

# Welcome to the Conference



*Manuel Hernandez  
NHEC Chairman*

On behalf of the National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC), we are pleased to welcome attendees to the “8th Annual National Hispanic Sustainable Energy and Environmental Conference.” We are delighted to be in Albuquerque.



*Roger Rivera  
NHEC President*

We’re pleased to say that last year’s Conference was a success. Over 250 Hispanic environ-

mental students and professionals attended, from every field, and from every part of the country. Unfortunately, this was a sharp decline over our 2000 conference, a decrease attributable to federal budget cutbacks due to September 11. However, we look forward to building on the progress we have made.

The Conference represents the culmination of a vision we had a number of years ago: a national event “**by and for Hispanics**” on a range of environmental and natural resource issues that affect our community. We believe that both the NHEC and the conference will grow, and that this effort is an important step in engaging our community, and providing a national voice on environmental issues.

Each year, we are pleased to provide a full “Travel Scholarship” to Hispanic/minority environmental college students to attend the Conference. This year we received enough funds to subsidize 165 students. This year, students come from 22 states and Puerto Rico, and once again, we subsidized more women than men, a diversity goal of which we are particularly proud. The students represent every conceivable discipline related to the environment and include Asian Americans, African Americans, Anglo Americans, and Native Americans. When it comes to diversity, we believe in practicing what we preach.

However, we most certainly did not achieve any of this alone. Many individuals must be thanked. These include the Board Members of the NHEC, and of course the Conference planning committee. We thank them all for their hard work and dedication.

We must also thank our major Conference Sponsors, most particularly the National Park Service, the U.S. EPA, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. As major “Conference Sponsors” their participation has been instrumental to our success. Their extensive support shows the depth of their commitment to the Hispanic community, and to their understanding of our credo: **because it’s our environment too.**

We hope you enjoy the Conference, and we look forward to working with you to advance our common goals.

# Overview

## The 8th National Hispanic Sustainable Energy and Environmental Conference

The Conference is the **only national** event of its kind, designed to educate the Hispanic community in general about environmental issues, and specifically, to inform Hispanic environmental and natural resource students **and professionals** about the many environmental career, business, and educational opportunities with the federal government, Corporate America, Academia, state and local governments, and with the mainstream environmental organizations.

The Conference will offer four days of networking and an array of substantive workshops, general sessions, site visits to nearby environmental facilities, and a major Exhibit Area/Career Fair. Site visits include tours of Tucson area, parks, forests, and laboratories.

The Conference is sponsored by the National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC) and a variety of federal environmental agencies, especially the National Park Service, U.S. EPA, the U.S. Forest Service, NRCS, and the U.S. Geological Survey. NHEC is deeply grateful for their support.

The Conference draws a range of Hispanic environmental professionals, including environmental engineers, forest and park service staff, environmental educators, natural resource and conservation managers, health and safety experts, environmental justice and community activists, small business owners, and more. Last year, over 200 attended the Conference. Particularly for environmental recruiters seeking top Hispanic and other minority environmental job applicants, the Conference is an unparalleled opportunity to find—in one setting—top quality diversity candidates from hard-to-find disciplines.

Fundamentally, however, the Conference is designed to engage our community—to show that “**it’s our environment too**”, and to provide a national forum to explore the many environmental issues affecting Hispanics, such as environmental justice, sustainable development, natural resource protection and more.

Like last year, the NHEC is once again subsidizing the attendance of Hispanic/minority environmental students—from every discipline—to attend the Conference. These students—the next generation of environmentalists—come from across the nation, and NHEC underwrites their travel, (including airfare), four nights hotel, meals, and other incidentals. Through the Conference, they have the opportunity to network with other Hispanic/minority environmental professionals, and to learn first hand about careers, environmental stewardship and responsibility, and other vital issues.

In 2000, NHEC provided “travel scholarships” to 230 students. However, in 2001, due to federal funding losses stemming from the September 11 tragedies, NHEC could only sponsor 110 students. Last year, NHEC funded 160 students to the Conference

As the **only national** event for Hispanics on environmental issues, the Conference is a powerful tool for empowering our community, and helping to unify our voice. We’re glad you’ve joined us in Albuquerque, and in our mission.

# The National Hispanic Environmental Council

## Mission Statement and Goals

**T**he National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC) is a national, non-profit, membership-based organization founded in 1995, and located in the Washington, D.C. area. NHEC seeks to educate, unite, and engage our community on environmental and sustainable development issues; encourage Hispanics to actively work to preserve and protect our environment; provide a national voice for Hispanics before federal, state, and non-profit environmental decision-makers; and actively assist Hispanics to pursue the many career, business, educational, and policy opportunities in the environment and natural resources field. We develop programs—in partnership with our supporters—that accomplish this mission, and furthers our guiding credo: **“because it’s our environment too.”**

Our goals are:

### Education

Work to enhance the long-standing historical and cultural environmental ethic that exists in the Hispanic community, and to promote on-going interest in and action by our community on environmental justice and sustainable development issues. Work to educate Hispanics on the importance and necessity of being good stewards of the environment, because of the fundamental principal that “it’s our environment too.”

Simultaneously, strive to educate our community about the enormous economic development potential inherent in the environment; that it is a major source of jobs, minority business, and academic opportunity, and that we have the right to a fair share of these benefits.

### National Advocacy and Representation

Provide a voice for Hispanics by serving as a national advocacy organization on a broad range of environmental and natural resource issues that affect our community. We work to:

- ❖ Promote and expand environmental education programs for Hispanic youth, especially in urban school districts. An entire generation of young Hispanics are growing up without the benefit of any environmental education programs in their schools. Similarly, advocate for increased environmental training in higher education targeted to Hispanics, to ensure we are building the next generation of trained environmental professionals and leaders.
- ❖ Promote and expand greater professional development and advancement opportunities for Hispanic environmental professionals in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.
- ❖ Promote and expand greater opportunities for Hispanic businesses in the multi-billion dollar environmental services industry, especially in government and in the private sector. Fundamentally, work to ensure that the Hispanic business community receives its fair share of environmental contracting.
- ❖ Promote and expand the role of Hispanics in key environmental decision-making bodies, where environmental policies are being made that affect our community. Particularly, work

# The National Hispanic Environmental Council

## Mission Statement and Goals

to ensure that the major national environmental organizations, federal agencies, and other entities have Hispanic representation. Fundamentally, work to ensure that our community has a seat at the environmental decision-making table.

### **Fighting Stereotypes and Dispelling the Myth**

Strive to dispel the myth that Hispanics do not care about or are involved in the environment. Highlight the many individuals and Hispanic organizations who work every day as good stewards of the environment, yet who labor under misconceptions and stereotypes that somehow our community does not care about America's natural resources and heritage.

### **Information Clearinghouse**

To the extent possible, serve as a central clearinghouse/repository of information on environmental issues and opportunities—of every kind—and their impact on Hispanics. Collect and disseminate this information to the Hispanic community.

### **Networking Link for Hispanic Environmental Professionals and Community Organizations**

To the extent possible, serve as a networking linkage among Hispanic environmental professionals and activists, for the purpose of support, encouragement, and professional advancement.

### **Opening the Doors of the Environmental Movement to Our Community**

Whenever possible, work cooperatively with the mainstream environmental organizations, the public sector, and with Corporate America, to open the doors of opportunity for Hispanics in all areas of the environment. We seek collaborative stewardship of the many opportunities—and responsibilities—inherent in safeguarding our environment.

For more information on our programs and goals, call or write:

NHEC  
106 N. Fayette Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
Tel. (703) 683-3956 ❖ Fax (703) 683-5125  
Or visit us at our web page: [www.nheec.org](http://www.nheec.org)

# Conference Supporters

NHEC salutes its sponsors for their support of our organization and the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Their participation makes this conference possible, and we are deeply grateful for their support.

## Major Sponsors

National Park Service  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

## Gold Sponsors

USDA Forest Service  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Silver Sponsor

U.S. Geological Survey

## Bronze Sponsors

Office of Surface Mining  
Shell Oil Co.  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management

## Other Exhibitors

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry	Ohio State University, School of Natural Resources
Boy Scouts of America	Sierra Club
California Conservation Corps	Student Conservation Association
Defenders of Wildlife	The Wilderness Society
Edison Electric Institute	University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources
Environmental Careers Organization	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	USDA Forest Service, Plumas National Forest
General Electric Co.	Yale University, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies
Islandwood—A School in the Woods	
National Wildlife Federation	
Nuclear Regulatory Commission	

*(List accurate as of time of printing)*

# Environmental Site Tours

Sunday, April 6, 2003

Each year, the NHEC Conference offers our students—America’s future environmental professionals and leaders—the opportunity to visit a variety of environmental sites. These tours have spanned a range of environmental and natural resource interests, including environmental engineering, water management and reclamation, natural resource management, pollution abatement and environmental remediation, park management, wilderness/wildlife conservation, historical and cultural preservation, and more.

During the site tours, students have the opportunity to see the latest techniques and to learn from experts in the field. The tours are also an opportunity to explore and value—up close—America’s scientific, natural, cultural, and historical treasures. They are designed to be substantive and educational—but also fun.

