

Spring 2022  
Newsletter

# Arroyo Hondo Arriba Community Land Grant

## A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

It is a blessing to be a part of a community that continues to connect our families, interests, and efforts. Since taking office, we are meeting regularly to address AHACLG priorities and learn from our elders as much as possible.

On behalf of the executive committee we are honored to serve each of you and our community in effort to protect our lands, continue to build strong relations with one another, and to inspire the upcoming generations.



## AHA LAND GRANT YOUTH

We are happy to highlight our local youth who contributed to the documentation of our land grant history and experience through an oral history project sponsored by the UNM Land Grant Studies Program, funded by Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area. Maria and Miguel Garcia, Orlando Pino, Giovonta Martinez, and Angelina Garcia conducted personal interviews with AHACLG Members, Victor Martinez and Dr. David Arguello. We look forward to learning more about what they learned at the annual meeting!



## NEW CONTACT INFO:

**May 21** Work Day (Voluntary)

**June 25** Annual Meeting, Escuelita, 11AM-1PM

**July 16** Work Day

**August 27** Work Day

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# TAOS SKI VALLEY

**The Taos County Commission gave only a 48 hour notice to the public for an emergency meeting at which the TSV Inc. was to present their \$150 million proposal, "Taos Region Clean Energy Transportation and Recreation Corridor".**

The most concerning parts of the proposal included the lack of a full environmental study, the 5 million gallon water tank, sewage plant upgrades, addition of a high speed gondola, a Nordic/snow-shoe trail system and their misrepresentation of community collaborations that have been minimal and exclusionary for our communities. During the 2 hour zoom meeting, more than 60 participants asked important questions regarding the use of \$140 million dollars of public funds to support a for-profit business, questioned the legality of their water right claims and their failure to disclose their complete high density development plans.

After the Q & A portion of meeting, TSV Inc. withdrew their request for a letter of support from the commission and refused to even present their proposal during the meeting. Therefore, we ask each of you to access and review the recorded zoom meeting, proposal document and meeting minutes at: <http://taoscounty.org/389/Meetings-Agendas-and-Minutes> (Open "Taos County Commission Meetings" then select February 8th, 2022). You can also access related information by the U.S. Forest Service at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=61390>. This meeting and other TSV Master Plan Presentation, interviews with "Profa. Sylvia Rodriguez" about the 40 anniversary history of community resistance to TSV development, an interview about the "Ski Valley Expansion" and more available on: <https://culturalenergy.org/listenlinks.htm#apr2022>. Lots of helpful information provided by people organizing to address this can be found at [www.friendsoftheriohondo.com](http://www.friendsoftheriohondo.com). The deadline is May 6th for public written comments to the U.S Forest Service regarding the Special Use permit process can be made at: <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=61390>. Please note that these internet web site addresses are case sensitive. You may share this information and email us to receive these and additional related resources and materials via email.

## Cerro Negro Project

*Innovation and Community Impact*

### Overview

Since 2018, about 150 leñeros from our community and merced members have harvested over 500 cords of wood from the site in Gallina Canyon and San Cristobal through the local Forest Mayordomo Project. This project was designed by our merced elders to replicate the historical local community democratic and collective leadership structure of our acequia and merced. The possibility of extending this project to thin areas within our own merced boundaries for fire protection efforts is currently being explored. On April 7th, 2022, during the TVWC collaborative meeting, the U.S. Forest Service noted our project and the related region wide collaboration are held up as an exemplary model nationally by the Washington D.C. office which helped our communities receive additional funding for a Pilot Forest Stewardship Program.

### Impact

- This project has demonstrated an intergenerational participatory and experiential educational focus by including students from local middle schools, high school and university who conducted scientific research measuring the trees (girth and height), classifying them by their scientific names and performing ground cover studies related to erosion all presented to our community and their school sites.
- Our Mayordomo Project is being replicated in Las Trampas and Santa Barbara mercedes with proposed expansion to communities at Taos Pueblo and on the Enchanted Circle roadway (Red River, Angle Fire and Taos Ski Valley).

For an update on the Cerro Negro Forest Council local thinning project and its expansion throughout the Taos Valley Watershed Coalition (TVWC) please visit: [www.cerronegroforestcouncil.org](http://www.cerronegroforestcouncil.org) and <https://www.taoscountywildfire.org/tvwc>.

Taos Millicent Rogers Museum Presents:



Sunday, June 12, 2022, Building Community: Wisdom of Place, Educational Attainment & Paying it Forward, 1:00-3:00pm  
Feat. Dr. Bonavita Quinto MacCallum & Dr. David Fermín Argüello;  
moderated by Dr. Trisha Martinez