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Director's Corner
By: Steven Etter

The past few months have been filled with meetings, introductions and study as I am growing into my new role here with the Pueblo of Laguna. I have had opportunities to meet many from the Livestock Associations, government offices, state and federal agencies, Pueblo of Laguna Tribal Council and leadership. I have been warmly welcomed and graciously received.

Our focus has been on strengthening relationships with many of our external partners. Our EPA partners have been on site for visits and to review joint projects. We have also met with partners at the University of New Mexico who are conducting air monitoring activities. We have had sessions with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to explore funding opportunities for Pueblo conservation projects with promising results.

Special thanks to Ray Lucero for his hard work on the 2019-20 Hunting Proclamation. It is out and available at ENRD or on our website. We are working on a nuisance animal policy to address many of the concerns expressed by the villages with regard to elk and mountain lions. While these species serve an important role in the area ecosystem, they can also create serious problems when they come into conflict with people.

The Pueblo of Laguna Rangeland Code is in full effect and I want to express appreciation for those who have been providing feedback. Your input is extremely valuable as we move forward and implement the code. With any change, there are unforeseen consequences, speed bumps and growing pains. Community feedback helps us refine the implementation of the code and will inform future changes. Please continue to report issues and concerns as you encounter them.

ENRD Welcomes

New Director, Steven Etter

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Steven Etter to ENRD as the new Director. Here is a short BIO:

Mr. Etter completed his BS in Agronomy in 1985 at Brigham Young University and his Masters in Public Administration in 1996 at Harvard University. He began his professional career as Director of Agriculture for the Navajo Nation. He went on to serve 13 years as an Agriculture Extension Agent beginning in Crescent City, CA. with the University of California Davis and later in Shiprock, N.M. with the University of Arizona. Steve and his wife Lucinda (Dr. Lewis) owned and operated a pediatric dental practice in Aurora CO. for 16 years. He has three adult children and five grandchildren.



Steve & Lucinda Etter

We also want to express our appreciation to the former Director, Adam Ringia for his 9 years of service to the Pueblo of Laguna and wish him the best in his future endeavors. Thank you Adam!

New Hire: Leon Kie, New Environmental Technician



Hello! My name is Leon Kie and I am the new Environmental Technician for the Environmental Program. I'm big Parrot and little Eagle clans and come from Seama Village.

My education consists of graduating from Laguna Acoma HS (Go Hawks!), an Associates Degree in Natural Resource Management from Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute, and attaining a Bachelor's Degree in Rangeland Science from New Mexico State University (Go Aggies!). Some previous experiences include assisting with rangeland monitoring for the Bureau of Land Management, being part of a research team from Northern Arizona University's Entomology Department studying bark beetle population density and reproduction in the Coconino National Forest, and eight seasons as a wildland firefighter.

I'll be assisting the two programs that are under the Environmental Program umbrella, the General Assistance Program (GAP) and the Water Quality Program. I've been getting familiar with the responsibilities of assisting the GAP. These include, but aren't limited to, retrieving recyclables at various community buildings, documenting illegal dumping, monitoring old dumpsites, and making sure the Village Recycling Program is running smoothly.

The Water Quality Program has just finished its second round of water sampling of the year. I'm becoming acquainted with the program's methods for water sampling, the locations of sampling sites, and the procedures that are performed post-sampling. Overall, it's a lot to learn and I'm hoping I'm up to the task!

I look forward to contributing to the overall maintenance and health of our Pueblo lands. If you see me in the community, feel free to say hi and ask me questions you may have about recycling, water quality, or a general question about the Environmental Program. Remember, we're out here for you. I look forward to working with and for our community! Thank you.

Natural Resources Program 2018-19 Big Game Successful Tahr Hunts



Walt Abrams—Tahr Hunt MTGR 2018-19



Ron Chaffins—Tahr Hunt MTGR 2018-19

POL Realty Program News

Submitted by: Stephen Graham, Realty Manager

Greetings to all and I hope everyone is doing well. The Realty Program is responsible for the management, planning, conservation, development and utilization of Pueblo and individually owned trust and restricted lands which includes Residential leasing.

Residential Leases are normally requested when an individual is looking to obtain financing for new construction or renovation of an existing dwelling. The Realty Program will contact the Village Mayordomos to notify them when a Village Land Assignment has been requested to be changed to a Residential Lease.

