We’re getting a little bit of a late start with our newsletters this year, and I apologize for that. What that means however, is that we have been busy! We started the year wrapping up the Seama/Budville fencing project, have spent huge amounts of time on Water Rights Settlements and Superfund litigation; worked on possible solar energy development; dealt with some village horses; fixed fences and windmills; had successful spring break and earth day events; put out the Hunting Proclamation (the deadline passed in early May for the draw hunt – sorry if you missed it); repaired and developed some springs; cut hundreds of trees for firewood; moved tons of recycling; monitored wildlife and rangeland conditions; nearly finalized the new Rangeland Code; and much, much more. I don’t anticipate any slowdown in activity over the summer, but am looking forward to a successful hunting season this year, a safe fire season, and progress through our many priorities. Every day I am amazed at what the dedicated ENRD staff accomplish for the good of Laguna. Thank you all for everything that you do for the people and for the lands of Laguna.

New Hire: Welcome Erin (Nikki) Woodward

Hello, I’m Nikki Woodward! I began as the Pueblo of Laguna’s Surface Water Quality Specialist at the beginning of 2017. I was born and raised outside of Bellefontaine, Ohio whose claim to fame is being Ohio’s High Point, at a whopping 1,550 feet above sea level. That’s pretty laughable now that I have been living in Grants, NM for just over three years. After graduating from the Ohio State University with a degree in Geography: Environment & Society, I began consulting work as an Environmental Scientist drafting maps, and reports for underground storage tank removal, environmental site assessments, and inner city asbestos removal projects. In conjunction with that, I have been a Seasonal Park Ranger and a Seasonal Natural Resource Technician at El Malpais National Monument. As a tech, I surveyed lava tube caves for endangered hibernating bats. I spent a season at Jewel Cave National Monument, SD as a Natural Resources Technician where I sampled cave water for contamination from surface infiltration, dusted prairie dog holes to kill potential plague carrying fleas, participated in nighttime surveys of the endangered Black-footed Ferret whose diet consists of 98% prairie dog, and obtained a license to kill – invasive plants and plague fleas, that is.

I’m most proud of my contribution to climate change research through paleo-climate reconstruction. This has included collecting sediment cores, water samples, and speleothems from Great Basin National Monument in Nevada, near Maya Ruins in Yucatán, Mexico and Northwest Belize, and near Muisca Ruins in Columbia, South America. Most of this work focuses on human/climate interactions from 1,000 to 5,000 years ago.

There is not a day that goes by that I don’t think about how great it is to be doing exactly what I am doing here for the Pueblo of Laguna.
**Seama/Budville Boundary Fence**

This project had been hanging over my head for some time. Funding finally became available to complete the revised fence line that the Federal Government had resurveyed a couple of years ago, and we brought on Valley Fence Company to complete the project. After a bit of a rough start with one of the adjacent landowners, we progressed quickly in December and January and now have a nice new boundary fence, including through the wash, that will hopefully keep livestock out of Seama, and firmly reestablishes the official boundary. I’m glad this one is off of my plate. Many thanks to all of those who helped with the process, and the project!

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**Natural Resources Specialist Report**

*by: Benina Cerno*

Gu’waadzii!

The 2\textsuperscript{nd} Annual Pueblo of Laguna Nature Camp is coming up! It will be hosted at the Silver Dollar Ranch for students interested in the Natural Resources Field ages 15-25. The camp is scheduled for July 17-20, 2017. At the camp we will have activities and workshops related to Rangeland, Mammals and Birds, Water Quality, Conservation, and Historic Preservation.

This college preparation camp will assist Laguna students by providing awesome recommendations for scholarships and will look great on their curriculum vitae or resume when applying for colleges. Last year, we learned survival skills and had fun in the outdoors. This year we look forward to meeting Natural Resources oriented students that are ambitious to get a head start in future career education. Deadline for applications will be on June 23, 2017.

Thank you to all hunters that have turned in your 2016-17 harvest reports. We use these harvest reports to determine future hunt numbers, to give statistics to our Pueblo Council, and to monitor our local game population. Congratulations to all who harvested and Best of Luck in this season to come!

The 2017-18 Hunting Proclamation is online at lagunapueblo-nsn.gov or you can pick one up at the Environmental and Natural Resource Department at 22 Bay Tree Road Building B, Paraje, NM 87007.

Daẃaa’ee
**Director’s Corner cont.**

**Supervision**

**Jackpile Mine**

The Jackpile Mine and its superfund status is another contentious matter, and also in litigation/negotiation. We are working with the Potentially Responsible Party, with EPA, with University groups and whomever else we can to understand the risks to the people and how to reduce them. Good progress is being made in this as well, and we hope to be able to have another community meeting soon with all of the above parties, to help us all understand what is going on, what the path forward looks like, and where the risks lie.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES**

*By: Greg Jojola, Environmental Manager*

**Happy Mother’s Day and Memorial Day!**

We really had a nice wet spring so far. The mesas and valleys are really looking green. This has been really good for recharging of our springs and aquifers. The wildlife will benefit greatly this summer. We are currently awaiting word from our granting agency (EPA) on the amount of funding we will receive for FY 17-18. If you’ve kept up with the news, then you know that this current administration is looking to downsize the EPA. At this point we’re not quite sure how this will effect tribes around the country. Our project officers have told us to be prepared for cuts in funding. So we hope to hear something by mid-June.

