

# Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project

Application submitted to the Outdoor Recreation Division –  
New Mexico Economic Development Department  
August 31, 2021



**Tajique Land Grant**



**Merced de Pueblo de Chilili**



**La Merced del Manzano**



**ANCESTRAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION CORPS**



**Town of Tomé Land Grant**



**Land Grant Studies Program**



**La Merced del Cañon de Carnué**



**La Merced del Pueblo de Torreón**



**Merced de Comunidad de San Antonio de Las Huertas**



---

Title **Tajique Land Grant** 08/31/2021  
by **Jacobo Baca** in **Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant** id. 21113981  
jacobobaca@unm.edu

---

**Original Submission** 08/31/2021

---

**ORGANIZATIONAL DETAILS**

---

1. Organization name **Tajique Land Grant**

---

2. Organization type **Soil and Water Conservation District or Acequia association**

---

3. Organization website *n/a*

---

4. Organization address **8636 Highway 55  
Tajique  
New Mexico  
87016  
US**

---

5. Do you have a fiscal sponsor? **Yes**

---

5a. Please provide the name of your fiscal sponsor. **The Tajique Land Grant is a political subdivision of the State of New Mexico and will serve as the fiscal sponsor for this grant.**

---

6. Primary contact information **Andrew Gutierrez**

---

Primary contact email address **tajique1834@gmail.com**

---

Primary contact phone number **+15055049100**

---

7. Secondary contact information **Jacobo Baca**

---

Secondary contact email address **jacobobaca@unm.edu**

---

Secondary contact phone number **+15054009426**

---

8. Did your organization apply for Special Projects and Outdoor Infrastructure Fund funding last year? **Yes**

---

8a. Was your organization awarded Special Projects and Outdoor Infrastructure Fund funding? **No**

---

## PROJECT DETAILS

---

9. Project abstract **The Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project is a collaboration of seven land grants (the Tajique, Chililí, Manzano, Town of Tomé, Torreón, Cañón de Carnué and San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grants) located around the Manzano and Sandia Mountains that seek to collectively create a land grant-merced youth conservation crew to work on several projects in seven land grants across four counties. The projects include trail creation and improvement (including trail improvements around a fishing lake, recreation and camping area, and community playground), creating and improving community parks and playgrounds, and building erosion controls at community centers and playgrounds and at a popular spiritual and pilgrimage site. Through partnership and collaboration with Ancestral Lands (nonprofit focused on developing indigenous youth conservation corps), the UNM Land Grant Studies Program, the NM Land Grant Council (state agency tasked with supporting land grants), and the Resource Center for Raza Planning at the UNM School of Architecture and Planning, we are confident that we can make significant improvements in each community increasing recreation opportunities and improving physical health. Outdoor recreation has always been an affordable way for people to benefit from fresh air and activity. The communities participating in this regional project are underserved populations with limited access to safe and functional recreation opportunities. Working collectively, each community will use the resources they have to make substantial improvements to their public spaces, providing them the opportunity to strengthen community and improve spaces where people can safely engage in outdoor recreation.**

---

10. Full project description **The Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project will employ a youth conservation crew to work on outdoor recreation projects in the Tajique, Chililí, Manzano, Town of Tomé, Torreón, Cañón de Carnué and San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grants in Tarrant, Valencia, Bernalillo and Sandoval Counties. By partnering with Ancestral Lands (ALCC), the youth will receive the proper training and certification to complete these projects. Specific land grant by land grant project information is below. The Tajique Land Grant has a newly established park at the Tajique Land Grant**

Community Center, but poor planning has left the community with a park prone to flooding which is causing damage to the playground and outdoor basketball court. A swale is needed to re-establish the natural water flow in order to divert water away from recreation areas, including the community center itself, which has been flooded several times, forcing the removal of the floor. This erosion and diversion work will be done by digging the swale and creating dams and barriers by placing river rock and divots to slow down the flow of water and channel it away from the park and playground. This will create a safe place for kids to play free of flooding and tripping hazards created by erosion. The Tajique Land Grant Community Center is a popular outdoor recreation site for the entire community's youth and hosts youth programs for the entire community. The Chililí Land Grant has a community gym with an outdoor park and playground that is only accessible by local youth on foot by walking along State Highway 337, which does not have a shoulder or sidewalks. The Chililí Community Center hosts community celebrations, meetings, and other events and the outdoor park, including an outdoor basketball court and playground, are often used in conjunction with the center. Creating a trail to the recreation site, on land grant common land away from the highway, will significantly decrease the danger of walking to the park and will increase the park's use. This will be done by trimming back trees and other vegetation and digging in tread to establish a trail. The Chililí Land Grant believes that this will increase the safe use of its outdoor community park. The Manzano Land Grant has a five-acre lake that is a very popular regional destination for fishing and walking. It is the only lake in the East Mountains and is stocked by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Unfortunately, the lake has become overgrown with invasive trees and shrubs. This overgrowth has taken over the walking path and has reduced the areas available for those who want to sit and fish. This project requires trimming the brush, removing noxious trees and shrubs as well as improving and realigning the walking path around the lake. This will allow for a safer area for those who exercise by walking around the lake. It will also provide sufficient space for those who visit the lake to fish by widening the trail to allow space for them to sit or stand and fish. The Tomé Hill Park has a paved walking path at the bottom of the Tomé Hill, a regional and national pilgrimage site. The pathway is surrounded by sandy hills and the rain and runoff from these hills has caused the pathway to be with inundated with sand and gravel. There are also some native shrubs and weeds that have grown onto or are encroaching into the path. Many people walk to the top of the Tomé Hill, for both physical and spiritual health, however for those who cannot make the (452 ft elevation gain) hike, the pathway is a safer alternative for elderly and disabled still wishing to recreate and worship adjacent to Tomé Hill. This project will require hand thinning and removal of brush and creating check dams and barriers to prevent further erosion and silting runoff onto the existing paved trail. In Carnuel, the Cañón de Carnué Land Grant looks to expand a campground below their land grant hall so that heirs and members can enjoy the outdoors on the land grant common lands. The campground was built four years ago and has steadily been

improved with benches and firepits. Expanding and improving the campsite might involve building picnic tables (from kits), clearing land for campsites, building firepits and building and/or improving trails. This area is near the site of a former gravel pit that the land grant is gradually remediating and near an ongoing riparian restoration project on the spring-fed creek. In Torreón, the community playground provides a family community space, one of the few in this small mountain community. Located near the Torreón Community Center and volunteer fire department, the community playground is centrally located in the community. The playground is in need of maintenance, particularly the replacement of the current fill with wood mulch or a similar affordable alternative fill. Over the past several years, the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant has built El Campo del Oso Recreation Area. El Campo del Oso features picnic tables, firepits, picnic canopies, camp decks, open area camping, tents, an RV area, an outdoor kitchen and toilets. It has become a popular place for community gatherings and is an important economic generator for our land grant and is advertised and booked on Hipcamp. The youth conservation crew will build trails around the recreation area and build berms to hold back water to prevent erosion and flooding. The Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project is requesting \$25,000.00 for 4 weeks of work by an ALCC youth crew (\$20,000.00) and \$5,000.00 for materials for the seven sub-projects. The project will be matched with approximately \$56,000 in cash and inkind. This will include a \$25,000 cash match by the New Mexico Land Grant Council, \$2,000.00 in cash and \$6,666.66 inkind by the ALCC and cash and inkind contributions from each of the seven land grants-mercedes participating in the project, including \$9,875 from the Tajique Land Grant, which includes capital dollars.

