www.nmvfo.org](http://www.nmvfo.org). Email us at [lnmvfo@gmail.com](mailto:lnmvfo@gmail.com).*

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Albuquerque Open Space and Sandia Wilderness Projects ( ↖ - ↗ ) Saturday May 2, 2009

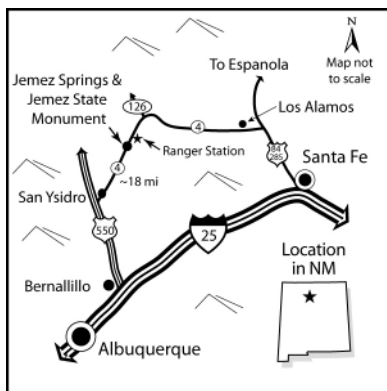
Presented by New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors and Friends of Sandia Mountains



Join us for a short day of work in the Sandias and foothills! You can choose from one of several projects including multi-use and wilderness trails. We need all levels of effort and are particularly interested in volunteers who can help us mentor some of the new people that will show up to learn general maintenance. The wilderness projects will be on the Pino trail and Domingo Baca. We will also be working on FS trail #305 and open space trails. We will meet at the Elena Gallegos parking area between 0800 and 0830 where we will divide up in to small groups. We will provide bagels and juices in the morning. We will work for approximately five hours and then meet back at the large double shelter for a lunch we will provide and lots of great door prizes! Please sign up by contacting REI-Albuquerque directly at (505) 247-1191.

### Jemez State Monument ( ↖ ) Saturday May 9 through Sunday May 10, 2009

Leader: Ruth Hartswick, (505) 294-3551, [Lhartswick@earthlink.net](mailto:Lhartswick@earthlink.net)



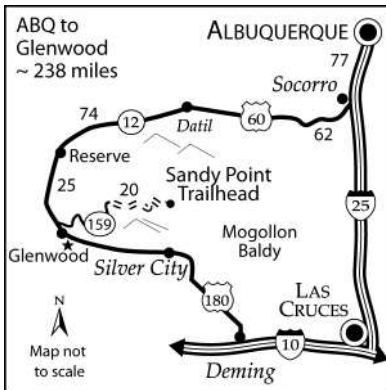
We plan to construct about a mile of new trail from the monument into Church Creek Canyon along an old road. This is a very attractive, mostly shady little valley. Much of the work will be removing vegetation with a chain saw and loppers. Some tread work, dips, and cairn construction will also be needed. We will need to place some large rocks into several stream beds to serve as steppingstones. On Sunday we will be building a small bridge across a gully. Camping will be in the upper parking lot at the Ranger Station, where we will have access to a restroom and shower. Breakfasts will be served at this location. Dinner will be served in the picnic area of the monument. Parking during work hours (due to lack of parking at the monument)

will be at the Valles Caldera Visitor's Center which is directly across the road from the monument. Anyone not camping should park there and meet us at the monument office at 8am on Saturday or Sunday morning. Please bring your eating utensils, your own Saturday lunch, and work gloves. Sign up with Ruth by May 7. Hope to see you there.

## Gila Crest Trail Backpack ( ↖ ↗ ↘ )

**Friday May 22 through Monday May 25, 2009**

Leader: Bill Velasquez, (505) 882-0555 (w); (505) 292-6030 (h); [bvelasquez@gardnerzemke.com](mailto:bvelasquez@gardnerzemke.com)



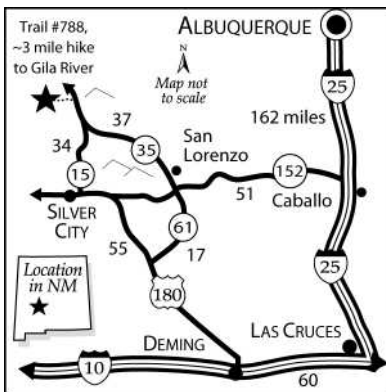
Help us kick off 3-season backpacking by joining us on one of the more popular trails in the Gila – the Crest trail. Plunge 250 road miles south to the west side of the Gila Wilderness. Help us continue to clear trails north from Hummingbird Saddle to Mogollon! We will meet Friday morning for breakfast in the charming town of Glenwood. Following we will proceed to the Glenwood Ranger Station and carpool from there to the Sandy Point trailhead. We will work our way up the Crest trail towards Hummingbird spring. The focus of this project will be clearing deadfall, which some consider to be the most rewarding of all trail work.

Because this project is not supported, volunteers will be expected to carry everything they need for a four day backpack. You will also be required to help carry tools. You must prepare and carry your own food and be prepared to deal with filtering your own water, cooking and storing your own food, and carrying anything else you would normally carry on a solo trip. Sample recipes are available for those that wish to prepare their own meals from scratch. We are also interested in setting up carpools to help reduce the footprint of this project!

## Gila River Backpack ( ↖ ↗ ↘ )

**Sunday May 24 through Saturday May 30, 2009**

Leader: Ray Peale, (505) 473-9670, [trpeale@msn.com](mailto:trpeale@msn.com)



Join us as we camp along the scenic Gila River and work on Trail #403 which heads west toward Brushy Mountain. The trail has many areas where the tread is uneven resulting in difficult footing and hiking. We'll be building retaining walls to allow for a more level tread among other trail tread improvements. The base camp is reached by Trail #788 which descends from NM Hwy 15 to the Gila River. The backpack required is 2 - 3 miles. The trailhead for trail #788 is on the west side of Hwy 15 about one mile south of the Grapevine campground and ten miles north of the junctions of NM Highways 15 & 35 north of Silver City. There is plenty of parking at the 788 trailhead. A green VFO direction sign will mark the 788 trailhead on

Hwy 15 by Sunday morning. Note that the distance from Albuquerque is about 225 miles.