Land Assignment	Residential Lease
Only those regularly enrolled Pueblo members age (18) and over, can make a request for a land assignment.	Anyone over the age (18) can make a request for a Residential Lease with the Realty Program Office.
A member must be deemed to be in “good standing” by the Mayordomos before an assignment of land may be made.	No “good standing” requirement for requesting a Residential Lease.
The member shall present his or her request for an assignment of land to the village membership, Mayordomos and staff at a village meeting.	Individual inquiring about obtaining a Residential Lease applies with the Pueblo’s Realty Program for a Residential Lease with the Pueblo.
A request should be made within the first (2) months of each calendar year, however, the Mayordomos can entertain a request, at their discretion, at any time during the year.	Individuals can make a request for a Residential Lease at any time during the year.
Residential assignments within the village proper shall be limited to sixty-six (66) feet by sixty-six (66) feet in size. Residential sites located outside the village proper may not initially exceed one hundred (100) feet by one hundred (100) or ten thousand (10,00) square feet in size.	If we are changing an existing Land Assignment to a Residential Lease, a land survey will be required of the existing Land Assignment site. In the case of a non-member making a request for a Residential Lease the acreage requested will be reviewed at that time.
Land Assignments are valid for the lifetime of the individual. They can also be conveyed or inherited by another POL member. Non use of any assignment for 3 years may result in reversion of the land to the village for reassignment.	The term of a Residential Lease is a maximum of twenty-five (25) years with the option for an additional twenty-five (25) years. A Residential Lease can also be assigned with Council approval. At the end of the lease term or extension, the right to occupy the land ceases.

If you have a Residential Lease which has expired or is due to expire in the near future and your mortgage has been satisfied, you can have your Land Assignment reinstated.

Contact us at 552-5030 or come in to our Realty Program Office to discuss your options.

ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES: by Greg Jojola, Environmental Manager

Happy Easter and Happy Earth Day on APRIL 22nd !

We are all very happy to have had a wet winter and early Spring. We should be seeing good run off in the higher elevations and sustained flow in Rio Paguante and Rio San Jose. This is very important for the upcoming growing season for our local farmers.

We recently returned from our annual trip to Dallas, Texas to participate in the Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) summit meeting and workshops. This is an annual summit that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hosts every year for all the tribes within Region 6. The states that make up Region 6 are New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas. It is an opportunity to network with other tribes, share environmental concerns, and meet with EPA officials to further strengthen our continued working relationship. This year, Mr. Jeff Gaco of Paguante Village, who is also the Head Fiscale for the pueblo, was able to join us at the summit. He had an opportunity to meet with EPA officials and send the message that our community is still concerned about our water, air, and the legacy of contamination that still exists as a result of the Jackpile Uranium Mine. We hope the message was taken in good faith and that the EPA will continue to assist the Pueblo of Laguna for years to come.

Surface Water Quality Report

By: Nikki Woodward, Water Quality Specialist

Greetings! I hope you are all doing well.

The Surface Water Quality Program (SWQP) samples Tribal surface waters four times a year in an effort to record seasonal variation in water quality. We sample in March, June, August, and November. Water quality in the Pueblo of Laguna is usually the best during the March sampling. The reason...snowmelt!

Snowmelt lowers the temperature of the water. Colder waters can hold more oxygen which aquatic life forms love. This year the snow is melting slowly which increases water clarity. Fast moving water resulting from intense rainstorms scour and cut streambanks, and send sediment downstream. Snowmelt is also important for replenishing our aquifers.

If it is melting slowly, and flowing slowly more water is able to seep into the aquifers we largely depend on for drinking water.



Photo 1: Swirling, fast moving water from intense monsoonal storm.



Photo 2: Clearer, slow moving water Spring snowmelt.

(Photos are taken from the same location during different seasons.)

Jackpile Mine Update

by: Greg Jojola

Atlantic Richfield (AR) and its contractors have recently installed various monitoring equipment to begin data collection for the first stages of the Remedial Investigation (RI) at the mine site. AR has submitted the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) workplans. The POL and EPA will be reviewing and making comments on these plans. These outline the approach that AR will take as they begin the initial studies. As a result, there has been more activity at the mine and equipment has been brought in to start data collection and monitoring. A high-tech meteorological station (see picture), ambient air monitors, and gamma sensors are some of the equipment that are deployed at the mine. This data collection is one step taken to better understand the environmental conditions that still exist there. More surface and sub-surface investigation is to come. My office is continually involved in technical reviews and meetings to keep the community and tribal leadership apprised of current events. Our office and EPA will have community meetings in the future, so please look out for the announcements.