---

11. Please select the primary type of project.

**Park improvement(s)**  
**Restoration or conservation**  
**Trailhead improvements**  
**Trail work (enhancement, creation, etc.)**  
**River or other water access**

---

12. Check all types of outdoor recreation activities this project will improve access to.

**Camping**  
**Flora and Fauna Identification**  
**Ranching**  
**Running (road or trail)**  
**Nature Study**  
**Fishing**  
**Conservation / Restoration / Trail Work**  
**Hiking**  
**Birdwatching**

---

13. Is this project primarily for motorized, non-motorized or mixed users?

**Mixed use**

---

14. Anticipated project start date	<b>5/1/2022</b>
15. Anticipated project completion date	<b>9/30/2022</b>
16. Is the project shovel-ready? Will you be able to start the project within three months of being awarded the grant?	<b>Yes</b>
17. Please provide additional details on the project timeline.	<p><b>August 2020 - Projects identified, site visits conducted August 2021 - Partners continue to coordinate and plan for project implementation May 2022 - Partners meet one final time to confirm project details, dates, and any last minute logistics May 2022 - ALCC begins recruitment of local land grant-merced youth, selects participants and crew leader June 2022 - Crew receives orientation and training and begins 10-week program, works on projects July 2022 - Crew conducts mid-season evaluations of self, program, and each other to identify progress and growth areas Ongoing throughout term - Crew receives additional training and professional development August 2022 - Season ends, Crew receives AmeriCorps education award, certifications, etc. September 2022 - Partners meet to review the season, provide feedback, and plan for continued collaboration/expansion of project model to other land grant-merced communities across the state</b></p>
18. Please select the primary county this project will benefit.	<b>Torrance</b>

19. Please list any additional or specific locations this project will take place in or benefit.

**The Tajique Land Grant project will take place at the Tajique Community Center (8636 Highway 55, Tajique, Torrance County, NM 87016,) and will benefit the community of Tajique and surrounding communities; the Chililí Land Grant project will take place at the Chililí Community Center's park and playground (9868 Highway 337, Chililí, Bernalillo County, NM 87059) and will benefit Chililí, Escabosa, Yrisarri, and surrounding communities; the Manzano Land Grant project will take place at Manzano Lake (Pinos Reales Road, Manzano, Torrance County, NM, 87061) and will benefit Manzano, Punta de Agua, and the entire East Mountains region; the Town of Tomé Land Grant project will take place at the Tomé Hill Park, 442-448 La Entrada Rd, Los Lunas, Valencia County, NM 87031) and will benefit Tomé, Jarales, Adelino, Los Lunas, the entire Río Abajo region; the Torreón Land Grant project will take place at the Torreón Community Center's playground, 10 East Torreón Heights Road, Torreón, Torrance County, NM, 87016) and will benefit Torreón and surrounding communities; the Cañón de Carnué Land Grant project will take place on the Land Grant below the land grant hall (364 U.S. Route 66, Tijeras, Bernalillo County, NM 87059) and will benefit Carnuel, San Antonio, Tijeras and surrounding communities; and the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant project (Sandoval County) will take place at El Campo de Oso campground (Camino del Oso, Placitas, NM 87043) and will benefit Placitas and surrounding communities and visitors to the site.**

20. What entity or individual owns the land where the project will occur?

**The Tajique Land Grant, Chililí Land Grant, Manzano Land Grant, Town of Tomé Land Grant, Cañón de Carnué Land Grant and San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant own the property on which their respective projects will occur. The Torreón Community Center is owned at large by the community and the playground was provided by the Torreón Mutual Domestic Water Association, which has agreed to partner with the Torreón Land Grant on this project.**

21. Has permission been granted to access the land to complete this project?

**Yes**

22. Please select the most appropriate type of community this project will support.

**Land Grant**

**RECREATIONAL VALUE**

23. Briefly describe the need for this project. How will it improve outdoor recreation access needs in your community? Who will be the primary users or beneficiaries of this project?

**The Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project is an important regional project that provides essential upgrades to and creates new recreation sites for seven land grant communities in the Rio Abajo. Projects at the Tajique and Torreón will repair and protect playgrounds, improving access to outdoor activity for the youth of each community. This motivates not only children to exercise, but their entire family to enjoy outdoor activity. This benefits the entire community, encouraging community interaction and improving overall community health. At the Chililí, Manzano, Cañón de Carnué and San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grants, walking paths will be built or improved, to improve safe access to the community playground for Chililí, improving the path that encircles the Manzano Lake and to improve the Campo del Oso campground at San Antonio de las Huertas (Placitas) and the campground and path on the and Cañón de Carnué Land Grant, making both more appealing recreation sites. Children in Chililí will no longer need to walk along the highway. Locals and visitors to Manzano Lake can access the path for exercise and fishing. Both locals and visitors that rent the Campo del Oso campground will enjoy an improved site. The Town of Tomé Land Grant's Cerro de Tomé/Tomé Hill Park is an important access point to a regional spiritual site that people from the entire region visit for spiritual renewal and allows those unable to make the trek up the hill to continue to visit the site.**

24. How does your project enhance the region's recreation landscape? For example, will it connect to any other trail systems?

**Each of the seven communities participating in the Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project will benefit from improved community recreation facilities, from playgrounds to parks to trails. Many city dwellers are accustomed to public parks located in every neighborhood and take for granted the lack of access of community facilities in rural areas. Some rural communities have no playgrounds or parks and children can only access the playground equipment at school. Tajique, Chililí and Torreón are fortunate to have invested in these facilities years ago, but need to reinvest and upgrade these recreation facilities and improve access to them. The San Antonio de las Huertas' Campo del Oso is relatively new but growing in use and popularity and adding walking trails into the beautiful landscape will enhance the user experience for visitors from across the region. The Cañón de Carnué Land Grant seeks to improve and expand their campgrounds, creating more campsites and trails, increasing opportunities for recreation close to Albuquerque. The Manzano Lake is one of the only lakes in the region and will improve access for both fisherman and for those who visit the lake to birdwatch and exercise. The Tomé Hill Park receives visitation daily but is heavily used during Holy Week, when visitors in the thousands from across the state and region visit the spiritual site. Tomé Hill is a spiritual destination that people regularly make a pilgrimage to, exercising for their spiritual and physical health.**

25. Will this project connect to or enhance the Rio Grande Trail's designated or preferred alignment?	<b>No</b>
26. Is this project part of a county, city, or other master plan for the area?	<b>Yes</b>
26a. Please list which county, city or other master plan this project is a part of.	<b>Each of the seven land grants involved in the project undertakes their own planning with input from heirs at monthly, quarterly, and/or annual meetings. Land grants have zoning authority over their common lands and create comprehensive land use plans that are submitted to the State of New Mexico.</b>
27. If this is a trail project, how many new miles of trail will this create? Otherwise estimate the size of the project (i.e. in acres or square footage).	<b>1-2 miles of new trails created at Campo del Oso (San Antonio de las Huertas). .5 to 1 mile of trail created at Cañón de Carnué. .25 to .5 mile of new trail created at Chililí. 1 mile of trail improved at Tomé Hill and Manzano Lake.</b>
28. What barriers or challenges might impede this project?	<b>We are confident that the Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project is a feasible project that will be completed in the time frame stated above, with physical work at project sites commencing in May 2022 and concluding by September 2022. The projects are shovel ready, were self identified by each of the seven land grant communities in the project, and involve the professional expertise through collaborations with Ancestral Lands, the UNM Land Grant Studies Program and School of Architecture and Planning's Resource Center for Raza Planning and matching financial support from both the New Mexico Land Grant Council and the Tajiique Land Grant. None of the projects are reliant on expensive materials or significant pre-work. One challenge might be recruitment of youth as the COVID pandemic has recently hampered recruitment of youth conservation crews, but with seven land grant communities participating and offering prospective youth to fill a five person crew, we feel confident that we will fill the crew without too much difficulty. Another challenge is the low operational budgets from each land grant-merced. Each land grant-merced board of trustees (who serve as volunteers) has pledged both in kind and cash support for this project. Nonetheless, without the Outdoor Recreation Trails + Grant and financial support from the New Mexico Land Grant Council, the Tajiique Land Grant, and Ancestral Lands, along with in kind support from the University of New Mexico, the project would be beyond both their financial capacity and labor capabilities.</b>

---

**EQUITY AND ACCESS**

---

29. Will you charge a fee to access this area? **Yes**

29a. Please explain why a fee will be charged and how much you anticipate charging.