The site visits will begin around 9 am and depart from the Marriott Hotel. Most tours last all day. Students will travel by bus, and we will provide a box lunch and bottled water. All students will be back at the hotel by 5:30 pm at the latest. Some tours have size limits, so be prepared to go to your second choice. Most tours actually begin once you board the bus; you may see a video along the way, or your guide may speak on the drive to the site.

All students will be escorted to and during their site visit. All tours have been planned by professionals, with your safety in mind. Always follow their instructions.

Please remember—step lightly and respectfully on the earth. And most important, take only pictures and memories—do not disturb, damage, or take home with you any artifacts, rocks, plants, or anything else without the express permission of your tour guide. (Take note: when on federal land, you must obey federal law. In many places, especially national parks, it is illegal to disturb or damage natural resources).

Regarding dress, keep several things in mind. First, all tours include time outside, so bring sturdy walking shoes, and be sure to watch your footing. Be sure to wear pants (not shorts), but no tank tops or other inappropriate clothing. Dress like you’re going on a hike.

Regarding the weather, please note that the weather is highly changeable in Albuquerque this time of year. It can be 70 degrees in Albuquerque, or it can be 50 degrees in the mountains, so prepare for both. Be sure to dress in layers (bring a light jacket), bring a hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses! And drink plenty of water.

Finally, remember to bring your camera and binoculars. You will see some of America’s most spectacular scenery and historical sites. Listen, learn and enjoy!

## ❖ Pecos National Historical Park Cultural, Anthropological, and Natural Resource Tour

*(sponsored by the National Park Service)*

Pecos National Historical Park sits in a natural pass that divides the Rio Grande Valley from the Great Plains. The history of this portion of the Pecos Valley goes back 12,000 years, as diverse people have

traveled through and settled in this corridor between the Great Plains and the Rio Grande.

Over the centuries different people have met and mingled, experiencing conflict and caring, commerce and change, community and continuity. Here the great pueblo of Pecos thrived for 400 years. The Spanish Mission and colonists transformed lives.

# Environmental Site Tours

Sunday, April 6, 2003

Battles were fought, armies clashed and passed. Traders left their trails and wares. Archeologists probed for knowledge. Ranchers tended cattle, dudes and celebrities. Farms flourished and failed.

This site tour will give students a good look into the diverse world of the National Park Service— their responsibilities in preserving and protecting many of America’s cultural, sociological, and natural resource treasures. Pecos will illustrate the nature of the work performed in such a unique environment. Visitors who come to Pecos National Historical Park can see the Santa Fe Trail, a 17th Century Spanish Mission, an 11th Century Pueblo, a Civil War Battlefield, pre-Puebloan sites, and some of the first Spanish homesteads in the region.

Students will begin at the Visitor Center. Here they will view the short 10 minute film on the parks’ history and then spend time in the museum, which interprets the 12,000 years of history within the park. Next the rangers will take the students over to reclaimed wet-lands. The wet-lands were once a large gravel pit in the middle of Glorieta Creek. The riparian area was restored by removing and filling in the pit. Several hundred willows were planted as well as other plants. Here is an opportunity to see a natural resource restoration project still being worked on and closely monitored. Students will also walk along the Pecos River and see first-hand the preservation of the Riparian zone surrounding the river and the impact that beavers can have on mature cottonwoods along the river.

If time permits, a brief stop at the principal portion of the Glorieta Battlefield, the “Gettysburg” of the Civil War in the West.

## ❖ Petroglyph National Monument Tour Cultural and Archeological Tour

*(sponsored by the National Park Service)*

*“Each of these rocks is alive, keeper of a message left by the ancestors... There are spirits, guardians; there is medicine...”*

William Weahkee, Pueblo Elder

This tour will provide the opportunity to experience the resources of Petroglyph National Monument and to understand the complex management issues that face this cooperatively-managed urban park. It will start at Las Imágenes Visitor Center on Albuquerque’s Westside. National Park Service resource specialists will introduce students to the natural and cultural resource issues that have faced the monument since 1990, when Petroglyph was added to the National Park System.

Following the resource introduction, students will be led on a 2.5 mile tour into Rinconada Canyon. Petroglyph National Monument contains more than 20,000 images pecked in stone—some recognizable as animals, people or crosses, and others more mysterious. All are inseparable from the landscape and from the spirits of the people who created them. The images carved onto these black rocks provide an opportunity for people today to share the cultures of those who long ago inhabited this area.

The West Mesa, a 17-mile long table of land west of the Rio Grande, emerged about 150,000 years ago when lava flowed from a large fissure, or crack, in the earth’s crust. Over time softer sediments on the mesa’s eastern edge eroded away, leaving a jagged-edged escarpment strewn with basalt boulders broken away from the lava caprock. This is the setting for the petroglyphs.

# Environmental Site Tours

Sunday, April 6, 2003

Long ago people discovered that chipping away the rocks' thin desert varnish revealed a lighter gray beneath and left a lasting mark. American Indians believe these images are as old as time. Archaeologists estimate that most of the images were made four to seven hundred years ago by the ancestors of today's Native people. Some images may be as old as 2,000 to 3,000 years.

Following the hike students will return to Las Imágenes Visitor Center for lunch. Dr. Joseph Sánchez, Superintendent of the National Park Service's Spanish Colonial Research Center will speak about the inter-relationship between the Spanish and Native cultures in the Rio Grande Valley and the history of the Atrisco Land Grant, a portion of which is part of Petroglyph National Monument.

Today's American Indians consider the entire monument a sacred landscape. The landscape lives in the stories that people pass along from one generation to the next. Like places of worship throughout the world, the area demands respect and care. The day will end with a presentation on the threats and challenges of preserving this special place for today's and future generations.

## ❖ U.S. EPA Site Tours and Mobile Environmental Laboratory

Historic Albuquerque High School  
Brownfields Site  
Serna Trucking Brownfields Site  
South Valley and AT&SF Superfund Sites  
Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer Mobile Laboratory

Environmental Clean Ups: Who does them? Who pays? How does the community get involved?

These site tours will give students the opportunity to visit three environmental cleanup sites that involve the Brownfields and Superfund programs. This is a unique opportunity to see the partnerships that are formed between Federal, State, County, City, and community representatives to identify, remediate, and re-use environmental sites. Additionally, the students will tour a state-of-the-art mobile environmental laboratory. The site tours together with the laboratory exhibit will allow the students to learn about environmental cleanup programs, technologies, and methods that are not only based on environmental law but on environmental policy.

*EPA Site Tour #1 - Historic Albuquerque High School:* This is a county-lead Brownfields project in Albuquerque. Albuquerque High was closed in 1974, and was mostly vacant until rehab construction started in April 2001. The Albuquerque High School site was an abandoned facility, located in an urban center. The site was an eyesore for the community that also presented a safety risk for residents. These type of areas are known as "Brownfields", which have become a major focus of EPA efforts.

Developing Brownfield projects are not an easy task. Some of these properties are contaminated, while others are simply perceived to be polluted. The potential contamination associated with these sites often deters lenders, investors, and developers from investing in their redevelopment.

# Environmental Site Tours

**Sunday, April 6, 2003**

*EPA Site Tour #2 - Serna Trucking Site:* Bernalillo County Environmental Health Department was awarded a EPA Brownfields grant in the Fall of 1998. In 1999 Bernalillo County purchased the Serna Trucking facility in Albuquerque's South Valley and used the EPA grant to investigate contamination at the property.

The site was used by a trucking company from at least 1967 to 1999. Some maintenance and storage of vehicles was done at the site. Storage of petroleum solvents is known to have occurred at the site. The property was also used as a transfer station for construction and demolition debris. In January 2000 an unpermitted underground storage tank was located, visible contamination, and evidence of possible soil and groundwater contamination were also observed. Remediation activities have included removal of stained and contaminated soils and removal of the underground storage tank. Participation in the NM Environment Department's Voluntary Remediation Program was a key component of the path leading to this site's redevelopment and successful clean-up. Bernalillo County is currently working with the community and a hired landscape architect to redevelop the site as a little league baseball facility, park and open space recreation area.

*EPA Site Tours #3 & #4 - Combined South Valley and AT&SF Superfund Sites:* The South Valley Superfund Site was New Mexico's first Superfund site. In 1979, routine sampling by the City of Albuquerque found chlorinated solvents in two domestic water supply wells. Subsequent investigations at the site revealed a complex geological set-

ting with organic contamination from several companies in the South Valley area. Contamination consists of chlorinated solvents and petroleum products and occurs at depths of up to 400 feet below the ground surface. The site includes a state of the art pump and treat system for contaminated ground water from both the shallow and deep aquifers and enhanced soil vapor extraction as part of on-going remedial actions.

Since it went on-line in April 1996, the GE South Valley treatment plant has pumped and treated over 2.6 billion gallons of water.

The AT&SF Superfund Site is a former wood treating site which treated various wood products with a solution of creosote and oil. The site operated from 1908 to 1972 and was dismantled in 1972. It is approximately 28 acres in size.