Also, ask us questions on the feast days at the outreach booths and we'll share the latest updates with you.

POL Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program News

by: Sabin Chavez

GREETINGS

Pueblo of Laguna N.A.L.E.M.P. has entered into its ninth Cooperative Agreement (CA) with DoD, which is administered through United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Albuquerque District. The Period of Performance under this CA is 21 September 2018 through 20 September 2019. The scope of work (SOW) includes conducting a Cultural Resource Survey and Debris Surface Clearance on 66.80-acres on and around the "skirt" base of Petocho Butte. The project area is located in the Turquoise Springs Range Management Unit.

The Military-type debris material and tracks on top of the butte appear to be helicopter tracks all which have been confirmed. POL N.A.L.E.M.P. has selected Arcadis U.S. Inc., lead contractor to address the impacts. Draft work plan has been developed which shall include; Explosives Management, Health and Safety and QC plans. Field work is scheduled to commence mid-April 2019. Being that the project is in the beginning phase of field work preparation there is not much to share, until the next edition of OTW NALEMP article.

Photos included are what have been confirmed on top of the butte. Until next quarter, be safe and remember the three "R's"; **Recognize, Retreat and Report.**



Military-made 7.62mm blank empty shell casings



Helicopter track, identified as possible military Sikorsky

General Assistance Program
by: **Dorothy Beecher, Environmental Specialist**



Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone has been enjoying the recent moisture we have been having and happy that Spring is here.

As you all know the Environmental Program is planning our Annual Earth Day activities that happen at the end of April. This year's theme is "Protect our Species" which means everything that is living - plants, animals and we as human beings need to protect ourselves from harmful elements such as pollution (air, water and land). It is important that we become aware of our daily life activities and how we impact the environment.

I encourage all of you to come and participate in the Earth Day Cleanup Event on **Saturday, April 27, 2019** in the six villages. We will meet at each village Community Center at 8:00am to sign in and pickup our cleaning supplies.

Come and enjoy the fun!

[Earth Day activities the week of April 22-27, 2019](#)

**Earth Day Fun Run at "Paguete Lake" on Wednesday, April 24, 2019.
Registration will begin 5 pm.**

**E-waste and Goodwill NM collection event on Friday, April 26, 2019
from 8:30am - 1:30 pm.**

**"Prescription Take Back" – Saturday, April 27, 2019 during the luncheon of the
Earth Day Clean up event at the Kawaika Center from 12:00 noon - 2:00pm.**

[Contests:](#)

Earth Day Art Contest - All local Schools

Recycled Art Contest - Open to everyone!

Below is also a list of services we provide:

- 1. Junk vehicle removal – A Disclaimer of Property form will need to be signed.**
- 2. CFL bulb collection**
- 3. Battery collection (AAA, AA, C, D, cellphone and power tool).**

PLEASE NO VEHICLE BATTERIES!

**Please contact the Environmental Program @ 552-7512 if you have any questions
we can assist you with.**

Natural Resources Program Report cont.

by: Raymond Lucero

Chronic Wasting Disease

What is Chronic Wasting Diseases (CWD)?

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a neurological illness the effects members of the cervid families (members of the deer family), including white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, and moose. CWD is highly contagious and can be transmitted among free-ranging populations which makes it difficult to manage and control.

The causal agents for CWD is the result of a misfolded protein called a prion. Prions are produced by all mammals and are used by cells and are either recycled or eliminated within the body. When the misfolded prion makes contact with a healthy prion it causes healthy cells to form an abnormal shape. The body cannot break down the abnormal prion and they buildup in the lymphatic and neural tissue.

History

The first documented case of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was in the state of Colorado in 1967 and in 1981 CWD was detected in Rocky Mountain National Park CO. Shortly after the first incident there were several cases of CWD reported in Wyoming and other areas in the state of Colorado. In recent years there has been an increase in cases of CWD. It has expanded to neighboring states including New Mexico.