**For six of the seven communities, no; the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant does charge a nominal fee (\$25-55 per night) to fund the upkeep and improvement of the Campo del Oso campground, which includes picnic tables, firepits, picnic canopies, camp decks, open area camping, tents, an RV area, an outdoor kitchen and toilets.**

30. How will this project support underserved members of your community?

**All seven communities participating in the Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project are underserved land grant communities. All suffer the lack of access to affordable recreation and these projects improve access to recreation within their own communities. Improving, repairing and creating safe access to parks and playgrounds in Tajique, Torreón, and Chililí will offer free access to safe outdoor play facilities for underprivileged communities, encouraging activity and positive health outcomes that will benefit the entire community. Improving trails, creating new trails and expanding campsites and camping opportunities will offer safe outdoor spaces for people to exercise and benefit the community health of Manzano, Tomé, Cañón de Carnué, Chililí and San Antonio de las Huertas. These communities all have pristine outdoor spaces that community members, included those unable to afford memberships to gyms, can enjoy more easily with improved trails. The Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project will also employ youth from the land grant communities in the project. This is an important opportunity for these youth, who hail from communities with high unemployment rates and few opportunities for young people to find work, let alone community minded, culturally affirming work that invests resources back into their communities. Participants will receive personal and professional development to help prepare them for success in and after the program, including resume building, USA Jobs training, and mentorship from agency professionals to learn more about career pathways. ALCC connects participants to career and postsecondary education opportunities**

31. Will the result of this project be ADA accessible?

**Yes**

31a. Please explain why or why not.

**The playground equipment at the Tajique, Torreón and Chililí Land Grants is, by and large, not ADA compliant. Trails at Manzano and Town of Tomé are partially compliant and improvements will improve access, including ADA compliance and access. The trail at San Antonio de las Huertas may be built partially compliant, but will likely not meet full compliance due to the nature of the terrain and expense of building a fully compliant trail. Campground improvements and trails at the Cañón de Carnué Land Grant may be partially ADA accessible.**

32. Will this project increase outdoor recreation access for youth specifically? **Yes, the Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project will improve outdoor recreation access for youth and will involve youth in improving this access by employing local youth in a regional youth conservation crew to improve sites at all seven communities. Playground improvement and access projects will improve their safety by replacing wood mulch below playground equipment in Torreón, by improving drainage to ensure that flooding does not impede access to playgrounds in Tajique, and will improve safety and access to the playground in Chililí by building a trail away from the highway for use by local youth. Youth will enjoy increased access to fishing and walking at Manzano Lake, can enjoy an affordable camping trip with walking trails at San Antonio de las Huertas' Campo del Oso and can camp at the Merced de Cañón de Carnué campground. Finally, youth unable to make the hike up Tomé Hill can use the trail at Tomé Hill Park to enjoy the spiritual site with their families. Every project in the Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project will benefit youth and improve their access to affordable and culturally recreation in their own community.**

---

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL IMPACT**

---

33. How will this project restore, enhance, or conserve the natural lands and/or waters in the region? **The Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project will restore, enhance and conserve natural landscapes and waters on several land grants. Trail building at the San Antonio de las Huertas Grant's Campo del Oso will reduce erosion and encourage visitors to not disturb flora and fauna by staying on a prescribed path. The trail improvement project at the Manzano Lake will preserve the lake's riparian area, retaining habitat for birds, amphibians and other species, reduce erosion of the path into the lake and contribute to the overall ecological health of the site. The work at Tomé Hill Park on the Town of Tomé Land Grant will mitigate erosion on the Tomé Hill, preserving the path and discouraging the thousands of visitors from climbing and causing more erosion. Creating more campsites and building and improving trails at the Cañón de Carnué Land Grant will encourage users to not disturb the flora and fauna that inhabit the natural landscape and greater riparian area that surrounds the creek. The project on the Tajique Land Grant will reduce erosion and the amount of sediment deposited to nearby waterways.**

---

34. Does the project improve the region's resilience or adaptation to climate change? **Unsure**

---

35. Will this project help restore, enhance, or protect a watershed? **Yes**

---

35a. Which watershed will it protect?

The Rio Grande Watershed will benefit from these projects. The campsite and trail building project at the Cañón de Carnué Land Grant helps to protect the Tijeras Creek that runs near the campground. The San Antonio de las Huertas project at El Campo del Oso is near the the spring that feeds acequias and retaining pond. Trailbuilding in the area will help keep visitors to the area from disturbing the spring and retaining pond. The project at Manzano Lake will not effect a watershed, but within the westernmost section of the Estancia Basin, which is a endorheic basin that does not feed into any watershed. The Lake does supply the Manzano Spring and Ditch, a small acequia association that will benefit from the conservation of Manzano Lake's waters.

36. Is all necessary environmental compliance and/or other permitting work completed?

**Yes**

36a. Please explain your answer above, either yes or no.

**No permitting is required due to both the nature of the projects and the fact that each land grant owns or has partnered with the co-owners at each respective project site.**

37. Is this project located in or near sensitive natural or cultural resource areas? Please explain and describe how this project will enhance or protect the surrounding area.

**The project on the Town of Tomé land grant will take place at the Tomé Hill Park, which skirts the bottom of El Cerro de Tomé (Tomé Hill), a regional shrine and pilgrimage destination which is recognized by the National Parks Service as site of multicultural spirituality. El Cerro de Tomé contains more than 1,800 petroglyphs from ancestral pueblos and the Spanish, Mexican and American (territorial and statehood) periods. Building, improving and maintaining trails and reducing erosion preserves these petroglyphs and also helps to preserve the post contact sacred landscapes that are a destination of spiritual practice throughout the region. The campground and trail project on the Cañón de Carnué Land Grant will build and/or improve trails along the riparian area of the Tijeras Creek, protecting the spring fed acequia and creek. The project at the San Antonio de las Huertas' Campo del Oso will build trails that will protect the springs and acequias that heirs have used since the communities founding in 1765, as well as storage ponds that help feed the acequias today.**

---

## **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

---

38. How will this project support and engage the local business community?

**Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps and the Taji que Land Grant, Chililí Land Grant, Manzano Land Grant, Town of Tomé Land Grant, Cañón de Carnué Land Grant and San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant will attempt to purchase supplies from local and regional sellers, with special attention to small businesses, minority owned businesses and female owned businesses. Local businesses will benefit from increased visitation to each of the recreation sites, including Ray's Onestop, which is in Taji que and close to the Manzano and Torreón Land Grants, and the Old Mill Restaurant in Estancia. The Ten Points General Store is about a mile north of Chililí and is frequented by Merced de Chililí families. El Cerro Tomé on the Town of Tomé Land Grant is closed to dozens of businesses in the greater Tomé area (Tomé, Adelino, Los Chávez, Los Lunas, Belen, Valencia); the Rock Canyon Taproom, Burger Boy and other restaurants will benefit from the expansion of the Cañón de Carnué campground; the Merc, Placitas Pizza Co. and the Las Huertas Winery in Placitas (San Antonio de las Huertas).**

39. How many full, part-time, and/or seasonal jobs will this project create?

**One Crew Leader, one Assistant Crew Leader, and three corps members will be employed through this project, which will serve as a pilot to catalyze future Land Grant - Merced Conservation Corps opportunities based on the success of this project. We are leveraging funding through the New Mexico Land Grant Council and Taji que Land Grant Community to create a minimum of a 10-week paid service program for Land Grant-Merced youth. We will continue to pursue funding to extend the program for a longer period of time. Additionally, it is our goal to utilize this pilot project to catalyze more paid Youth Crew opportunities in additional Land Grant-Merced communities across the state, which will lead to the creation of many more jobs, up to 30 seasonal positions depending on the number of crews we are able to operate.**

40. What is the anticipated visitation impact of this project?

The Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project aims to improve accessibility to affordable and local outdoor recreation activities for the each community participating in the project. Improvements at each site will increase visitation by heirs, locals and visitors. Replacing the fill at the Torreón Community Center Playground will make the playground safer for youth and motivate families to use the park and playground more often. Building a trail away from the highway will improve the accessibility of the Chililí playground and give families the confidence that their children will be safe when traveling to and from the community center. Improving drainage will increase the safety of the Tajique park and playground, increasing visitation and use. The trail project at Manzano Lake will improve both the walking path and fishing access, which will increase visitation of the Lake. The campground project at Cañón de Carnué will expand opportunities by increasing the number of campsites available for use by heirs and other members of the community. The creation of trails at the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant's Campo del Oso will add yet another asset to the campground, increasing use by heirs and rentals by visitors. Finally, El Cerro Tomé is a regional pilgrimage site that sees visitation by the local population daily. Many visitors cannot make the trek up to the top of Tomé Hill and improvements to the trail at the Tomé Hill Park will provide for those local visitors, increasing the likelihood of more frequent use.