Field investigations at the site revealed a complex geological setting with extensive contamination of creosote in the soils and ground water. The soil and ground water beneath the site contains numerous creosote polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) at levels high enough to pose health hazards to human health and the environment.

## ❖ EPA's Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA)

The TAGA is a self contained mobile laboratory capable of real-time sampling and analysis in the low parts per billion level of outdoor air or emissions from various environmental sources and concerns. In addition, the TAGA has specialized sampling equipment for measuring indoor air and at remote locations.

The TAGA is used for real-time emission studies at sites such as Superfund,

# Environmental Site Tours

Sunday, April 6, 2003

Brownfield and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) sites. The air monitoring and analysis instruments aboard the TAGA ensure that site assessments and investigations are done in a safe manner and that airborne contamination from sites is identified and tracked.

The TAGA can be used in assessment, removal, and remediation efforts to track progress and to monitor air emissions from waste disposal sites and operations to ensure they are within acceptable limits. Investigations of uncontrolled releases from chemical spills, unknown or suspected sources of “bad” odors such as nearby chemical or refinery plant operations, indoor airborne contaminants (such as misapplied pesticides) are other examples of possible uses of the TAGA.

## U.S. EPA Site Tours and Environmental Laboratory Exhibit Schedule Sunday, April 6, 2003

**BUS A:**  
Site Tour #1, TAGA Lab, Site Tour #3

**BUS B:**  
Site Tour #2, TAGA Lab, Site Tour #4

10:00 a.m. — Mobile Laboratory Exhibit  
OPEN for All Students:

Environmental Exhibit of EPA’s Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA)

NOTE: TAGA Lab will be available from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. to maximize the number of students that will have an opportunity to view it.

10:30 a.m. — Buses Load:

**Bus A:**  
EPA Site Tour #1: Historic Albuquerque High School

**Bus B:**  
EPA Site Tour #2: Serna Trucking Site

11:00 a.m. — Site #1 and #2 Tours Conducted: on location of site to 12:00 p.m.

12:30 p.m. — Buses return to conference hotel: Lunch and viewing of the TAGA Lab Exhibit

1:30 p.m. — Bus A Loads for Site #3:

**Bus A:**  
EPA Site Tour #3: Combined South Valley and AT&SF Superfund Sites

NOTE: Students from “Bus B” goes to briefing of the TAGA Lab

2:00 p.m. — EPA Site #3 Tour Conducted: on location of site 3:00 p.m.

3:30 p.m. — Bus B Loads for Site #4:

**Bus B:**  
EPA Site #4: Combined South Valley and AT&SF Superfund Sites

NOTE: Students from “Bus A” goes to briefing of the TAGA Lab

4:00 p.m. — EPA Site Tour #4 Conducted: on location of site 5:00 p.m.

5:30 p.m. — EPA Site #4 Tour Bus Returns to Conference Hotel

6:00 p.m. — EPA Site Tours and Environmental Laboratory Exhibit Conclude

## ❖ ELK FARM & PLANT MATERIALS CENTER TOUR

*(Sponsored by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service)*

Walk among the animals!

The elk, that is. See how this elk breeder uses artificial insemination to breed elk and raise them for sale and for produc-

# Environmental Site Tours

**Sunday, April 6, 2003**

ing pharmaceuticals such as Glucosamine and Chondritin. This farm has the only two Class A Game Parks in New Mexico that are not hunted—they are used for a totally different purpose—as an elk farm. View how this farm is laid out and efficiently produces forage for the elk. Operators will describe DNA, genetics, growth rates, and much more along the irrigated valley of the Rio Grande near Los Lunas, NM.

The second leg of the tour will be to the Plant Materials Center (PMC) of the NRCS in Los Lunas. This PMC operates in a unique collaboration with New Mexico State University. They operate on 208 irrigated acres. Many important improved plants have been released from this PMC.

Land owners, managers and operators need many kinds of plants including grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees to help solve conservation and resource problems and improve our environment. Fortunately, many soil and water conservation problems can be solved with plants. The Los Lunas PMC is part of a nationally coordinated plant materials program that accomplishes this.

Learn how the Center collects plants and seed from sites all around the Southwest, and cross-pollinates them to bring out important traits that are significant for the environment.

The PMC Director will demonstrate how seed is protected, stored (see how cold it will be in the storage room), cleaned, stratified if needed, and more. The plants are researched to great detail for every use imaginable. This process occasionally generates new uses for particular plants that were not known before.

This entire tour will increase the students' knowledge of how NRCS assists

many private individuals, as well as local, state, Tribal, and federal agencies to manage and conserve our natural resources.

Los Lunas is a 35 minute drive south of Albuquerque.

❖ **Santa Fe National Forest**  
**Jemez Ranger District**  
**Española Ranger District**

*(sponsored by the USDA Forest Service)*

Students should be prepared for different weather scenarios, layered clothing is recommended.

The tour will last all day, leaving the hotel at 8:45 a.m. and returning to Albuquerque at approximately 6:00 p.m.

**Tour Description**

The Tour offers students a spectacular scenic drive along the Jemez Mountain Trail, declared a National Scenic & Historic Byway in 1998 in recognition of its fantastic natural and cultural resources. This day in the woods will be an opportunity for students to learn more about natural and cultural resources of the Jemez Mountains. Student will also receive a historical perspective of the people and their relationship to the land. Students will explore the dichotomy of managing for contemporary uses while also managing for multiple uses, including sustaining traditional, rural lifestyles. Students will also view the effects of one of the largest fires in New Mexico history, the Cerro Grande Fire.

**Walatowa Visitor Center**

The Pueblo of Jemez (Hay-mez) or "Walatowa" (the Towa word meaning "THE Place") is home to more than 3,000 tribal members. The Walatowa Visitor Center, located at the beautiful Jemez Red

# Environmental Site Tours

Sunday, April 6, 2003

Rocks is open daily. The center provides visitor information and education about the pueblo and its people. Touring the Center is a cultural journey through Native American history in this area.

This visitor center is one example of the long-standing collaborative relationship between the Forest Service and the Jemez Tribe. Much of the Jemez Mountains, now managed by the Santa Fe National Forest, is claimed as Jemez Pueblo ancestral lands. Because of this, it is imperative that national forest management goals be in concert with the values of the Pueblo of Jemez.

## **Battleship Rock Picnic Area**

Forest Service engineers will discuss the design and construction of the Battleship Rock Picnic Area.

Recreation demands within the Jemez corridor are increasing annually. People are loving their “Great Outdoors” to death in some areas. The Jemez area is world-renowned and the backyard for the large urban area—Albuquerque and Rio Rancho. What challenges do these demands pose to land managers?

## **Jemez National Recreation Area**

In 1993 the Jemez National Recreation Area was established by Congress to conserve, protect, and restore the recreational, ecological, cultural, religious, and wildlife resource values of the Jemez Mountains. The Forest Service developed a management plan for the JNRA. The boundary of the JNRA encompasses approximately 57,650 acres.

## **East Fork Thinning Project**

(Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project)

The East Fork Thinning Project removed trees under 12” in diameter to reduce the

wildfire hazard presented by the dense forest. Small trees reduced the “ladder fuels” which allow a wildland fire to move from the forest floor to the tree canopy. This also reduced the continuity of the forest, eliminating the ability for fire to spread from tree to tree over a large landscape. The project area is strategically located with access and alignment based on how fire would be expected to move over this landscape.

The hazardous fuels of concern on the Santa Fe National Forest and elsewhere in the west are an overabundance of small trees. Reducing the number of trees per acre help to restore the Ponderosa Pine forest to more ecological and historic conditions. Reducing these trees from the forest can be accomplished using a variety of mechanical tools or sometimes using prescribed fire. The paved road provided easy access for the public to remove firewood from the area. The remaining slash piles are burned when it is snowy or rainy, thus eliminating risks associated with prescribed burning.

The East Fork of the Jemez Wild and Scenic River was designated as a National Wild, Scenic and Recreational River in 1990, and the Forest Service was instructed to develop a management plan for the protection of the remarkable values of the designated river and associated corridor. The outstanding values are recreational, scenic, geologic, ecologic, fisheries and wildlife. The East Fork of the Jemez River flows from the Santa Fe National Forest boundary to its confluence with the Rio San Antonio. It was designated as a Wild and Scenic River in 1990. Discussion will be around resource rehabilitation—controlled recreation, and livestock management.

# Environmental Site Tours

**Sunday, April 6, 2003**

## **Valles Caldera National Preserve**

About 1.6 million years ago, a volcanic eruption rocked the Jemez Mountains in northern NM. Successive volcanic explosions created a 12-15 mile-wide crater with green valleys, quiet streams and majestic mountains. This ancient volcano also provides panoramic views and home for a variety of wildlife.

On July 25, 2000, 89,000 acres of the privately-owned Baca Ranch was purchased by the American people. The Valles Caldera National Preservation Act designated these lands as the Valles Caldera National Preserve, a unit of the National Forest System. The Act also created the Valles Caldera Trust, a unique land management approach, to manage the Preserve as a "working ranch".