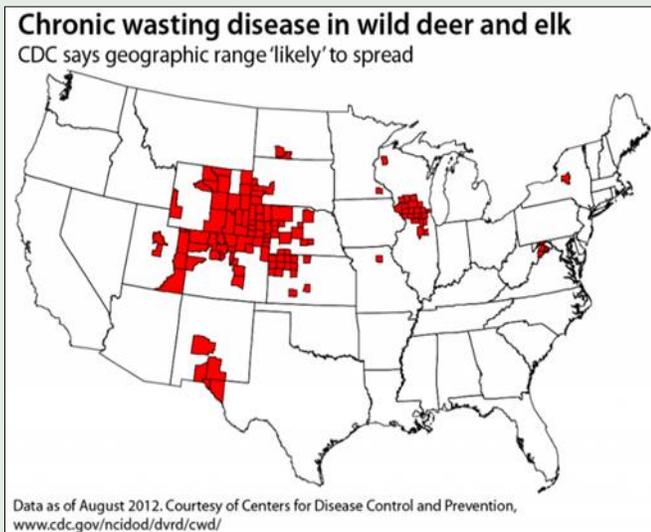
In 1978 Dr. Elizabeth Williams determined that CWD was a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) which is related to scrapie in sheep, mad-cow disease in cattle, and kuru and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans.

Symptoms

Symptoms may be dormant between 18-24 months before showing any signs of chronic wasting disease. Some of the easily identifying characteristics for CWD are weight loss, behavioral changes such as decrease in social interaction, loss of awareness, shows no fear of human presents, and signs of being lethargic.

CWD on Humans

Although research is still being conducted with primates and closely related mammals to human DNA, it is unclear if there are any effects on humans who have ingested infected cervids. Currently there have been no signs of CWD on the Pueblo of Laguna. It is advised that if you see an animal that looks like the pictures below, you should notify ENRD and call dispatch to notify the Open Space Police.



Rangeland Program Report

by: Richard Bonine, Jr., Rangeland Manager

1st Quarter Report

While we are thankful for the moisture the Creator has provided over the winter and early spring, we must recognize the drought still persists. The long-range forecast is for moderate drought to continue through at least the end of May. As the drought continues, the vigor of the grass plants will decrease. Given this situation, we must be proactive in how we manage Pueblo rangeland resources and protect the long-term productivity. Ninety percent of the root mass of a range grass plant is in the top six inches of the soil. When soil moisture levels drop below the root-zone, additional plant growth stops. In these conditions, the few green leaves that do grow need to be preserved so the plant can photosynthesize and make food for plant growth and attempt to regain its vigor.

The way to avoid declining rangeland productivity and health is through range unit planning. All pastures of a range unit must be allowed time to rest at some point in the year. Ideally, after a pasture is grazed in the spring of one year, it should be rested until fall of the next year. Establishing a rotational plan to allow the range to rest is essential in proper management. Rotational grazing becomes even more important in drier years. If there isn't enough forage in a range unit, some areas can rest while the remaining areas are grazed, then we need to reduce the stocking rates, so this can happen.

Each Association needs a drought contingency plan. That plan has a couple of elements. First, prioritizing the herd by deciding which animals need to be removed in what order, and secondly trigger-dates as to when the removal needs to happen.

The decision to reduce your herd size is difficult for a variety of reasons, particularly in a Livestock Association setting. All members of an Association must work together to address the herd size issues and come to an equitable decision. One strategy is for each individual to divide their livestock into three herds A, B, and C. Suppose you have 9 head of livestock. The "A-herd" are your 3 best animals, the "B-herd" your next 3 best, and your "C-herd" the remaining livestock. When the trigger-date arrives and action is required, you've already identified which "herd" is going to be removed. Planning in advance makes the decision easier to implement. If every Association member has their livestock prioritized, it makes the reduction less stressful for everyone. Also, Association herds of females should be reduced prior to the reduction of individual members.

The drought contingency plan should also include trigger dates. For example, if between April 1st and Indian Livestock days (May 7th - 9th) we don't receive two inches of precipitation, we will remove our "C-herd". If after we have implemented our first trigger date and the monsoon rains haven't come by the 10th of July, we will remove our "B-herd", etc. Proactive steps such as a drought contingency plan are essential to ensure there are enough range resources to get as much of our livestock as possible and retaining our best animals through the year.

The Rangeland Program will be assisting each Association in the development of a Range Unit Plan this year. A drought contingency plan will be a part of the overall planning. The overarching goal of the Rangeland Program is to do as much as possible to care for n'aaya by keeping the soil covered as much as possible.