41. What are other specific economic impacts this project will have?

In addition to the jobs created by this project, program participants will receive professional development, training, and an AmeriCorps Education award, valued at \$1,678.57 to help pay for costs of college, university, and other accredited programs. One Crew Leader will earn \$685 - \$785/week, depending on experience, as well as fringe benefits. One Assistant Crew leader will earn \$600/week, as well as fringe benefits. Three Corpsmembers will earn \$400/week, as well as fringe benefits. Additionally, for the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant's Campo del Oso, the project work described above will lead to direct economic development through the creation and improvement of paid campsites. Campsites are currently able to be reserved and paid for through the Hip Camp website (<https://www.hipcamp.com/en-US/discover/new-mexico/el-campo-del-oso>), and improvements and creation of new sites will lead to additional revenue that the local community is able to realize, as well as additional revenue that is generated through increased visitation (fuel, food, other services).

**BUDGET INFORMATION**

42. Organization's total operating budget **4800.0**

43. Total project cost **81366.66**

44. Outdoor Recreation Trails+ grant request amount **25000.0**

45. Outdoor Recreation Trails+ grant request amount breakdown

[OEF Budget Table.xlsx](#)

---

46. Match amount **56366.66**

---

47. Match amount breakdown

[OEF Budget Table - Match.xlsx](#)

---

48. Have you applied **No**  
to or do you intend to  
apply to the Land and  
Water Conservation  
Fund in 2021?

---

49. Have you applied **No**  
or do you intend to  
apply for a Youth  
Conservation Corps  
grant in 2021?

---

### ATTACHMENTS

---

Please attach any relevant documents, images, maps, etc. that help describe or showcase the proposed project.

[Land\\_Grant-Merced\\_Regional\\_Outdoor\\_Recreation\\_Project\\_-\\_Outdoor\\_Recreation\\_Trails\\_Grant\\_application\\_-\\_maps\\_and\\_photos\\_-\\_FINAL.pdf](#)

---

Please attach any MOUs, MOAs, or letters of support here.

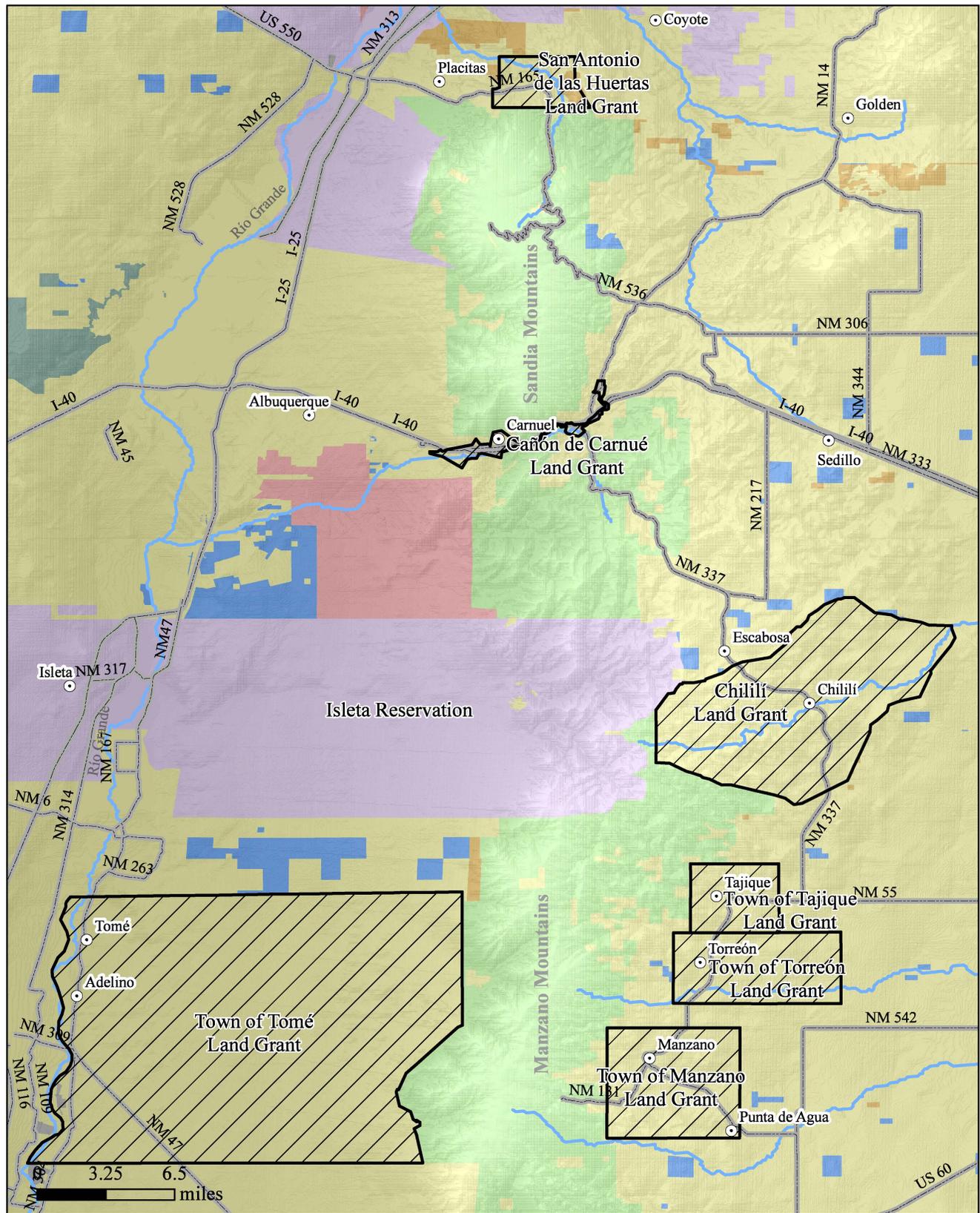
[Land\\_Grant-Merced\\_Regional\\_Outdoor\\_Recreation\\_Project\\_-\\_Outdoor\\_Recreation\\_Trails\\_Grant\\_application\\_-\\_letters\\_of\\_support\\_-\\_FINAL.pdf](#)

---





# Land Grant Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project



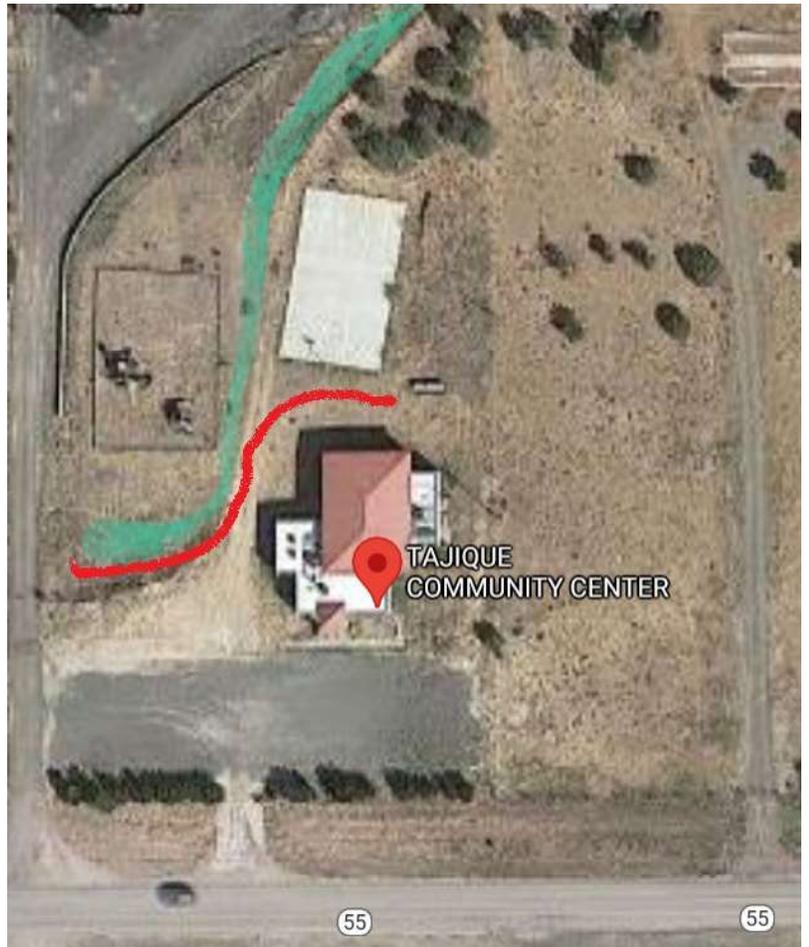
-  Land grant merced patented areas
-  Towns, cities and communities
-  State & interstate highways
-  Rivers & arroyos