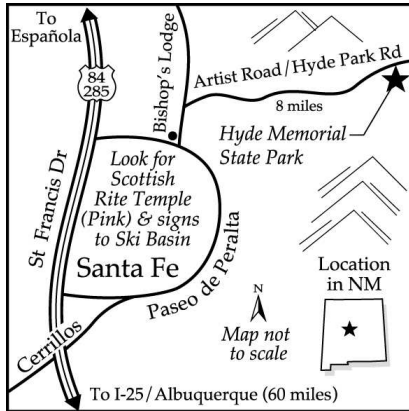
All tools will be provided by the Forest Service. Group meals will be provided beginning the evening of Sunday, May 24 through lunch on Sat, May 30. Volunteers are expected to bring their own personal camping gear, work clothes (long sleeve shirt and long pants), work gloves, and eating utensils. You may stay and work the entire 5 day project or only 1 day should your time be limited. It's up to you and any time you have is appreciated.

The Gila Wilderness experiences some of its best weather during May and our camp will be in a stunning setting. There is reportedly a swimming hole in the area! The project will provide an experience you won't want to miss! Please sign up with the leader by May 18 and don't hesitate to call should you have questions.

## National Trails Day, Hyde Memorial State Park ( ↖ - ↗ ↘ )

**Saturday June 6, 2009**

Leader: Lowell Hioki, (505) 474-0913, [Lhioki@msn.com](mailto:Lhioki@msn.com)



Come and celebrate National Trails Day with us in the delightful surroundings of Hyde Memorial State Park in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains outside Santa Fe. This nationwide event is sponsored by the American Hiking Society and is an annual observation of trails and the people who enjoy and maintain them. Amidst the cool pine forests of the Park, we'll have a variety of projects from which to choose, from light to heavy trail work. No experience is necessary – just a willingness to join likeminded volunteers who enjoy working in the outdoors. We will gather Saturday morning between 8:00 and 8:15 am at Group Shelter 2, hear descriptions of the different tasks, have a safety talk, and then head off to work on different crews. At the end of the day, a barbecue dinner will be provided.

To get to the Park, take St. Francis Dr to Paseo de Peralta at the north end of Santa Fe, and proceed east on Paseo de Peralta to Washington Ave. At the bright pink Scottish Rite temple, turn north (left) on Washington Ave/Bishop's Lodge Rd, and turn east (right) at the first stoplight onto Artist Rd./Hyde Park Rd. Follow the latter 7½ miles to the State Park, and look for the NMVFO road signs directing you to Group Shelter 2. We need to have an accurate headcount to ensure sufficient food and tools, so please sign up no later than May 30. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** Don't hesitate to call or email Lowell if you have any questions or need more information.

### Note: Schedule change for Chaco Culture NHP Project

The Chaco Culture National Historical Park project originally scheduled for October 10-11, 2009 has been moved to October 17-18.

### A Reminder for Project Leaders

Photographs taken of your project can be shared via a slide show in the Projects Page of our website. Select a dozen of your most interesting shots, write captions for each, and send them to Lowell Hioki ([Lhioki@msn.com](mailto:Lhioki@msn.com)). Not everyone can participate in your project, but many more than your participants can enjoy what was experienced by sharing your photos!

### Need Camping Equipment?

If you've been hesitating about going on one of our overnight or longer projects because of a lack of camping equipment, we have some for loan to you. Jan Underwood and Cindy Hess donated a dome tent, and the VFO purchased a 0° sleeping bag and foam mattress pad. These are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so check with the project leader if you want to borrow them. If these have already been borrowed, another source is REI, in Albuquerque near I-25 and Montano and in Santa Fe at the Railyard; they have a wealth of camping (and other) equipment for rent, including tents, sleeping bags, and sleeping pads.



We want to again thank Wilson & Company, Engineers and Architects, for printing our flyers during this and many past seasons. In Albuquerque, Wilson & Company's services include architectural, environmental planning, railroad and surveying and mapping services.



New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors  
P.O. Box 36246  
Albuquerque, NM 87176

Website: [www.nmvfo.org](http://www.nmvfo.org)  
Email: [1nmvfo@gmail.com](mailto:1nmvfo@gmail.com)

### Join the NMVFO Today!

Your membership dues help fund all our activities to make improvements to trails and outdoor recreation areas throughout New Mexico. Mail in the form below, along with your check, to NMVFO, P.O. Box 36246, Albuquerque, NM 87176.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_

email address: \_\_\_\_\_

May we send you our newsletter by email? \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate what information above we may include in our posting of your name in the Members-Only section of our website.

The New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors is a 501(c)(3) corporation in the state of New Mexico. We are an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff.

#### NMVFO Membership Categories

- Individual (\$20)
- Family (\$30)
- Contributor (\$30)
- Sponsor (\$50)
- Benefactor (\$100)
- Life (\$250 and above)
- Corporate (\$250 and above)
- You Name It (above \$250)