The Preserve conducted its first elk hunt in 2002. The purposes of the hunts are not only to aid in management of herd size and quality but also to provide a revenue source for management of the area and protect the extraordinary natural resources found on the Preserve.

## **Cerro Grande Fire**

The Cerro Grande Fire began as a prescribed burn on May 4, 2000 by Bandelier National Monument, and declared a wild-fire on May 5. By the time the fire was contained, the Cerro Grande Fire necessitated the evacuation of 18,000 people from Los Alamos and White Rock, had burned 47,560 acres and destroyed 235 homes. Los Alamos National Laboratory was shutdown for 3 weeks. The Burned Area Emergency Response team was the largest team ever convened to analyze and treat a burned area.

## ❖ **Mt. Taylor Ranger District Cibola National Forest**

*(sponsored by the USDA Forest Service)*

Weather that may be encountered at this time of the year is very unpredictable. Spring winds are common. Temperatures may range from the low 30's to high 60's and snow and/or rain flurries are possible. Depending on road conditions at the time of the tour, we may visit sites up to 8500 feet in elevation. Prepare for a highly variable day. Walking surfaces may be muddy or snow covered.

What to bring:

- Sturdy walking shoes or boots
- Long sleeve shirt or sweater
- Long pants ie: jeans
- Vest or jacket (water proof)
- Hat and sunscreen

## **Tour Description**

### **Bluewater Ecosystem Management Project**

*(sponsored by the USDA-Forest Service)*

Located within the heart of the Zuni Mountains, the Bluewater watershed, Bluewater and Cottonwood creeks, are one of the more important riparian zones in the area. This watershed supports a wide variety of wildlife and plant species including several endangered and sensitive species. Dominant vegetation types range from grassland to Piñon-Juniper, Ponderosa pine, Pine-Oak, Riparian, Aspen and Mixed Conifer.

Indigenous peoples have utilized the area for hunting, plant and mineral collections, and for religious purposes. During the late 1800's and early 1900s' much of the area, that would later become part of the Mt. Taylor Ranger District, was grazed by sheep and cattle, logged and mined. The

# Environmental Site Tours

**Sunday, April 6, 2003**

Forest Service received jurisdiction of the area in 1911.

The Bluewater watershed was once a mosaic of riparian zones, upland meadows, open ponderosa pine stands (which were maintained by low-intensity episodic fires), and mixed conifer/aspen stands. Many decades of fire exclusion, caused by grazing and logging practices following extensive fire suppression, have allowed these previously fire-adopted vegetation types to grow from their open park-like structure into dense, unnatural crowded stands that are no longer fire resilient. Wildfire has changed from its natural role of nurturing the landscape to one of large stand replacing cata-

strophic fire events. Long term productivity, vigor and health of the ponderosa pine type has been adversely affected by high stand densities that are not only more susceptible to fire impacts but less resistant to drought and insect & disease outbreaks.

Participants will have an excellent opportunity to learn how restoration treatments are selected and prioritized to meet these objectives. GIS mapping tools will be used to demonstrate the project along with on-site visits to assess current conditions and examine sample plots of the proposed treatments. Participants will explore how these proposed treatments relate to and affect other ecosystem values and resources.

# Scenes from the 2002 Conference Tucson, AZ



*Each year, on the 2nd day of the Conference, students attend tours of environmental facilities, including parks, forests, museums, wildlife refuges, laboratories, and many more. The “environmental site tours” are a popular and highly educational part of the Conference. Here, students on the “cultural and historical” tour visit San Xavier del Bac, one of the best preserved of the Spanish missions in the Southwest.*



*Student “travel scholars” at the reception following the environmental site tours. Students relax after a long day in the field. Each year, depending on funding, NHEC provides travel scholarships to 150 - 250 college students from every environmental and natural resource discipline.*



*Another site tour was of Saguaro National Park. U.S. Park service rangers guided students through the park, allowing for an in-depth exploration of various natural resource, environmental, and park management issues. Here, a mountain lion is spotted.*



*Attendees, including students, at some of the 25+ workshops the Conference offers each year. The workshops feature top experts addressing a wide range of environmental, energy, agricultural, and natural resource issues. Here, NHEC Board member Catania Galvan moderates the workshop.*

# Scenes from the 2002 Conference Tucson, AZ



*The Exhibit Area/Career Fair is a major part of the Conference. Here, recruiters from the public, private, and non-profit sectors come to meet some of our community's best and brightest, including the many student "travel scholars".*



*The National Park Service (NPS) has been a strong supporter of NHEC, including serving as a conference "Major Sponsor" for many years. Here, the "NPS Recruiting Team" is ready for action at the Career Fair.*



*NHEC President Roger Rivera, with other members of the NHEC Board. At left is David Fernandez, attorney, and Dr. Eddie Laboy-Nieves, Professor of Environmental Management at Metropolitana University, in Puerto Rico.*



*The U.S. EPA has been another strong supporter of NHEC, including serving as a conference "Major Sponsor".*

# Scenes from the 2002 Conference Tucson, AZ



*The Arizona Dept. of Fish and Game at the Career Fair. State agencies also recruit at the Conference.*



*NHEC's hard-working and popular Chairman Manuel Hernandez with several students at the Conference.*



*Exhibitors representing every environmental field attend the Career Fair.*



*Major "green groups" also recruit at the conference. Here, the Sierra Club.*

# An NHEC Environmental Education Program

## The Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute “10 Days of Learning, A Lifetime of Experience”

**F**rom August 3–28, 2001, NHEC held its first “Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute”. The Institute was held at Glorieta, NM, located 18 miles east of Santa Fe, and was funded by the USDA Hispanic Advisory Council (through the Forest Service) and the National Park Service. Both the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service gave substantial help, on-site, to ensure the safe operation of the Institute. NHEC is deeply grateful to them for their support.

The Institute is an in-depth, motivational, and highly educational 10 day national program. The Institute is designed to inspire, educate, and train Hispanic/minority teens aged 13–18 on environmental/natural resource issues, and to give information about and encourage these youth to pursue college degrees and careers in these fields. **The Institute’s motto is “10 Days of Learning, A Lifetime of Experience”.**

NHEC trained 120 youth through the Institute—60 students aged 13–15, and 60 students aged 16–18, in two separate 10 day sessions. Students came from all across the country. This diversity of students ensured that they not only learned from the training, but from each other. Once accepted into the program, **NHEC covered all costs for students of the 10 day Institute.**

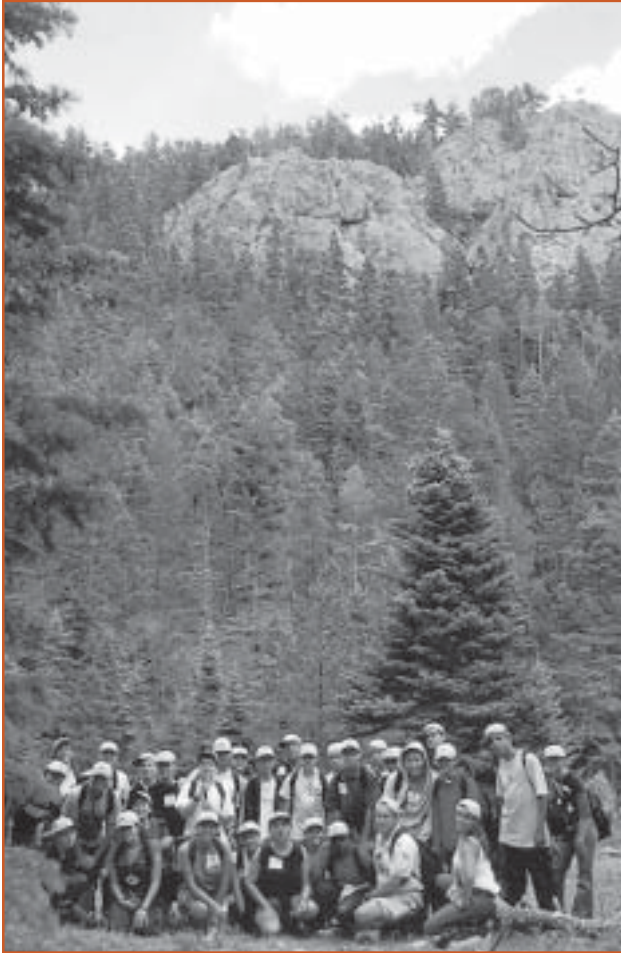
A unique element of the Institute is the use of paid Hispanic/minority environmental educators as instructors, coupled with volunteer Hispanic/minority “role models”. These role models are working environmental professionals who volunteered their time, life experiences, and heritage to help the instructors teach the students. Over 50 role models participated in the Institute. **Through these minority role models, the message to students was not only clear, but believable: “I made it in this field, and so can you”.**

Using classroom and outdoor settings, the Institute seeks to help build the next generation of environmental leaders/professionals by introducing minority youth to a wide range of environmental topics and careers. Through the intensive, science-based, environmental education curriculum, students took a big step forward in reaching this goal. **NHEC is proud of its Institute graduates.**

The following photos show the Institute—the students, the instructors, the training, and the spirit of learning and adventure. Enjoy!

