

Merced De Santo Tomas Apostol De El Rio De Las Trampas
Community Meeting
August 22, 2023
Location: Penasco Community Center

Presenters for the Merced Del Rio De Las Trampas

1. Alex J Lopez Chairman, 505-689-2408 alexjlopez13@gmail.com

Topics:

- √ Peotectecting our watershed.
Rio de Las Trampas Forest Council:
Pardnering with Forest Guild,
Camino Real Forest Service, and surrounding communities.

Getting the youth from Penasco Independent School involved

2. **Immediate Goals**

Comply with requirements as a Political Subdivision of the State of New Mexico
Provide fuel wood for our surrounding communities.

3. **Long Term Goals:**

Purchase land for our land grant,
Recover common land that has been encroached.
Build a community center to house our Land grant, Acequia system, and,
Drinking water Mutual Domestic Water Association.

4. **How can you as Legislators help?**

Allocate funding to build a community center.
Allocate funding for Tort and liability insurance, for all political subdivisions of the
State of New Mexico. Land grants, Acequias and Drinking water systems,

THANKS FOR CARING ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATIONS!

Condensed History of Merced De Santo Tomas Apostol Del Rio De Las Trampas

During the spring and summer of 1751, twelve heads of families living in Santa Fe petitioned Governor Tomas Valez Cachupin for a grant of land at a place between Santa Fe and Taos.

In the preamble to his decree, Governor Valez Cachupin stated that the reason for the grant was increase in population of the villa of Santa Fe and to secure a barrier between the Apache and Comanche Indians and the settlements of Chimayo and Santa Cruz De La Canada.

The twelve heads of families were, (1) Juan de Arguello,(2)Juan Jose De Arguello,(3) Salvador Baca,(4)Antonio Dominguez,(5) Juan Garcia,(6) Eusebio de Leyba,(7) Luis de Leyba,(8) Vicente Lucero,(9)Malchor Rodriguez,(10) Pedro Felipe Rodriguez, (11) Ignacio Vargas and (12) Ignacio Vargas. These twelve families lived in the barrios of Santa Fe and were related by blood or marriage. On July 1, 1751 the twelve families were given approximately 80 square miles 2 leagues x 3 leagues –Approx 5 miles x 7.5 miles of land by the king of Spain in current day counties of Taos and Rio Arriba in northern NM.

By the year 1760 they had moved in and had build most of their settlement and which they named Merced de Santo Tomas Apostol del rio de las Trampas. The settlers were now ready to construct a church within their community. They went to Santa Fe to ask for permission to build and erect a church. After securing permission from the Archdiocese it is estimated that it took them approximately 8 years for completion of the church. They continued to build and plant utilizing the common land of the grant to sustain their lives and the needs of their families.

By the early 1900 they had prospered so much that the some families had moved on to the nearby valleys of what is now the communities of Ojo Sarco, El Valle, Diamante, Chamisal, Ojito and Llanno De San Juan Santa Barbara.

By that time The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848 had been submitted to US Congress and had been confirmed as a valid grant June 6 1860 .(US Patent: Grant #27).
First survey contained 46,461 acres
Second survey contained 28,14 acres
It had also been translated from Spanish to English and included the right to partition.
In 1884 when the United States were adopted by the Territory of New Mexico, the door was opened for partition, and the land grants were no longer protected by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

Between 1903 and the late 1930 the common land of Las Trampas Land Grant changed ownership 4 different times. It is currently being managed by Carson National Forest and more in particular by the Camino Real Ranger District in Penasco, New Mexico.
So we consider ourselves as a land grant without land.