-  US Forest Service
-  Private
-  State
-  Tribal
-  US Bureau of Land Management
-  National Park Service
-  US Department of Defense



# Tajique Land Grant

Tajique Community Center  
Park and playground  
8636 Highway 55  
Tajique, NM 87016  
(Torrance County)



aerial view of Tajique Community Center, with playground & basketball court, proposed placement of swale (red) & flow of water away from basketball court & community center (aqua)



view of Tajique Community Center and playground from NM Highway 55



conceptual master plan for Tajique Community Center, playground & park  
M. Gonzales, UNM CRP & RCRP



Playground at Tajique Community Center



proposed path of swale

# Merced de Pueblo de Chililí

Chililí Community Center playground

9868 Highway 337

Chililí, NM 87059

(Bernalillo County)



current route to Chililí Community Center and playground along Highway 337  
*\* Note the lack of path, forcing families to walk on the highway shoulder*



overgrown & rough terrain encourages users to walk alongside highway to get to Chililí Community Center playground



view of Chililí Community Center playground from Highway 337



Chililí Community Center and playground, with current route to playground from village and possible alternative routes identified

# La Merced del Manzano

Manzano Lake  
Pinos Reales Road  
Manzano, NM, 87061  
(Torrance County)



aerial view of Plaza de Merced de Manzano & Manzano Lake



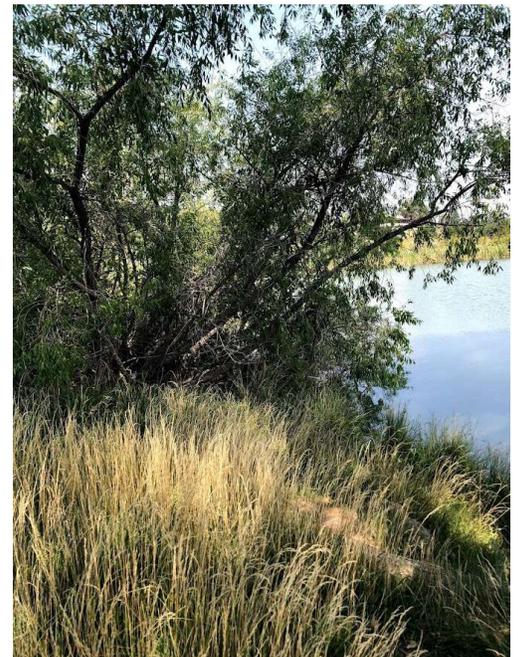
Manzano residents fishing and walking at Manzano Lake



Manzano Lake  
Merced de Manzano  
Manzano, NM



Project site: Trail around Manzano Lake,  
Merced de Manzano, Manzano, NM



overgrowth along Manzano Lake

# Town of Tomé Land Grant

El Cerro Tomé / Tomé Hill Park

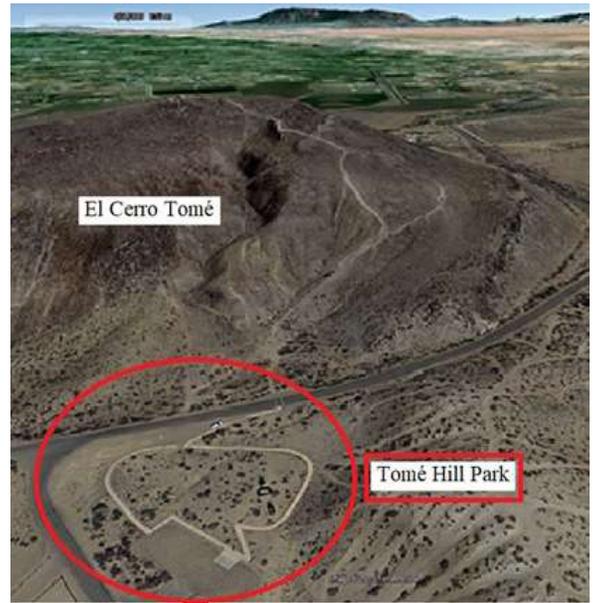
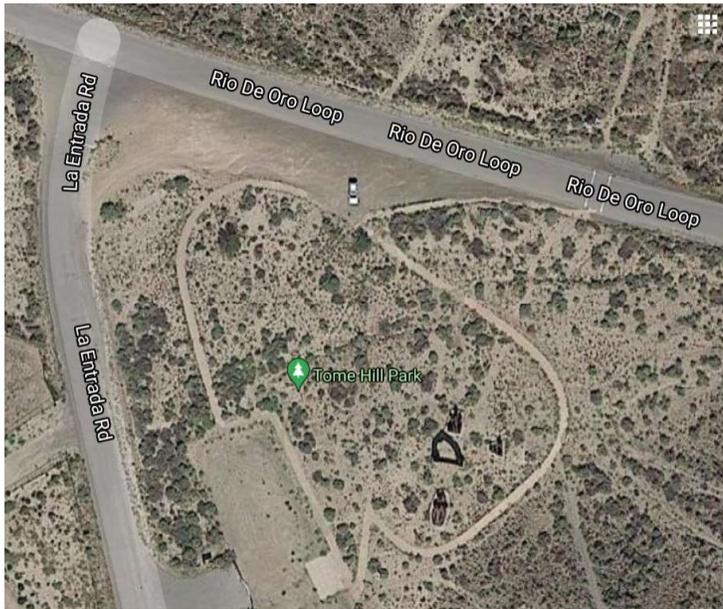
442-448 La Entrada Road

Los Lunas, NM 87031)

(Valencia County)



Tomé Hill Park, Town of Tomé Land Grant, Tomé, NM



aerial views (2D & 3D) of Tomé Hill Park, Cerro Tomé, Town of Tomé Land Grant, Tomé, NM



erosion obstructing path at Tomé Hill Park

Pilgrims at Tomé Hill  
(below and right)



Town of Tomé heirs  
visiting Cerro Tomé  
(left)

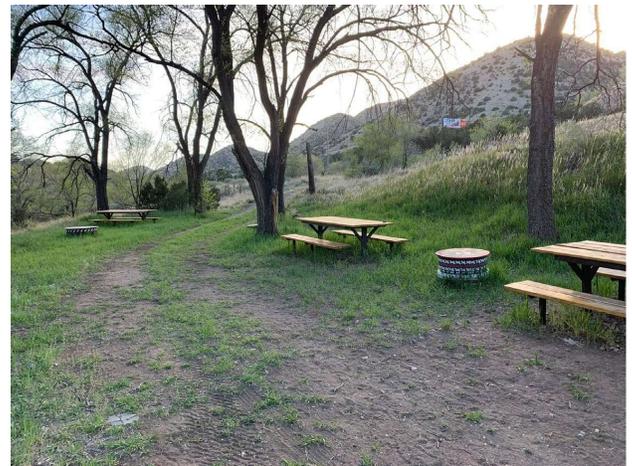
# Cañón de Carnué Land Grant / La Merced del Cañón de Carnué

Cañón de Carnué Land Grant campground

364 U.S. Route 66  
Tijeras, NM 87059  
(Bernalillo County)



aerial of Cañón de Carnué Land Grant campground, with potential project sites identified



Cañón de Carnué Land Grant campground



Tijeras Creek, Cañón de Carnué heir with fish and Cañón de Carnué heirs camping

# Torreón Land Grant / La Merced del Pueblo de Torreón

Torreón Community Center playground  
10 East Torreón Heights Road  
Torreón, NM, 87016  
(Torrance County)