NHEC will again be conducting an Institute in New Mexico in August of 2003.

# An NHEC Environmental Education Program



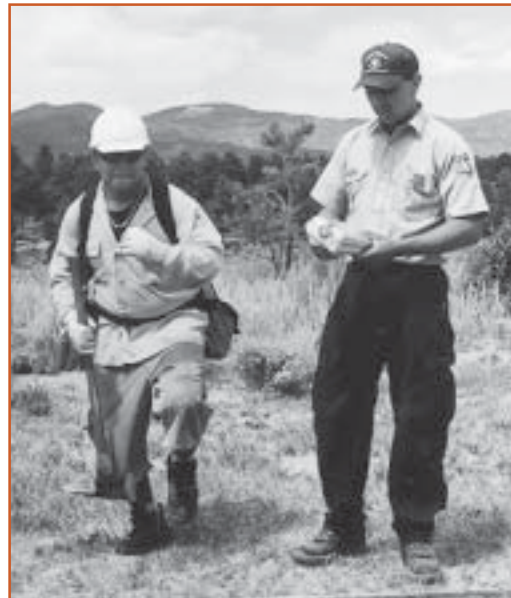
*Students at the completion of a half-day hike. This trail rose to 8,200 feet in the beautiful NM mountains.*



*Some "role models" who volunteered their time to the students and the Institute. At center is NPS Superintendent Dennis Vasquez, one of the Institute's star role models.*



*History and cultural awareness were part of the curriculum, taking into account the unique history of Northern New Mexico, especially its Hispanic heritage.*



*Here, students learn about fire fighting, law enforcement, and other careers at the USDA Forest Service.*

# An NHEC Environmental Education Program



*At Santa Fe National Forest and Bandelier National Monument. Students learned more about the unique environmental conditions of the area, and about careers in a variety of fields, such as biology, geology, hydrology, forestry, and more.*



*Classroom instruction was a daily part of the Institute's curriculum.*



*More hands-on testing and field observations.*



*"Session One, Track Two": 50 students funded by the National Park Service. Students shown are 15–15 years old. NHEC President Roger Rivera at far left.*



*Graduation Ceremonies at the close of the Institute. Institute instructors, role models, and others were present to congratulate students. Lawrence Pacheco, Institute On-Site Director, in center.*

# Program

## Saturday, April 5, 2003

- 9 am – 2 pm: STUDENTS ARRIVE, ON-SITE REGISTRATION *—Atrium*
- 2 – 6 pm: STUDENT ORIENTATION AND WORKSHOPS *—Kokopelli Ballroom*  
3 – 6 pm: EARLY REGISTRATION FOR ALL ATTENDEES
- 2 – 2:30 pm Conference Overview and Orientation
- 2:30 – 3:30 pm: Trends In Environmental Hiring: Where Are the Jobs?
- 3:30 – 4 pm: Graduate School and You: What You Need to Know
- 4 – 4:15 pm: Break
- 4:15 – 5:30 pm: Preparing For Your Environmental Job: What You Need To Know  
Speakers:  
*Bill Gwaltney*, Associate Regional Director for Workforce Diversity, National Park Service, Denver, CO, with assistance from the NPS Recruitment Futures Group.  
Includes presentations and practice sessions on Effective Interviewing Skills, Effective Resume Writing, and more.
- 7 – 9 pm: STUDENT “MEET AND GREET” *—Pavilion Room*

## Sunday, April 6, 2003

- 8 – 9 am: CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST *—Cancun Room*
- 9 am – 6 pm: CONFERENCE REGISTRATION *—Atrium Room*
- 9 am – 5 pm: ENVIRONMENTAL SITE TOURS (for students)  
Visits by students to environmental facilities/sites in the Albuquerque and Northern New Mexico area. Students will travel by bus to these locations, and return to the Marriott at the end of the day. A box lunch will be provided to students. See the Program for detailed descriptions of the sites to be visited.
- Sites include:  
Brownfields (at several locations in Albuquerque)  
Hosted by the U.S. EPA  
Superfund sites (at several locations in Albuquerque)

# Program

Hosted by the U.S. EPA

Pecos National Historical Park

Hosted by the National Park Service

Petroglyph National Monument

Hosted by the National Park Service

Santa Fe National Forest

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Cibola National Forest

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Elk Farm and Plant Materials Center

Hosted by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

- 2 – 4 pm: SPONSOR WORKSHOPS *—Tampico, Coronado, Cozumel, and Marbella Rooms*  
Separate sessions by and for the staff of the various Conference sponsors.
- 4 – 5:30 pm: GENERAL SESSION FOR SPONSORS *—Las Cruces Room*  
Chair: *Ernest Ortega*, NPS NM State Director
- 7 – 9 pm: WELCOME RECEPTION *—Cancun Room*  
Opening Reception for all Conference attendees.
- 9 – 10:30 pm: STUDENT MEET AND GREET *—Kokopelli Room*  
For those students being sponsored to the Conference by NHEC. This is an informal student event, where students can socialize, share experiences, and learn from one another.

## Monday, April 7, 2003

- 7:30 am – 6 pm: REGISTRATION *—Atrium Room*
- 8 – 9 am: OPENING GENERAL SESSION: *—Cancun Room*  
“Opening the Doors of Opportunity in the Environmental Field”  
Welcoming remarks by NHEC and senior officials from the major Conference Sponsors.  
Speakers include:  
*Lynda Carroll*, Assistant Regional Administrator for Management, U.S. EPA, Region VI, Dallas, TX.  
*Ernest W. Ortega*, State Director—New Mexico, National Park Service, Santa Fe, NM

# Program

*Harv Forsgren*, Regional Forester, Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Servicer, Albuquerque, NM  
*Jose Acevedo*, Associate Deputy Chief for Programs, USDA NRCS, Washington, D.C.

- 9 – 10 am: 4 CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS:  
Environmental Education and Hispanics — *Cozumel Room*  
Careers/Internships/Scholarships at the USDA’s — *Tampico Room*  
Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Agricultural Research Service  
Urban and Community Forestry: Bringing Trees to People — *Coronado Room*  
Issues in Energy — *Marbella Room*
- 10 – 11 am: 4 CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS:  
Careers/Internships/Scholarships at the U.S. Dept. — *Cozumel Room*  
of Interior — *Tampico Room*  
Water is Life: Preserving and Managing This Vital Resource for the Future — *Coronado Room*  
Environmental Justice and Latinos: A Status Report — *Marbella Room*  
Our Oceans, Our Seas: Environmental Issues in the Marine World
- 11 – 11:15 am: BREAK
- 11:15 am – 12:15 pm: GENERAL SESSION: — *Cancun Room*  
National Policies and Politics of the Environment Today  
Speakers:  
*The Honorable Craig Manson*, Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C.  
*James Lyons*, Executive Director, D.C. Tree Alliance, and former Undersecretary for Natural Resources and the Environment, USDA, Washington, D.C.  
*Lynda Carroll*, Assistant Regional Administrator for Management, EPA
- 12:30 – 2:15 pm: LUNCHEON: — *Yucatan Room*  
Keynote Speaker: *The Honorable Fran Mainella*, Director, National Park Service  
Co-Keynote Speaker: *Rafael DeLeon*, Director, Office of Human Resources and Organizational Services (OHROS), U.S. EPA
- 2:30 – 3:30 pm: 4 CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS:  
Minority Environmental Organizations: Profiles in — *Cozumel Room*  
Environmental and Community Activism

# Program

- Water, Land, Wildlife, and Parks: Key Laws and Policies Governing Our Natural Resources and Environment — *Tampico Room*
- The U.S. – Mexico Border: Environmental Challenges and Solutions — *Coronado Room*
- The National Park Service and Latinos: Where are We Headed? — *Marbella Room*
- 3:30 – 4:30 pm: 4 CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS:
- Careers/Internships/Scholarships at the U.S. EPA — *Cozumel Room*
- Technical Service Providers to the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service: Opening the Door to Entrepreneurial Opportunities for a Better Environment — *Marbella Room*
- A Problem without Boundaries: Air Pollution, Health, and Minority Americans — *Tampico Room*
- The U.S. Forest Service and Latinos: Where Are We Headed? — *Coronado Room*
- 4:30 – 5:30 pm: GENERAL SESSION: — *Cancun Room*
- Profiles in Excellence: Hispanics in Environmental Positions Who Are Making A Difference
- Walter Chávez*, Superintendent, San Juan National Historic Site, National Park Service, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- Sally Gutierrez*, Director, Water Supply and Water Resource Division, U.S. EPA, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Zenaida Mendez*, Project Director, 2<sup>nd</sup> National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, Washington, D.C.
- 7:30 – 8 pm: RECEPTION
- 8 – 10 pm: GALA AWARDS BANQUET — *Yucatan Room*
- The Honorable Craig Manson*, Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C.
- NHEC Leadership Awards:
- Daniel Garza*, Assistant Director for External and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C.
- Zenaida Mendez*, Project Director, 2<sup>nd</sup> National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, Washington, D.C.