The water program welcomed a new member to our team. Ms. Erin “Nikki” Woodward hails from Ohio and most recently came from El Malpais National Park. She has hit the ground running and we’re happy to have her on board. They will be conducting the third round of surface water sampling starting in June. There were no major issues in sampling rounds 1 and 2. We actually had good run off and were able to sample locations that were dry in the past.

The bus barn contamination (Old L/A HS) site project is moving forward. The GCCSD contractor will be installing monitoring wells to see the extent of the underground contamination plume. Our office will monitor the process closely.

Earth week activities and village clean ups were a great success. Thanks to all the folks that volunteered their time. This really makes a difference in our community and teaches our younger generation to be responsible stewards of their lands. We’d also like to thank LDC for their tremendous support once again.

So again, please report any illegal dumping activities or illegal dump sites to our office. Thank you for your assistance.

*KEEP OUR LANDS LOOKING BEAUTIFUL!*
Earth Day 2017

I would like to thank you all for participating and supporting the 2017 Earth Day Clean Up and Event. The event was very successful, we had a total of 417 participants for the village clean up. We were blessed with some very good weather, food and had a variety of vendors during the event. Below are some of the project that were completed during the weeks leading up to Earth Day:

- Planting bean seeds and getting to know “Birds of Prey” with the Pueblo of Laguna Department of Education Head start and Early Childhood Programs.
- Water conservation at Laguna Elementary School “Garden Club” afterschool program.
- Making seed paper and bird feeders at the Laguna Public Library.
- Residential clean up at Mesita Village.
- Earth Day Fun/Run at Paguate Lake which “Smokey Bear” and “Dusty Roadrunner” made an appearance.

Thanks to those that participated in the “Recycled Art” contest, we will display the winners and their art and give more information on the event in the June issue of the “Kukadze’eta”.

Remember we can all make a difference if we do our part to sustain our environment!

**General Assistance Program Report**

By: Dorothy Beecher, Environmental Specialist

**Water Quality Certification**

There won’t be any DAPL here. As a result of the Dakota Access Pipeline situation at Standing Rock, the US Army Corps of Engineers has changed its policy on how to deal with Water Quality permitting on tribal lands. States and Tribes can now review and approve, condition, or deny any Federal permits or licenses that may result in a discharge to waters of United States within their borders, including wetlands. In addition, States and Tribes look at whether the activity will violate effluent limitations, new source performance standards, toxic pollutants restrictions and other water resource requirements of State or Tribal law. The Pueblo of Laguna has taken the responsibility to review all permit applications for discharge activities into Pueblo Waters to ensure that none of the requested activities will impact our water quality in the future.
Hello everyone!!! Hope everyone’s year is going great so far. The Environmental Office wanted to give a couple of tips in reference to the recycling trailer that is moved from village to village throughout the year. You can empty your recyclable plastic, cardboard, and paper into the trailer. We want to maximize the space in the trailer so that we can fit as much recycled materials into it as possible.

**GENERAL PLASTICS WITH THE NUMBERS 1-7 CAN BE RECYCLED**

**BREAK DOWN YOUR CARDBOARD**
**IF POSSIBLE, EMPTY ALL BAGS, CONTAINERS, ETC., INTO THE RECYCLING BINS**
**NO GLASS PRODUCTS**
**CRUSH PLASTIC CONTAINERS TO HELP SAVE SPACE**

Every village is doing a good job and we encourage everyone to keep up the good work. The more recyclables we can keep out of our landfills, the more it helps conserve resources and energy.

Any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free and contact the Environmental Office at 552-5042/5043 or swing by our office located at the ENRD building, north of the K-Center.

Hope everyone has a blessed and safe summer and keep on recycling!!!!
Greeting to all my fellow tribal members young and old and all those in between. I hope that you are enjoying the blessings of moisture we have seen in recent times past.

In January THPO began working with the New Mexico Department of Transportation on the New Mexico Highway 6 re-alignment and re-surfacing project. NMDOT hired SWCA an archaeological surveying company from Albuquerque to perform a Data Recovery Initiative based on a Cultural Resource Inventory report submitted by Parametrix for the entire 18 miles of roadway to be re-worked. As many of you may know by attending village meetings the council has allowed for certain pieces of land to be swapped with NMDOT so that the dangerous curves can be taken out. SWCA continues to perform the data recovery at the north section of the project. Construction is under way in the southern portions of this road. Please use caution if you travel this road as it is down to one lane in certain areas.

L-22 Casa Blanca Road is now in construction. A full Cultural Resource Inventory has been completed and historic buildings north of the tracks have been documented and recorded in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This is required on all federally funded projects.