Torreón Community Center and playground, Torreón, NM



Torreón Community Center Playground

*\*Note the lack of fill beneath the playground equipment in the four photos (above)*

# Merced de Comunidad de San Antonio de Las Huertas

El Campo del Oso campground

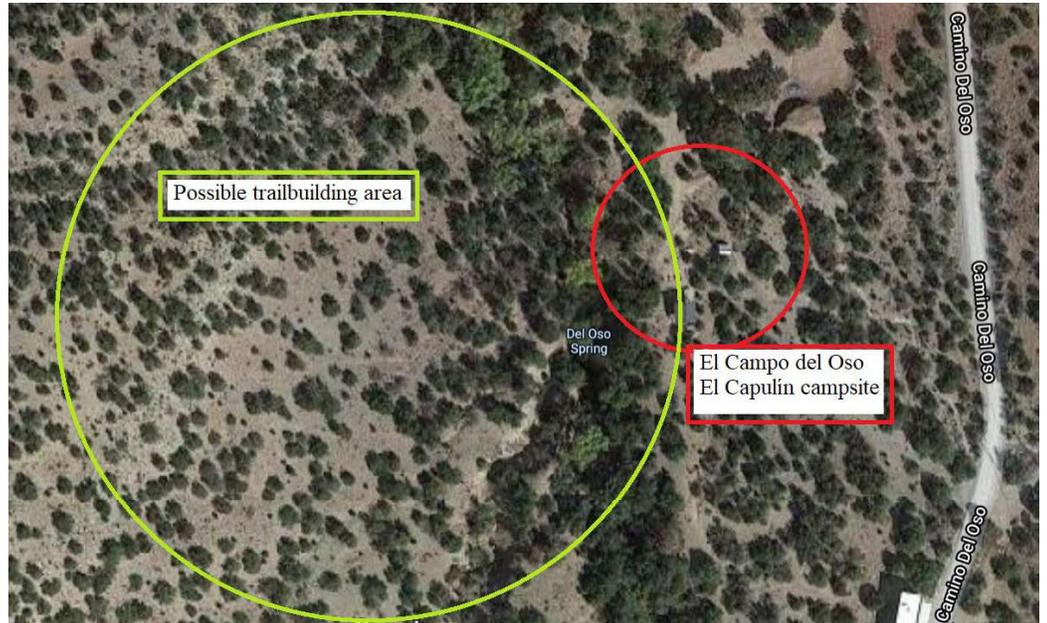
Camino del Oso,  
Placitas, NM 87043  
(Sandoval County)



map of El Campo de Oso campgrounds, San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant



picnic area at Campo del Oso



aerial of El Capulín campsite, Campo del Oso, San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant



Tent in open area campsite



gazebo at El Campo del Oso



Outdoor kitchen at El Campo del Oso



August 26, 2021

Axie Navas  
Director  
Outdoor Recreation Division  
Economic Development Department  
1100 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Ms. Navas:

The Tajique Land Grant is excited to submit this grant proposal for the Land Grant-Merced Outdoor Recreation Project, in partnership with the Chilili, Manzano, Town of Tomé, Torreón, Cañón de Carnué and San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grants as well as with the Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps, UNM Land Grant Studies Program, UNM School of Architecture and Planning and the New Mexico Land Grant Council. The Tajique Land Grant will serve as the lead applicant and fiscal agent for the grant. In addition, our land grant is committed to providing \$9,875.00 in matching funds. This match will include: \$5,000 to fund 1 week of work of the Ancestral Lands 6-member land grant youth crew; \$2,500 in materials for use in the playground improvements to be performed by the work crew; \$2,000 in-kind donation of heavy equipment for use of backhoe and operator at a rate of \$125 an hour for 16 hours; \$225 worth of in-kind donation of community member volunteer time toward the project at a rate of \$15 an hour for 10 hours, as well as an additional 30 hours of volunteer time provided by board members and heirs and \$150 in water and snacks for the crew members while they are in Tajique.

This collaborative project will provide all of our land grants an opportunity to improve and increase access to our respective existing outdoor recreational spaces. In Tajique, we will be able to ensure that our past investments into our community park, playground and basketball courts are protected from flooding and erosion that could threaten the health, safety and welfare of residents using the park. In addition, this project will provide an amazing opportunity for the employment of a land grant youth conservation crew in the East Mountains. This has been a goal of our land grant-merced communities for several years.

We look forward to your review of our application and are available to answer any questions you may have about our project.

Thank you,

Andrew Gutierrez  
President

**Board of Trustees**  
**Andrew F. Gutierrez**  
President  
**Felix Barela**  
Vice President  
**Adam Baca**  
Secretary  
*Vacant*  
Treasurer  
**Jerry Montoya**  
Mayordomo



**La Merced del Pueblo de Chililí**  
14 Old Chililí Road, Chililí, NM 87059  
(505) 286-8202

Juan Sánchez - President  
Jesús Ortiz - Treasurer  
Antonio Maestas - Secretary  
Andrew Gutierrez - Trustee  
Raymundo Ortiz, Jr. - Trustee

August 27, 2021

Outdoor Recreation Division  
Axie Navas, Director  
New Mexico Economic Development Department  
1100 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505-4147

**Re:** Letter of support for the Land Grant Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project application,  
Outdoor Recreation Trails + Grant

Dear Ms. Navas:

La Merced del Pueblo de Chililí writes this letter of support and commitment of our partnership in the Land Grant Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project. Through our ancestors' foresight and commitment to our community, the Chililí Land Grant is fortunate to provide a community center and gym and outdoor playground and park for the people of Chililí. But accessing the outdoor playground and park from our community center requires our youth and their families to walk along State Highway 337, which lacks a path or even an adequate shoulder for them to walk along and remain safely out of the fast-moving traffic. This project would construct a trail away from the highway that provides safe access for our youth and an exercise walking path for their parents and grandparents. This grant would provide much needed funding to help us continue to serve the youth and families of our community while keeping them safe. Chililí is a mountain village far from urban centers and our community members, especially our youth, rely on our outdoor playground and park to recreate. The closest public school playground is 20 miles away in Tijeras. La Merced del Pueblo de Chililí owns the land and no other approvals are needed to commence and complete the creation of this access trail. Additionally, our land grant pledges \$500.00 for materials and supplies and an additional \$150.00 for snacks and waters to support the youth crew that will complete this project. We also commit to 40 hours of volunteer time donated by board members and heirs of La Merced del Pueblo de Chililí. The Merced also owns and has the expertise to operate heavy road maintenance equipment if it is needed. We are excited to participate in this regional project and hope that this helps to build a sense of community among our communities and youth, strengthening the historic bonds that unite the land grant-merced communities of the Manzano and Sandía Mountains.

Thank you for your consideration.

Con Todo Respeto,

Juan Sanchez  
President  
La Merced del Pueblo de Chililí



**LA MERCED DE MANZANO**  
**PO BOX 156**  
**MANZANO, NM 87036**

**Board of Trustees**

Jason Quintana - President  
Angela Nuñez – Secretary  
Ana Marie Nuñez – Treasurer  
Patrick Luna – Board Member  
Gerald Chávez – Board Member

August 26, 2021

New Mexico Economic Development Department  
Outdoor Recreation Division  
1100 South St. Francis, Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505-4147

To Whom it may Concern,

The Manzano Land Grant is in support of the funding application for the Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project. Our land Grant Board of Trustees is always eager to partner with organizations who empower youth while teaching the importance of our health, our culture and our traditions. The Manzano Lake is a very popular destination for residents and visitors to Manzano. Collaborating with land grants of Tajiique, Chililí, San Antonio de las Huertas, Tomé, Torreón, and Cañón de Carnué and Ancestral Lands, UNM Land Grant Studies Program and the New Mexico Land Grant Council will enable us to make some much needed improvements to the perimeter of our Lake. The path around our lake is overgrown with trees and brush which prevent walkers from having a safe clear path to walk on. This overgrowth has also encroached on the space that fishermen use to relax and enjoy our lake.