# Program

## Tuesday, April 8, 2003

- 7:30 am – 3 pm: REGISTRATION *—Atrium*
- 7:15 – 8 am: CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST *—PreConvention Foyer*
- 8 – 9 am: GENERAL SESSION: *—Taos Room*  
“Wilderness and Wildlife: Preserving and Protecting  
Our Natural Heritage”
- 9 – 10 am: GENERAL SESSION: *—Taos Room*  
Environmental Justice, Health Issues, and Latinos  
Speakers:  
*Olivia Rodriguez-Balandran*, Environmental Justice Team Leader, Region  
VI, U.S. EPA, Dallas, TX  
*Francisco Tomei-Torres*, Program Manager for Environmental Justice,  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR);  
Atlanta, GA  
*Jesse Marquez*, President and Founder, Wilmington Coalition for A Safe  
Environment, Los Angeles, CA
- 10 – 11 am: STUDENTS PACK, CHECK OUT OF HOTEL
- 11:30 am – 5 pm: EXHIBIT AREA/CAREER FAIR OPEN *—Yucatan Room*
- Noon – 4 pm: RECRUITMENT WORKSHOPS BY *—Rio Grande Room,*  
CONFERENCE SPONSORS FOR STUDENTS *Marbella Room,*  
A series of hour long sessions by major conference sponsors, *Gallery,*  
oriented to students, describing each sponsors’ mission and *Santa Rosa*  
programs, as well as the employment, educational, and *Room*  
internship opportunities at these agencies.
- Noon – 1 pm: BOX LUNCH FOR STUDENTS *—Yucatan Room*  
IN THE EXHIBIT AREA
- 5 pm: CONFERENCE ENDS

# Workshops

## Saturday, April 5, 2003

- 2 – 2:30 pm: WELCOME, CONFERENCE OVERVIEW, AND ORIENTATION  
*Roger Rivera*, President, NHEC
- 2:30 – 3:30 pm: Trends in Environmental Hiring: Where Are The Jobs?  
Speaker:  
*Bill Gwaltney*, Associate Regional Director for Workforce Diversity, National Park Service, Denver, CO
- 3:30 – 4 pm: Graduate School and You: What You Need to Know  
Speaker:  
*Dr. Virgilio Minino*, Ph.D, and Geologist, Miami, FL  
*Dr. Ann Lopez*, Professor, Environmental Sciences, San Jose City College, San Jose, CA  
*Dr. Eddie Laboy Nieves*, InterAmerican University, PR
- 4 – 4:15 pm: Break
- 4:15 – 5:30 pm: Preparing for Your Environmental Job: What You Need To Know  
Presentations and Practice Sessions For Students On Effective Interviewing Skills, Effective Resume Writing, and More  
Speakers Include: *Bill Gwaltney*, NPS, and the NPS Recruitment Futures Group

## Monday, April 7, 2003

- 8 – 9 am: OPENING GENERAL SESSION:  
“Opening the Doors of Opportunity in the Environmental Field”  
Welcoming remarks by NHEC and senior officials from the major Conference Sponsors.  
Speakers include:  
*Lynda Carroll*, Assistant Regional Administrator for Management, U.S. EPA, Region VI, Dallas, TX.  
*Ernest W. Ortega*, State Director-New Mexico, National Park Service  
*Harv Forsgren*, Regional Forester, Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Servicer, Albuquerque, NM  
*Jose Acevedo*, Associate Deputy Chief for Programs, USDA NRCS, Washington, D.C.

# Workshops

9 – 10 am: Environmental Education and Hispanics

Speakers:

*Caroline Alston*, Associate Director, Community Programs, Project Learning Tree/American Forest Foundation, Washington, D.C.

*Catania Galvan*, Environmental Education Consultant, San Francisco, CA

*Michael Quijano*, Chief Ranger, Petroglyph National Monument, National Park Service, Albuquerque, NM

*Maurice Velasquez*, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Officer, Region VIII, U.S. EPA, Denver, CO

*C. Mark Aguilar*, Project Manager, Region VIII, U.S. EPA, Denver, CO

Careers/Internships/Scholarships at the USDA's Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Agricultural Research Service

Speakers:

*Martin Chavez*, Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest, Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Service, Taos, NM

*John Montoya*, Regional Recruiter, Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Service, Albuquerque, NM

*Denise Decker*, Human Resources Manager, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, D.C.

*Elizabeth Reisinger*, Human Resource Officer, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Albuquerque, NM

Urban and Community Forestry: Bringing Trees to People

Speakers:

*Abel Camarena*, Deputy Regional Forester, Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Service, Albuquerque, NM

*Sue Probart*, Executive Director, Tree New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Issues in Energy

Speakers:

*Allison Arnold*, Wildlife Biologist, Office of Energy Projects, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C.

*Anumzziatta Purchiaroni*, Civil Engineer, Office of Energy Projects, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C.

*Melanie Wong*, Environmental Project Manager, Environmental and Performance Assessment Branch, Division of Waste Management, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Rockville, MD

*Barry Zakman*, Senior Program Manager, License Renewal and Environmental Impact Program, Rockville, MD

10 – 11 am: Careers/Internships/Scholarships at the U.S. Dept. of Interior

Speakers:

*Mark Oliver*, Director, Office of Educational Partnerships, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C.

# Workshops

*Mary Beth Wester*, Regional Recruitment Coordinator, Midwest Region,  
Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, National Park Service, Indiana  
*Lynn Sendejo*, Diversity Team Leader, U.S. Geological Survey, U. S. Dept. of  
Interior, Reston, VA  
A representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Water is Life: Preserving and Managing this Vital Resource for the Future

Speakers:

*Karl P. Cordova*, Supervisory Biologist, Rocky Mountain National Park,  
National Park Service, CO

*Mario Salazar*, Environmental Engineer, Office of Water, U.S. EPA,  
Washington D.C.

*Bill Karzell*, Chief Environmental Services Division, Technical Services  
Center, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, CO

Environmental Justice and Latinos: A Status Report

Speakers:

*Delta Valente*, Hispanic Outreach Program Manager, Office of Environmental  
Justice, Washington D.C.

*Juan Parras*, Community Outreach Coordinator, Thurgood Marshall School  
of Law, Environmental Justice Clinic, Houston, TX

*Robert Cabrales*, Grassroots Coordinator, Communities for a Better  
Environment, Los Angeles, CA

*Jesse Marquez*, President, Wilmington Coalition for a Safe Environment,  
Los Angeles, CA

*Zenaida Mendez*, Project Director, 2<sup>nd</sup> National People of Color  
Environmental Leadership Summit, Washington, D.C.

Our Oceans, Our Seas: Environmental Issues in the Marine World

Speakers:

*Daniel Lenihan*, Archeologist, Submerged Resources Center, National Park  
Service, Santa Fe, NM

*Dave Conlin*, Archeologist, Submerged Resources Center, National Park  
Service, Santa Fe, NM

11 – 11:15 am: Break

11:15 am – 12:15 pm: GENERAL SESSION:

National Policies and Politics of the Environment Today

Speakers:

*The Honorable Craig Manson*, Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks,  
U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C.

# Workshops

*James Lyons*, Executive Director, D.C. Tree Alliance, and former Undersecretary for Natural Resources and the Environment, USDA, Washington, D.C.

*Lynda Carroll*, Assistant Regional Administrator for Management, EPA

2:30 – 3:30 pm: Minority Environmental Organizations: Profiles in Environmental and Community Activism

Speakers:

*Dr. Virgilio Minino*, President, Latin American Foundation for Environmental Protection, Miami, FL

*Juan Parras*, Community Outreach Coordinator, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Environmental Justice Clinic, Houston, TX

*Robert Cabrales*, Grassroots Coordinator, Communities for a Better Environment, Los Angeles, CA

*Jesse Marquez*, President, Wilmington Coalition for a Safe Environment, Los Angeles, CA

Water, Land, Wildlife, and Parks: Key Laws and Policies Governing Our Natural Resources and Environment

Speakers:

*John Luján*, Superintendent, El Malpaís National Monument, NM

*Danielle Diehl*, Wildlife Biologist, Santa Fe National Forest, Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Service, Santa Fe, NM

*Larry Cordova*, Wildlife Biologist, Smokey Bear Ranger District, Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Service, Ruidoso, NM

The U.S. – Mexico Border: Environmental Challenges and Solutions

Speakers:

*Daniel Garza*, Deputy Director, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C.

*Ramón Olivas*, International Program Coordinator, Intermountain Region International Program Office, National Park Service, Las Cruces, NM

*Gina Weber*, U.S.-Mexico Border Coordinator, Region VI, U.S. EPA, Dallas, TX

The National Park Service and Latinos: Where are We Headed?