Rangeland Monitoring Report

by: Stacey Carr, Rangeland Monitor Specialist

Greetings

Although spring generally means the beginning of the field season, the Noxious Weed Survey of the Pueblo of Laguna did not cease over the winter months. Starting at the end of September, 2018, this program has conducted field surveys for noxious weeds (specifically Russian Knapweed, Common Cocklebur, Canadian Thistle, and Bitter Rubberweed) within all six Village Jurisdictions, the Turquoise Springs, Bell Rock, Dough Mountain, Sedillo, and Harrington Range Management Units. This is roughly 350,000 acres covered in six months! Whew!



Russian Knapweed

Surveys along the Rio San Jose, Rio Paguate, and Rio Moquino did yield substantial populations of Russian Knapweed. Spot occurrences were also noted along roadsides and borrow pits. Russian Knapweed is an invasive species, not native to North America. The plant is originally from southeast Asia, but is now present in almost all western states.

Interesting fact: Russian Knapweed spreads primarily by way of **rhizomes**, and not seed. A rhizome is a modified subterranean stem of a plant that is usually found underground, often sending out roots and shoots from its nodes. This means that even if you remove the original plant, the rhizomes will continue to sprout and create new plants in other locations.

Common Cockleburs were found mostly within intermittent/ephemeral waterways (arroyos) and dirt tanks. Some dirt tanks were completely filled with cockleburs. Cockleburs can be poisonous to livestock if consumed when plants are young. Livestock generally will not consume cockleburs once the plant is fully developed and seeds become hardened.

Interesting fact: Cocklebur seeds are buoyant, and can float for up to 30 days, making seed dispersal by water extremely efficient.



Common Cocklebur-Winter months.



Common Coclebur-Seed bank in soil.

Information on Canadian Thistle and Bitter Rubberweed will follow in the next issue. If you do notice either of these plants while out and about, please contact me at the Environmental and Natural Resources Department @ 505-552-5046. Thank you!

Natural Resources Program Report by: Raymond Lucero**Mount Taylor Game Ranch Open for Wood Harvesting**

Greetings everyone,

Due to a hail storm that took place in October 2017, in the Mount Taylor Game Ranch Unit, there has been a significant defoliation of the trees. The drought conditions have caused the trees to stress and die and also, the bark beetle has played a factor in the stress of the trees in the Mount Taylor Game Ranch Unit.

The upcoming changes in climate and harsh drought conditions are the reasons the Natural Resources Program would like to take a proactive approach to this potential threat of fuel on the ground and allow the local community to assist in the reduction of hazardous fuels.

I am pleased to announce that the Natural Resources Program will be opening the Mount Taylor Game Ranch Unit for wood harvesting. The type of wood that can be harvested range from Pinion, Ponderosa Pine, Utah Juniper, and Alligator Juniper. The Game Ranch will be open during the following weekends of:

***May 11-12 *June 1-2 *June 22-23 *July 12-14 *July 27-28**

ENRD staff will be on site to issue wood permits and provide information to wood haulers on those days.

We recommend that you have a 4X4 truck due to the road conditions being steep and rocky.

If you have any question regarding the wood hauling dates and schedule feel free to contact the ENRD Office at (505) 552-7512. Thank you.

HUNTER EDUCATION CLASS
APRIL 27TH, 28TH SATURDAY, SUNDAY
8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

LAGUNA POLICE DEPARTMENT
TRAINING ROOM
I-40 MESITA EXIT 117, SOUTH SIDE OF I-40
REGISTER ONLINE @ www.wildlife.state.nm.us
BEGINNING April 9, 2019

You will need a customer identification number before you can register for class and it can be obtained through the website or at the Game and Fish office in Albuquerque, 7816 Alamo Rd NW

Registration for class can only be done online at the above website

STUDENT MANUALS CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT/DISPATCH AFTER YOU HAVE REGISTERED

CLASS IS LIMITED TO 20 STUDENTS
BRING YOUR LUNCH FOR BOTH DAYS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Edward Poncho (505) 280-1583 or Sean Romero (505) 816-8584
FROM 8:30am to 4:00pm

THPO Report by: Richard Smith, Sr.**THPO 1st Quarter 2019**

Gu'wah'zee' Hau'ba', my name is Rick Smith Sr., newly hired Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) for the Pueblo of Laguna. I am K'awaika'ema and live in the village of Tzi'mu'nah' (Paraje). I began work as the new THPO Manager on October 15, 2018 under previous ENRD Director, Adam Ringia. As the THPO for the POL, I have spent many hours working in collaboration with Federal, State and Local agencies dealing with Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) regulations, and all other regulatory requirements that the Pueblo of Laguna assumed when the Pueblo was authorized as a formal THPO under the National Parks Service.