As part of the matching requirements for the grant, the Merced del Manzano pledges to provide \$875 in inkind match. Which will include: \$150 for water and snacks for the youth work crew when they in Manzano; \$500 for any needed materials to complete the project; and at least \$225 worth of in-kind labor calculated at 15 hours of in-kind labor at a rate of \$15 per hour.

Having safe outdoor spaces for our youth and residents is vitally important to us and we consistently seek assistance in helping us meet our goals of improving the quality of life of our residents. It is our hope that you will fund this regional project where we com, together to improve our regional outdoor spaces.

Sincerely,

Jason Quintana  
President

# TOWN OF TOMÉ LAND GRANT



P.O. BOX 55  
TOME, NEW MEXICO 87060  
505-514-1797/505-866-6150  
TOWNOFTOMELANDGRANT.COM  
TOME DOMINGUEZ HALL  
505-555-0015

FOUNDED 1739

August 27, 2021

New Mexico Economic Development Department  
Outdoor Recreation Division  
1100 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505-4147

To Whom it may Concern,

The Town of Tomé Land Grant is pleased to be a partner in the Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project. Though land grant communities are rich in culture, we have no recurring revenue streams and we rely on grants and donations to aid us in reaching our goals to improve lives for our heirs and residents. Currently, we are able to pledge \$500.00 for materials and supplies, and \$150.00 for snacks and waters, as well as 32 hours of donated time from our board members and heirs (valued at \$480 at a rate of \$15 per hour). Since we are the landowners of the proposed work site no outside approvals are needed in order to proceed with the park improvements.

The Tomé Hill / El Cerro Tomé is a popular destination for those walking for exercise or a spiritual pilgrimage. It has become evident over the years that an alternative option is necessary for those who cannot climb the steep hill due to age or disability. Improving the paved walking path allows for all people to enjoy this outdoor space. We hope it will encourage families to visit the space and be able to include all members of the family in their visit to this special spiritual space. The Tomé Land Grant is ecstatic that land grant-merced youth from across the region will be able to contribute to this sacred place and participate in preserving our shared history.

We appreciate your consideration of this regional project as it will help several communities to improve access to outdoor recreation spaces. Helping our neighbors as they help us is exactly how to build community and we are eager to participate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea C. Padilla". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Andrea Padilla  
President  
Town of Tomé Land Grant



# Cañón de Carnué Land Grant La Merced del Cañón de Carnué

August 26, 2021

Outdoor Recreation Division  
New Mexico Economic Development Department  
1100 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505-4147

To the Outdoor Recreation Trails + Grant review panel:

On behalf of La Merced de Cañón de Carnué, I write this letter of support for the **Land Grant-Merced Regional Recreation Project** application to the Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant program. La Merced de Cañón de Carnué has worked for decades to maintain our dwindling land base. An unfair adjudication stripped more than 95% of our land from us, and the creation of I-40 took even more land and split our community in two, cutting off our access to our watershed and important natural resources on which we depended. Our ancestors had the wherewithal to maintain what was left of our communal lands. They built a land grant hall that we have recently renovated. We have also built a small campground and picnic area below our land grant hall that we would like to expand and improve with more camp sites and walking trails, allowing heirs and guests of the Land Grant to enjoy the area while preserving the landscape for the plants and animals that inhabit it. This campground and its expansion is part of a larger riparian restoration and recreation project, which seeks to remediate an old gravel pit, improve the resiliency of the riparian area surrounding the creek, and expand recreation opportunities at the site, including the eventual creation of a small RV park. We are excited to join the San Antonio de las Huertas, Tajique, Torreón, Town of Tomé, Chililí and Manzano Land Grants in the Land Grant-Merced Regional Recreation Project and look forward to partnering with the New Mexico Land Grant Council, the University of New Mexico's School of Architecture and Planning and Land Grant Studies Program, and Ancestral Lands to create a land grant-merced youth conservation corps. Our land grant pledges our support of this project, including \$250.00 for materials and supplies and an additional \$150.00 to support the youth conservation crew with food and water and 32 hours of additional volunteer time from our board members and heirs, who will collaborate with the youth conservation crew on the campsite and trail project.

Respetuosamente,

Moisés Gonzales  
President  
La Merced de Cañón de Carnué / Cañón de Carnué Land Grant

Merced del Pueblo de Torreón  
23 Spangler Road, Estancia, New Mexico, 87016



August 27, 2021

Outdoor Recreation Division  
New Mexico Economic Development Department  
1100 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505-4147

Subject: Letter of support for the Land Grant-Merced Regional Recreation Project application, Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant

The Merced del Pueblo de Torreón (Torreón Land Grant) submits this letter of support and commitment to the Outdoor Recreation Division to support the Land Grant-Merced Regional Recreation Project. Our land grant is one of the seven land grants participating in this project. Our small community of Torreón is located in the East Mountains and is far from many recreation opportunities for our youth. One of the few recreation sites that we have is our community playground, which is in the middle of town near the community center and volunteer fire department. The park has a basketball court, a baseball field, and a playground that is accessible for small children. These offer one of the few free and local recreation opportunities for young people in our community. But right now, this playground is not safe for children since the fill under the playground equipment is almost completely gone. It needs to be replaced with wood mulch or some other kind of fill that will provide a soft landing for children jumping or falling off of the playground equipment.

The Merced del Pueblo de Torreón will work with the six other land grants, UNM, the Land Grant Council and the Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps program. We hope that the youth conservation corps that they create will provide a culturally enriching experience for the young men and women that will travel to our seven land grant communities to work on projects that will improve our communities access to outdoor recreation. Our land grant will support of this project, including \$150.00 in materials and supplies and an additional \$50.00 in water and snacks for the youth conservation crew as well as 4 hours of in-kind volunteer time, donated by members of our grant.

Thank you,

Senaida Anaya  
Acting President  
La Merced del Pueblo de Torreón / Torreón Land Grant

# Torreon Mutual Domestic Consumer Water Association

P.O. Box 90  
Torreon, NM 87061

---

August 29, 2021

New Mexico Economic Development Department  
Outdoor Recreation Division  
1100 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505-4147

RE: Land Grant Merced Regional Recreation Project Funding Request

To Whom it May Concern,

The Torreon Mutual Domestic Consumer Water Association would like to express our support of the Land Grant Merced Regional Recreation project. Our community of Torreon is in great need of providing safe outdoor spaces for our local youth. Covid 19 served as a grave reminder of the importance of having local recreation spaces where people of all ages can gather safely.

We are happy to provide any water needed to support this project and two of our board members commit to volunteer their time to support the youth crew.

If you have any questions or need further information concerning this request, please contact me at 505-400-8625rew during the duration of the project.

Respectfully,



Leroy Alderete  
President



## Merced De Comunidad De San Antonio De Las Huertas

Mailing Address • PO Box 625 • Placitas, New Mexico 87043 • 505.867-9329

Physical Address • 41 B Camino de las Huertas • Placitas, New Mexico 87043

---

August 26, 2021

Outdoor Recreation Division  
Axie Navas, Director  
New Mexico Economic Development Department  
1100 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505-4147

**Re:** Letter of support for the **Land Grant-Merced Regional Recreation Project** application, Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant

Dear Ms. Navas:

The San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant offers this letter of support and commitment of our partnership in the *Land Grant-Merced Regional Recreation Project*. Our land grant has recently built the El Campo del Oso campground, an outdoor space both for our heirs to enjoy their common lands and an economic opportunity for our cash poor land grant to generate revenue. We have equipped El Campo del Oso with picnic tables, firepits, picnic canopies, camp decks, open area camping, tents, an RV area, an outdoor kitchen and toilets. The ten-site campground offers accommodations for nearly every kind of camper and is growing in popularity. Guests can enjoy our spectacular landscape while learning about our historic land grant community, which was founded in 1765. We rent the Campo del Oso online via Hipcamp and charge reasonable rates (\$25-55 per night) that help fund the upkeep of the site and generate modest revenues for the Grant. (<https://www.hipcamp.com/en-US/discover/new-mexico/el-campo-del-oso>)

Our Land Grant would like to improve El Campo del Oso, particularly by creating trails adjacent to the campsites that will allow campers and heirs to hike the landscape while ensuring that they do not accidentally cause erosion or damage the surrounding flora and fauna. These improvements will improve the user experience and encourage both our community members, who use the site for family gatherings and celebrations, and our guests to recreate outdoors. We are particularly excited at the prospect of involving youth from throughout the region in this project and encouraging them to get outdoors and enjoy and care for the landscape. The San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant commits to partnering with Ancestral Lands, the New Mexico Land Grant Council, the UNM Land Grant Studies Program and Resource Center for Raza Planning at the School of Architecture and Planning, and the Tajique, Chililí, Manzano, Town of Tomé, Torreón, and Cañón de Carnué Land Grants in a regional collaborative project, establishing a land grant-merced youth conservation corps to complete projects across our seven lands grants. Our Land Grant owns the land at El Campo del Oso and no other approvals are required to create this hiking trail. Additionally, our land grant pledges \$500.00 for materials and supplies and

an additional \$150.00 for snacks and waters to support the youth crew, as well at three days (24 hours) of volunteer support donated by our board members and heirs to the completion of this project.