Speakers:

*Ernest W. Ortega*, NM State Director, National Park Service, Santa Fe, NM

*Elias Lee Baiza*, Superintendent, Tonto National Monument, National Park Service, AZ

*Dr. Donald Rodríguez*, Dean, Environmental Studies, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

# Workshops

- 3:30 – 4:30 pm: Careers/Internships/Scholarships at the U.S. EPA  
*Jamie Langlie*, Manager, EPA Intern Program Manager, U.S. EPA, Washington, D.C.  
*Robert Stevens*, Associate Chief, HR and Organizational Development Staff, ORD, U.S. EPA, Washington D.C.
- Technical Service Providers to the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service: Opening the Door to Entrepreneurial Opportunities for A Better Environment  
Speaker:  
*Xavier Montoya*, Resource Conservationist, USDA NRCS, Washington, D.C.
- A Problem Without Boundaries: Air Pollution, Health, and Minority Americans  
Speakers:  
*David Joseph*, Physical Scientist, Air Resources Division, National Park Service, Denver, CO  
*Carlos Rivera*, Director, EPA El Paso Border Office, Region VI, Dallas, TX  
*Cynthia Verdugo Peralta*, Governing Director, South Coast Air Quality Management District, Los Angeles, CA
- The U.S Forest Service and Latinos: Where are We Headed?  
Speaker:  
*Jose Briseno*, EEO Specialist, Pacific Southwest Region, USDA Forest Service, Vallejo, CA
- 4:30 – 5:30 pm: GENERAL SESSION:  
Profiles in Excellence: 4 Hispanics in Environmental Positions Who Are Making a Difference  
Speakers:  
*Walter Chávez*, Superintendent, San Juan National Historic Site, San Juan, PR  
*Sally Gutierrez*, Director, Water Supply and Water Resource Division, U.S. EPA, Cincinnati, Ohio  
*Zenaida Mendez*, Project Director, 2<sup>nd</sup> National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, Washington, D.C.

# Workshops

## Tuesday, April 8, 2003

8 – 9 am: GENERAL SESSION:  
Wilderness and Wildlife: Preserving and Protecting Our Natural Heritage

9 – 10 am: GENERAL SESSION:  
Environmental Justice, Health Issues, and Latinos  
Speakers:  
*Olivia Rodriguez-Balandran*, Environmental Justice Team Leader, Region VI,  
U.S. EPA, Dallas, TX  
*Dr. Francisco Tomei-Torres*, Program Manager for Environmental Justice, Agency  
for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR); Atlanta, GA  
*Jesse Marquez*, President and Founder, Wilmington Coalition for A Safe  
Environment, Los Angeles, CA

# Workshop Descriptions

## Monday, April 7, 2003

9 – 10 am

❖ **Environmental Education and Hispanics**

As a result of environmental programs being taught in elementary schools, a common situation is occurring in non-minority households: youngsters come home from school to eagerly urge their parents to be environmentally conscious. Yet the question remains: how often is this happening in minority, and especially Hispanic, homes? This workshop will examine the status of environmental education programs, curricula, and outreach efforts to our community.

❖ **Careers/Internships/Scholarships at the USDA's Forest Service, NRCS, and Agricultural Research Service**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has major environmental and natural resource responsibilities nationwide. However, many in the Hispanic community are not aware that important agencies like the Forest Service are even a part of the USDA. This workshop will examine the work of USDA in the environment, and provide an overview of the career, educational, and business opportunities for Hispanic environmental students and professionals at this vast and diverse department.

❖ **Urban and Community Forestry: Bringing Trees to People**

Urban and community forestry is often one of the natural resource programs that have the most direct impact on minority Americans. Because of cultural, financial, and differing recreational practices, urban minorities, especially Hispanics, have

under-utilized our nation's forest system. Thus, if Hispanics have been unable to go the national forests, urban forestry has the real potential to bring the trees to the people. This workshop will explore the many significant environmental and societal benefits of urban forestry programs, and how Hispanics can get involved.

❖ **Issues in Energy**

The many issues in energy remain a major societal, economic, and environmental concern for America. Whether it's rising gas prices at the pump, the creation of new, sustainable technology, the impact on our economy overall, or the possible impact due to oil drilling on places like the Arctic National Wildlife, energy affects all our lives every day. Energy – whether fossil, renewable, or achieved through conservation, impacts the environment and thus us. This workshop will focus on several sources, such as hydropower, solar, and nuclear, that produce our nation's energy, yet require us to ensure that our demands for power do not also harm our environment.

10 – 11 am

❖ **Careers/Internships/Scholarships at the U.S. Department of Interior**

The U.S. Department of Interior, with its ten bureaus and broad national environmental responsibilities, is singularly involved in the planning and implementation of federal environmental and natural resource policies. As such, the Interior Department offers Hispanics enormous opportunities for jobs, internships, and other educational possibilities. Coupled with this is the Department's creation of a Strategic Plan on Diversity, in which they acknowl-

# Workshop Descriptions

edge the need to reach out in substantially new ways to the Hispanic community. This workshop will review the opportunities available to Hispanic environmental professionals and students at this vast and important federal department.

## ❖ **Water Is Life: Preserving and Managing this Vital Resource for the Future**

The fact is, water is life. The management and conservation of this precious resource is a major policy concern of many in the environmental arena, whether in the public, private, or non-profit sector.

This workshop will examine water issues and conservation methods, discuss current threats to clean and safe water, and discuss a variety of policy concerns regarding this resource in the next century. It will also examine the issue as it impacts the Hispanic community, now and in the future.

## ❖ **Environmental Justice and Latinos: A Status Report**

Environmental justice has come of age, developing into a movement that has had a broad impact on the lives of people of color, and enabling many to fight the inequities of environmental racism. As the movement has grown though, new questions arise. How can the Hispanic community take full advantage of and participate equally in the movement? How can those environmental issues which largely or uniquely affect our community be adequately addressed? Have Hispanic concerns/issues in the movement been addressed? And, how can Latino environmental professionals become more aware of and active in environmental justice issues? This session will discuss these important topics, and offer a status report on environmental justice for Latinos.

## ❖ **Our Oceans, Our Seas: Environmental Issues in the Marine World**

This workshop will examine the many environmental issues that arise with respect to our planet's oceans—four fifths of the earth's surface. Issues relating to marine biology and ecosystems, the impact of pollution and runoff, and how the fragile world underneath the seas is so important to our earth. Also discussed will be a fascinating aspect of exploring the undersea world—the search for our culture and history, through the exploration of submerged ruins, artifacts, and wrecks. The National Park Service will discuss their work in the protection of our natural world under the sea, and in particular their work in the exploration and preservation of our history under the waves.

2:30 – 3:30 pm

## ❖ **Minority Environmental Organizations: Profiles in Environmental Activism**

Minority environmental organizations are emerging as a growing force, and engaging in a variety of environmental activism. Whether it is environmental justice, conservation efforts, community clean-up and enhancement of a park, or environmental education programs designed to teach our youth to be good stewards of the environment, there is growing activism by environmentalists who are also people of color. This workshop will look at some diverse efforts by Hispanics and others in these areas, and examine the status of this young but important trend.

# Workshop Descriptions

## ❖ **Water, Land, Wildlife, and Parks: Key Laws and Policies Governing our Natural Resources**

Today, there is an extensive body of laws and regulations that precisely govern what the public, private, and non-profit sectors can do in the environment and natural resource fields. Federal laws such as the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, RCRA, NEPA, the Antiquities Act, and much more drive the environmental agenda. This workshop will review these major environmental laws, regulations, and policies, examine their current status, look at the controversies surrounding them, discuss how they govern the work of the agencies represented on the workshop, and explain why these laws so fundamentally govern the environmental movement.

## ❖ **The U.S.– Mexico Border: Environmental Challenges and Solutions**

One of the greatest areas of environmental concern for Hispanics – indeed, all Americans – is along the 2,000 mile U.S. – Mexico border. Here, the environmental challenges are often highly visible, and highly controversial. The environmental problems are interlinked with other issues – legal, jurisdictional, social, economic, political, diplomatic, and more. Yet, solutions must be found, and the process of engagement on these transnational issues is underway. This workshop will examine the complex issues that interconnect our two nations on environmental issues, explore the current state of affairs, and discuss the ways in which the Hispanic community is uniquely impacted by this common challenge.

## ❖ **The National Park Service and Latinos: Where Are We Headed?**

The National Park Service is the keeper of our nation's cultural, historical, and natural

heritage. They play a major role in preserving our environment and our natural resources, including such icons as the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, and the Everglades. Through NPS, our nation's history is kept alive and passed along unharmed to future generations. Yet issues remain – whose history is being preserved and respected? Whose stories will be told and passed along? Is diversity important to NPS? How can Latinos ensure that we are adequately included in the important work of the NPS? And, where is NPS headed when it comes to the nation's largest minority group? All these and more will be explored in this workshop.

**3:30 – 4:30 pm:**

## ❖ **Careers/Internships/Scholarships at the U.S. EPA**

EPA is probably the agency most Americans have come to associate most quickly with the environment. The work they perform is many and varied, and the opportunities for Hispanics equally so. This workshop will provide an overview of the career and educational opportunities for Hispanic students and professionals alike, as well as a summary of their major mission areas.

## ❖ **Technical Service Providers to the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service: Opening the Door to Entrepreneurial Opportunities for a Better Environment**

NRCS will continue to uphold its position as the major clearinghouse in the delivery of conservation technical assistance by establishing outside working relationships with certified Technical Service Providers (TSPs). Certified TSPs are important because they will enable the NRCS to expand its capabilities in providing TA to private landowners. NRCS is committed to

# Workshop Descriptions

developing successful outside working relationships that will engage and bring new opportunities to diverse individuals and entities interested in environmental issues, particularly the conservation of natural resources.