Much correspondence continues to come in on a daily basis from outside agencies mainly inviting the Pueblo to become consulting partners under Section 106 for projects that are being done in the four corner region. Chaco Canyon continues to be threatened due to development of oil and gas leases. This is a huge concern for Laguna as we believe this area to be our ancestral home land. We have held three advisory board meetings as this is required by board by laws. We have reviewed numerous documents and provided approvals for the majority of such requests.

I would like to thank all the elders who are interested in providing oral histories as called for in the Town Crier. We have identified forty-five (45) elders who wish to provide their stories once we get all the details lined up. There will be five (5) subject areas that the advisors have identified to be priority to discuss. It is our hope that we can secure additional grant funding to continue to record these important oral histories for future generations to learn from.

We will be partnering with the United States Forest Service to inventory certain springs in the Mt. Taylor and Zuni mountains that have cultural significance to the Pueblo. We will be seeking applicants from youth to assist with the project. Watch out for the job postings on the web site and post offices.

Until the next issue of OTW I want to wish you all a good and safe Spring Season. If you have any questions regarding preservation or cultural resource matters please do not hesitate to give me a call at (505) 552-5033 or stop by the office. I am located at the K-Center north of the Galleria.

NM 6 Project Data Recovery by SWCA
POL Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program News
By: Sabin Chavez

KE’SHI’ (Greetings!)

The Pueblo of Laguna NALEMP Program is providing an update on projects set to commence in the coming months. The work plans for the two sites JATO No. 1 and KAFB PBR 14, Target S-1 have been finalized, beginning on May 1st will be a Class III 100% Pedestrian Cultural Resources Survey on KAFB PBR 14, Target S-1, approximately 576 acres, this field activity is scheduled out for twenty (20) days. Followed by surface clearance activities, which include JATO NO. 1 site, 732 acres. Comments to the Step III Site Assessment Report for Petoch Butte have been submitted to Kere’s Consulting Inc., the goal is to be awarded funding to address the debris located on top of the mesa. Next issue NALEMP will provide photos.

ELAHKWA’ (Thank you).
Spring has sprung and the grass has begun to green up a little. While it is currently green, it is still pretty dry. The Range Program did an evaluation of dirt tank conditions in all of the Range Management Units during February and March of this year. The data collected shows only 47.1% of 787 dirt tanks evaluated have water present. 52.9% are dry. We will need additional rain to make it through the growing season.

Unless we receive additional rainfall in the near future, we are going to be in a situation where available grass will be in short supply. There are several points you may wish to consider to address the conditions.

- The most important management strategy you can implement is to keep your cattle grouped up in to one herd and push them to graze together. This will provide the best utilization of the available forage. You wouldn’t let sheep scatter. You need to manage cattle in the same traditional manner. They are, in many ways, just bigger lawn mowers than sheep. Let’s keep the cattle grouped up.

- Know the carrying capacity of your Range Management Unit. Please contact me if you would like the exact number for your area. On average, most of the Range Units have a carrying capacity of 0.05-0.07 AUM/ac. Put another way, it takes 14-20 acres of land to support a 1000 lb. cow with calf for 1 month.

- The average cow spends 240 hours per month grazing. One acre at the AUM rate above means that cow can spend only 12-18 hours grazing an individual acre of land. After she has grazed this acre, she needs to move on and not be allowed to come back and remove additional forage. Keeping the cows grouped together makes this easier to accomplish.

- Be ready to cull your herd and eliminate unproductive animals. In dry years, carrying cows that didn’t produce a calf is not a good option. Culling your herd of these animals is a good strategy.

We will be out this summer conducting range surveys to fine-tune our carrying capacities and help make the Pueblo rangelands more productive. Please call me if you have questions.
Water Rights Settlement Negotiations

Although I can’t really say very much about these legal issues, I would like you all to be aware of the effort that the Water Rights Negotiation Team puts in, your staff officers, old and new, put many hours into reviewing legal materials, learning and understanding complex geohydrology concepts and discussing challenging issues with future uses and the needs of all of Laguna.

Paguate Lake Trout

2016 was a bad year for trout fisheries across the country. Every year, Laguna receives rainbow trout to stock Paguate Lake from a couple of different hatcheries. Last year both of them tested positive for Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD), as did many other Trout hatcheries in the region. To make matters worse, the egg rearing facility that provides eggs to the hatcheries was severely damaged by flooding in the east.

BKD is a disease that is harmful to fish, but not to people, even if you eat the fish, however, it is a listed disease by the US Fish and Wildlife service. To become cleared of BKD, a hatchery must test negative two years in a row. The hatcheries were clean this year, so we hope to stock trout again in Paguate Lake in 2018.

As a consolation, Paguate Lake will be stocked with Catfish soon, and the Village intends to hold a Catfish Derby sometime around the 4th of July.
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David Bautista
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A courtesy reminder of the importance of sorting your recyclables from your everyday household trash before placing in the recycling bins. Your help and effort is greatly appreciated!