Thank you for your consideration

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Correa Skartwed". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Correa Skartwed  
President  
San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant



831 Isleta Blvd SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87105  
(970) 216-5988  
[www.ancestrallands.org](http://www.ancestrallands.org)

August 26, 2021

New Mexico Economic Development Department  
Outdoor Recreation Division  
Trails+ Grant Selection Committee

I am writing on behalf of the Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps in support of the Tajique Land Grant Community's proposal, titled Land Grant – Merced Regional Recreation Project. We have been working with the New Mexico Land Grant Council since 2018 to develop a Land Grant Conservation Corps, modeled on the Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps that authentically partners with indigenous and land-based communities to provide conservation, stewardship, economic development, and cultural reconnection opportunities. We are committed to working with Land Grant - Merced communities to create meaningful service opportunities and career pathways for youth and young adult participants while completing important infrastructure projects that preserve our valuable resources for current and future generations.

Over the years, we have worked with numerous tribal, federal, state, municipal, and non-profit agencies and organizations to preserve and protect important cultural and natural resources, improving the visitor experience and protecting the treasures in our park while also positively impacting the young people who work on these projects. Our work also supports the vital outdoor recreation industry that provides over \$1.2 billion dollars and supports over 33,000 jobs in New Mexico annually. ALCC is committed to building valuable skillsets in our participants, developing them as future leaders, and preparing them for success in the program and beyond. Additionally, many of our participants who work on projects receive valuable training and certifications that help them move into employment and careers in the outdoor recreation sector.

Our shared goal with Land Grant – Merced Communities is to provide meaningful opportunities for local youth. We are committed to continuing to create such opportunities with Land Grant communities and will support this project directly by partnering with the communities to recruit, select, train, and support the crew completing this important work in the Tajique, Manzano, Chililí, Torreon, Cañon de Carnué, San Antonio de las Huertas, and Tomé Land Grants. We appreciate your consideration of our partnership and the value our collaborative project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chas Robles".

Chas Robles  
Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps Director  
831 Isleta Blvd SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87105

August 30, 2021

Axie Navas, Director  
Outdoor Recreation Division  
Economic Development Department  
Joseph M. Montoya Building  
1100 S St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Ms. Navas,

The University of New Mexico Land Grant Studies Program (LGSP) is in full support of the Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project. LGSP will be a partner in the project along with the 7 participating land grants (Town of Tomé, Chililí, Tajique, Torreón, Manzano, Cañón de Carnué, San Antonio de Las Huertas), Ancestral Lands, the New Mexico Land Grant Council and the UNM Resource Center for Raza Planning. LGSP will be providing direct staff support to the project. This will include assisting the project by identifying and coordinating the youth participants as well as providing direct support to the Tajique Land Grant with overall project administration. LGSP anticipates that over the life of the project staff will dedicate a minimum of approximately 230 hours of staff time to the project. This will include 160 hours of time at a rate of \$16.97 per hour and 70 hours of time at a rate of \$25.87 per hour.

This project will provide financial assistance for projects in 7 land grant-merced communities. Each of these land grants-mercedes have very small annual operating budgets (less than \$10,000 per year) and therefore grant opportunities such as this provide them with the necessary resources to initiate projects to better serve their communities. While all these land grants-mercedes have existing community parks, playgrounds and open spaces, their lack of financial resources limits their ability to make needed improvement to increase access and use of these spaces. Therefore, the UNM Land Grant Studies Program encourages the Outdoor Recreation Division to fund this much needed project.

Sincerely,



Arturo Archuleta, MCRP  
Program Manager



# New Mexico Land Grant Council

Physical Address: 1828 Mesa Vista NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106  
Mailing Address: 1 University of New Mexico MSC02-1680, Albuquerque, NM 87131  
Email: [nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu](mailto:nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu) ♦ Website: [www.lgc.unm.edu](http://www.lgc.unm.edu)

JUAN SÁNCHEZ  
CHAIR

REBECCA CORREA-SKARTWED  
VICE-CHAIR

LEONARD T. MARTÍNEZ  
MEMBER

ANDREA C. PADILLA  
MEMBER

STEVE J. POLACO  
MEMBER

MICHELLE LUJÁN GRISHAM  
GOVERNOR

August 20, 2021

Axie Navas  
Director  
Outdoor Recreation Division  
Economic Development Department  
Joseph M. Montoya Building  
1100 S St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Ms. Navas

The New Mexico Land Grant Council, a state agency tasked with providing support to land grant-merced communities, writes this letter in support of the Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project. This year the Council has dedicated \$25,000 from its budget to support the establishment of a land grant-merced youth conservation crew. This \$25,000 will serve as a match for the Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project if funded. Jointly, the funding will leverage the ability to maintain at least a 10-week land grant-merced youth crew during the 2022 summer/fall work season. The ability to not only expand the amount of work time for the youth crew, but also to allow for the work to focus on these important outdoor recreation projects in our communities is of critical importance.

In addition, to providing \$25,000 towards the project, the Council will also provide at least \$2,800 in in-kind staff time toward the project. This will include at least 65 hours of time for the Council's program manager and at least 40 hours of time from a graduate planning student funded by the Council. The role of the Program Manager and the Student will be to help coordinate the project by serving as a liaison between the participating land grants and Ancestral Lands. Staff will also provide technical assistance to the Tajiique Land Grant as needed with the administration of the grant award and to the other land grants with planning and prepping for their portions of the project.

The Council strongly encourages the Outdoor Recreation Division to fund this collaborative project aimed at providing greater accessibility to outdoor recreation for the land grant-merced communities in Central New Mexico. It has the potential to serve seven rural, land grant-merced communities. These projects can greatly expand the access to and usage of the natural assets and outdoor community spaces, which the all of the participating land grants have already invested much time and labor into. We thank you, in advance, for giving the Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project consideration for funding in Fy 2022.

Con todo respeto,

Juan Sánchez  
Chairman

August 30, 2021

Axie Navas, Director  
Outdoor Recreation Division  
Economic Development Department  
1100 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505



Dear Ms. Navas:

This letter confirms the participation of the Department of Community & Regional Planning of the UNM School of Architecture and Planning in the Land Grant-Merced Regional Recreation Project and supports the application by the Tajique Land Grant to the Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant program. C+RP will collaborate with the Resource Center for Raza Planning to provide landscape design for the playground project at Tajique, including the placement of swells, drainage works and erosion prevention. Through courses, projects and summer institutes, UNM SAP, C+RP, and RCRP have worked and built relationships with land grant communities throughout the state. This project will be a valuable extension of projects in each land grant-merced community and C+RP and RCRP will serve as a resource, offering advice to participating land grants-mercedes and Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps. We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with the Tajique Land Grant, Ancestral Lands, the NM Land Grant Council, the UNM Land Grant Studies Program and the six other participating land grants of Chililí, Torreón, Manzano, the Town of Tomé, Cañón de Carnué and San Antonio de las Huertas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Gonzales'.

Moisés Gonzales  
Associate Professor and Associate Chair – Community and Regional Planning  
Associate Dean for Research – School of Architecture and Planning  
Director – Resource Center for Raza Planning  
University of New Mexico  
[mgonzol@unm.edu](mailto:mgonzol@unm.edu)  
505-277-5050

