

New Mexico Landgrant Ethnohistories Project:

Proposed Project: Production of a Video Record of New Mexico Land Grant History – With a View to Establishing a Platform for Future Development

This is a research proposal to produce a video record of the history of Spanish/Mexican land grants in New Mexico by means of interviewing a broad spectrum of individuals. This record is expected to provide a consistent legal and moral basis for the legitimacy of contemporary land grant rights that can appeal to the broad American public. **Secondly**, though this video record will a historical background from annexation to the present this collection will focus contemporary history of the land grants. That is, from the 1990s to the present. This historical update will provide insights of what is happening today and how the people of New Mexico have consistently come to object to the largest land theft in North America. We will look at how government and the people of New Mexico have come to, and working towards solutions to a grave problems that has plagued New Mexico since the signing of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1847. This project will look at the progress that has been made like the development of land grants as political subdivisions and associated activities. **Finally**, the video research will discuss the future of land grants in New Mexico and will examine options available to land grants for their future viability and development.

As a means to achieve project goals, we propose:

- 1) To conduct and video tape personal interviews with principals involved in land grant affairs (land grant heirs, federal and state government officials, lawyers, law enforcement officials, scholars, researchers and authors)
- 2) Provide narration a historical synopsis from annexation to the present.
 - A. With a focus from 1990 and the formation of the Land Grant forum
 - B. With insights of Democracy at work, that is, government and the people of New Mexico working towards solutions to correct a grave in justice and its future.
 - i) political subdivisions
 - ii) associated actives
 - iii) the future viability and development of creative solutions
- 3) Produce print materials relevant to the issue of land grants that will supplement the video records and develop a website accessible to all

Methodology:

1) The first set of *testimonios* will concentrate on the history of the persistence of New Mexicans coming to object to the chicanery of land loss. The proposed land grants to be first looked at will include La Merced de San Joaquín de Rio Chama, Chililí, Tomé and Los Vigiles a sub-grant of Las Vegas, NM.

Interviews will be conducted with land grant heirs, scholars, lawyers, law enforcement personnel, politicians and community persons.

2) The second set of video interviews will be obtained relating to recent legislative history.

- A) To understand the sociopolitical dynamics of ownership and land stewardship in Northern New Mexico.
- B) Highlighting the institutionalization of the land grant movement of the 1990s via
 - i) The granting of political subdivision status to a number of land grants
 - ii) The establishment of the Land Grant Consejo,
 - iii) The Land Grant Council
 - iv) The Legislative Interim Committee on Land Grants
 - v) The Attorney General's office on the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

3) This project will provide a coherent narrative of contemporary land grant history and will be used to will educate the public about the history and contemporary developments relating to land grants in New Mexico.

4) Printed materials will be produced to accompany and supplement the video interviews. These printed materials will be made available to universities, public schools, libraries, media outlets, community organizations, and the public at large. These materials, in conjunction with the video recordings will be made available on a website, and planned ready-made curriculum will be made available by the following year for schools to use in developing course presentations on land grants history in New Mexico.

It is expected that this proposal will provide a basis for assessing the status of land grants with an eye toward establishing a solid foundation upon which future policy positions can be presented both to the U.S. Federal Government and the State of New Mexico. In this regard, the status of land grants as political subdivisions of the State of New Mexico could furnish the means for both Federal and State government agencies to engage land grant communities in achieving economic, educational, and social development for the greater good of all New Mexico citizens.

Time-Line:

First month planning and scheduling

Three months interviewing

Three months transcribing and selection of narratives for final program

Five months editing

1. The first set of interviews will be on La Merced de San Joaquín de Rio Chama.
2. The second set will be on La Merced de Chililí.
3. The fourth set will be on La Merced de Tomé.
4. The fifth set will be on La Merced de Las Vegas
5. Another set of interviews will be conducted with, scholars, lawyers, law enforcement personnel, politicians and community persons.

Budget

Personnel:

Total Personnel \$57,500

Materials:

Total Materials \$15,900

Production:

Total Production \$50,000

Post Production Cost

Total Post Production \$63,000.00

Total Costs \$186,400

Fiscal Agent:

\$18,000

Budget Total \$204,400

Timeline: One-year project duration

Administrative Structure:

Advisory Board (5 persons – representatives from land grant organizations and