Highlights for the first quarter of 2019 included many activities throughout the Pueblo with customary and traditional ceremonies including welcoming a new Tribal Administration led by Governor, Wilfred Herrera Jr. With those ceremonies in mind, I pray that the help will be provided when dealing the impacts of encroachment of our cultural landscape and traditional homelands of our ancestors in the southwest region of our country. Many consultation sessions have been held with various agencies regarding land lease sales in the Bears Ears National Monument, Manti La Sal National Monument in Utah, the greater Chaco Canyon region, and Sandoval County in New Mexico to name a few.

The land lease sales continue to be a major concern for the POL and the Pueblo Tribes of the Southwest as it would allow for possible oil and gas exploration and additional public access too many cultural / traditional resources in these locations. The Telecommunication activities continue to expand throughout the state of New Mexico which require tribal input from the Pueblo concerning impacts to cultural resources in the entire state. The THPO continues to review requests from agencies and entities regarding proposed undertakings on a daily bases that are of cultural concern to the POL.

Some of the projects funded by federal grant dollars awarded during the previous THPO Manager's tenure are in the final stages of completion such as the Video Projects which allowed for interviews of elders in the Pueblo explaining a story of the "Return from the Hunt" and the teaching of "Moccasin Making" and "Basket Making" as well as, interviews of elder women of the Pueblo about experiences they remember of years ago as they grew up in the Pueblo. These tools will be used to educate our Laguna people of the many valuable resources will still maintain in the Pueblo of Laguna. The Springs Project is another project funded by the United States Forest Service. The objective was to review many existing springs in the Zuni Mountains and on the Mount Taylor and report the findings to the USFS. The project team visited approximately 25 springs on the two mountains and reported the existing status of the springs and provided recommendations to consider for improvements by the USFS. The report is going through final review by the THPO Advisory Board and will be submitted once review and approval is complete.

This is a brief report on activities of the POL THPO organization. I hope the information helps with understanding the value of the cultural and traditional resources we have in Laguna and in the southwest part of the country.

Until next time.....Best Regards!

**Environmental and Natural Resources
Department (ENRD)**

505-552-7512 or 505-552-7546
Fax No: 552-9770

Kawaik'a Center
22 Bay Tree Road, Building B
Paraje NM 87007

Steven Etter
ENRD Director
552-5051

Georgia Martinez
Administrative Assistant II
552-5050

Richard Smith, Sr.
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
552-5033

Stephen Graham
Realty Officer Program Manager
552-5032

Josie Sousea
Administrative Assistant II

Mailing address:
Pueblo of Laguna
Environmental & Natural
Resources
PO Box 194
Laguna, NM 87026

www.lagunapueblo-nsn.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

Gregory Jojola
Environmental Program Manager
552-5041

Erin (Nikki) Woodward
Water Quality Specialist
552-5040

Dorothy Beecher
Environmental Specialist
552-5042

Leon Kie
Environmental Technician
552-5043



**N.A.L.E.M.P. and
RECLAMATION PROGRAM**

Sabin Chavez
NALEMP Specialist
552-5045



Rangeland Management Program

Richard Bonine, Jr.
Rangeland Manager
552-5055

Delbert Siow
Rangeland Technician
552-5057

Nevin Garcia, Sr.
Rangeland Technician
552-5057

Billy Delores
Rangeland Technician
552-5056

Ray Konico, Jr.
Rangeland Technician
552-5056

Aaron Lorenzo, Sr.
Rangeland Technician
552-5056

Stacey Carr I
Rangeland Monitoring Specialist
552-5046



**NATURAL RESOURCES
PROGRAM**

Natural Resources Manager
Raymond Lucero, Jr.
552-5052

Vacant
Natural Resources Specialist
552-5053

Donald Sarracino
NR Technician II/Dam Tender
552-5054

Robert Natseway
NR Technician I
552-5054

Hazardous Fuel Crew
Alex Romero, Jr., Francis Trujillo,
Sr. and Michael Chavez

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!