This workshop will present a new opportunity introduced by the new Farm Bill, where certified individuals will be able to provide technical assistance and receive payment for services rendered.

❖ **A Problem Without Boundaries: Air Pollution, Health, and Minority Americans**

Indoor and outdoor air pollution has become one of the leading environmental health concerns afflicting minority Americans, especially Hispanics. This workshop will examine the status of air pollution in America today, with a focus on Hispanic communities, and explore the policy and technology solutions being proposed or implemented to address this major environmental concern.

❖ **The U.S. Forest Service and Latinos: Where Are We Headed?**

The Forest Service has many of the same natural resource responsibilities as the National Park Service, although through a “multiple use” model. They manage recreation areas, preserve wilderness and wildlife, and supervise industries such as logging, cattle raising, fishing, hunting, and more. They also have cultural and historic preservation duties. Like NPS, the Forest Service is trying to work on issues of diversity, minority outreach, and equitable access and usage of their facilities. Issues remain – how can the Service be more responsive to the Latino community? How can diversity be achieved, and opportunities

created? And how will the Service address the changing demographics of America? All these and more will be explored in this workshop.

## Tuesday, April 8, 2003

8 – 9 am:

❖ **GENERAL SESSION:**

**Wilderness and Wildlife: Issues in Natural Resource Management**

The many issues in keeping “wild” some of America’s last remaining pristine places are the focus of this session. These include development, encroachment, habitat loss, inadequate management plans, and natural disasters such as invasive species and wild fires. In addition, the political, economic, and societal challenges that arise in creating federal and other wild areas will be explored. And the role of people—as stewards of the land, will also be discussed.

9 – 10 am:

❖ **GENERAL SESSION:**

**Environmental Justice, Health Issues, and Latinos**

For too many in our community, environmental health concerns are a daily, tangible threat. A wide variety of health impacts are putting Hispanics at risk. Toxics, pollutants, pesticides, whether air or water borne, have a disproportionate impact on Hispanics. This workshop will review those major environmental health concerns facing our community, and explore the factors that continue to make this a major issue for Hispanics.

# Luncheon Keynote Speaker

**Fran P. Mainella**  
**Director**  
**National Park Service**



**F**ran P. Mainella is the 16<sup>th</sup> Director and the first woman to lead the National Park Service in the organization's history. Appointed by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate, she is a career professional in park and recreation management, with more than 30 years of experience.

Ms. Mainella is committed to improving the full scope of programs in an agency already renowned for the support and respect it has earned from the American public. She is vitally concerned with strengthening programs for preserving natural and cultural resources in the parks and reducing a massive maintenance backlog that affects all of the properties in the National Park System. She is especially focused on the opportunities available through strengthened volunteerism, partnership, and outreach programs.

Most recently, she served 12 years as Director of Florida's Division of Recreation and Parks. Florida State Parks were voted the best in the nation, achieving the 1999-2001 Gold Medal Award given jointly by the National Sporting Goods Association and the National Recreation and Park Association.

During her tenure, the Florida Park Service became a national model for its volunteer and partnership programs which formalized and strengthened the effective use of interested, talented, and committed individuals and companies to enhance a broad spectrum of programs and services for public benefit. She oversaw management of 155 state park units from the Florida Keys to Pensacola Bay. She also served as Florida's Outdoor Recreation State Liaison Officer, administering Land and Water Conservation Fund grants to support acquisition and development of outdoor recreation sites.

Before assuming her State post, she was Executive Director of the Florida Recreation and Park Association, a statewide professional organization for those working in public and private park and recreation programs and facilities.

She has also served terms as President of both the National Recreation and Park Association (1996-97) and the National Association of State Park Directors (1997-99).

Among her many awards and accomplishments, Ms. Mainella has received several for her support of equal employment opportunities and ethnic diversity. She was also the 2001 recipient of The Senator Bob Williams Award in Florida, in recognition of her work for historic preservation.

Ms. Mainella obtained her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Connecticut and her Master's from Central Connecticut State College. In May 2002, Central Connecticut State University conferred an honorary Doctorate of Public Service on her as well.

# Banquet Keynote Speaker



**Judge Craig Manson**  
**Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks**  
**U.S. Department of Interior**

Judge Craig Manson is the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks at the U.S. Department of Interior. He oversees the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service. These two agencies have nearly 30,000 employees with a combined budget of more than \$3 billion. Judge Manson reports to Interior Secretary Gale Norton. Judge Manson was nominated to his present position by President George W. Bush on September 4, 2001, and confirmed unanimously by the United States Senate on January 25, 2002.

Judge Manson previously served from 1998 to 2002 as a judge of the Superior Court of California in Sacramento. From 1993 to 1998, he served as General Counsel for the California Department of Fish and Game, where he was responsible for providing legal and policy advice to the agency Director, the Secretary for Natural Resources, as well as the Governor, on state and federal Endangered Species Acts, wetlands, water law, and other natural resource issues.

Judge Manson has also been an Adjunct Professor at the McGeorge School of Law. Prior to his appointment in the California Dept. of Fish and Game, from 1989 to 1993 Judge Manson worked as an attorney with a private law firm.

Judge Manson is also a colonel in the Air National Guard, and has served as Associate Professor of Law at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He has served at the Pentagon and overseas, and has received numerous military awards.

Judge Manson is a native of Missouri, but grew up in New Mexico and California. He earned his B.S. degree from the U.S. Air Force Academy, and his law degree from the McGeorge School of Law.

# NHEC Conference Awardee



**Zenaida Mendez**  
**Project Manager**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> People of Color Environmental**  
**Leadership Summit**

**D**uring the last fifteen years Zenaida Mendez has been involved in a variety of community issues affecting women and children—from housing, to daycare to equal pay for equal work to environmental justice.

As an advocate for children Ms. Mendez started neighborhood activism at the Day Care Center in the complex where she lived. She became the president of the Parent Association and was able to get the City of New York to provide the funding for additional classrooms.

In 1990, Major Dinkins appointed her to his office of Latino Affairs where she served for 18 months as Deputy Director. From 1992-1994 she served as Special Assistant to the New York City Commissioner of Human Rights Dennis de Leon. In 1994, Ms. Mendez established a Lead Poisoning Prevention Project on behalf of Citizen Action of New York. Helped to educate parents about the danger of lead paint.

Ms. Mendez also served for five years as a legislative assistant to New York Congressman Charles B. Rangel. In 2001 was named Project Director for the Second National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, where she was responsible for coordinating the planning and operations of all aspects of the historic event.

In August 2001, Ms. Mendez was one of the Women of Color Resource Center's Delegates to the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa. In June 2002, Ms. Mendez was invited to address the forum of the Puerto Rico and United States International Dominican Leadership Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Zenaida Mendez is President and Founder of the National Dominican Women's Caucus. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Dominican American National Roundtable and The West Harlem Environmental Action.

Ms. Mendez has earned a BA in Government and Public Administration from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a Masters degree in Public Administration from the City University of New York, Graduate School of Public Affairs.

# NHEC Conference Awardee

**Daniel Garza**  
**Deputy Director**  
**Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs**  
**U.S. Dept. of Interior**



**D**aniel Garza, a native of Washington State, has over a decade of public service at the local, state and federal level managing public relations and government initiatives.

During his youth, Mr. Garza's family would migrate annually from his ancestral hometown of Garza Gonzales, N.L. Mexico to California, Nebraska and the State of Washington as they followed the crop season as farmworkers. His family finally settled in the Central Washington area in the late 1980's in the small city of Toppenish, WA.

After completing his education, Dan served on numerous boards and task forces related to communications, agricultural and law enforcement issues. In 1995, Dan went to work as a Congressional Staff Assistant to Congressman Richard Hastings. There he was assigned as liaison to the Department of Defense, the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Department of State.

Dan Garza was appointed as Councilman for the City of Toppenish in the summer of 1996 and was elected to the position in November of the same year. In this capacity, Dan worked closely with other state and locally elected officials to advance region-wide improvement of the local economy.

In 2001, Dan joined the Bush Administration and was appointed by the White House to serve as Hispanic Media Coordinator at the U.S. Department of the Interior before being promoted as Deputy Director of External and Intergovernmental Affairs in the Office of the Secretary.

In his current position, Dan has coordinated several major Administration initiatives on behalf of Secretary Norton, such as the DOI budget roll-outs, Lewis & Clark Bicentennial campaign, the US-Mexico Bi-national cooperation natural resources agenda, and a major new public lands volunteer initiative set to be announced in mid-April. In addition, he has worked on the roll-out of 23 national monument management plans, cooperative conservation initiatives, gateway community and tourism initiatives, the President's Healthy Forest Initiative, and many others.

Dan also serves as liaison between the Office of the Secretary and all of the fifty State Governors, county and local elected officials, and any and all external groups having an interest with the Department of the Interior, such as the National Hispanic Environmental Council.